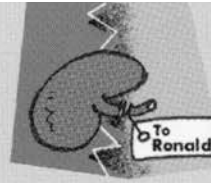


1928 John D. Rockefeller, the 58-year-old oil baron, is the world's richest man.



1954 In Boston, the first successful kidney transplant takes place, from Richard Herrick to his twin brother, Ronald.

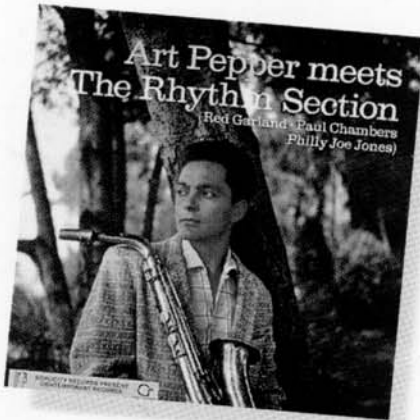


1957 Dr. Seuss's children's book *The Cat in the Hat* becomes a bestseller.

1951~1964

Way Out West

Cool Music on the West Coast



Classic Art Pepper from 1957 with Miles Davis's rhythm section.

Cool had been born in the harshness of New York on the East Coast, but temperament, personnel, and opportunity meant that it took root alongside Mulligan and Baker way out west, in the sunshine of California. However, cool and California were not mutually inclusive, for some California musicians played hot and ferocious, while cool itself soon went nationwide, attracting huge, largely young audiences with its sinuous charms.

Not was cool synonymous with white musicians, although most West Coast musicians were inevitably white. What it was synonymous with was style, reflecting an upwardly mobile population in the increasingly affluent 1950s, who enjoyed easy listening with a veneer of intellectualism. The leading figures out on the coast—remember, America looks west from New York, not east from Los Angeles—were a mixed bag, but they were united in a wish to move beyond bop to experiment with new sounds.

The sensuous, Milesian side of cool was dominated by Gerry Mulligan, with valve trombonist *Bob BROOKMEYER* (b.1929) replacing Baker in the pianoless quartet

The Dave Brubeck Quartet. Brubeck is second from right, Paul Desmond second from left.



Dave Brubeck

White, West Coast, intellectual—pianist Dave Brubeck (b.1920) is surely the very epitome of cool. After all, his quartet wowed every college campus, *Take Five* sold a million copies in 1961, and his alto sax player Paul Desmond (1924–77) was one of the finest cool soloists. Yet for many, Brubeck embodies the term “too clever by half,” his heady mix of Bach and modern European composition, complex time signatures, hamfisted chords, and straight-ahead jazz over-egging an already rich concoction. A product of his times, but an enduring one.