

# Jazz Elements in *Dreams of Vagabond Winds*

By Barbara Jazwinski

Jazz is an especially American art form that has unique characteristics.

Some important elements of jazz music are:

- Swing feel
- Instruments used (saxophones, big bands, etc.)
- Improvisation/creative musical freedom
- Rhythmic syncopation
- Harmony

Some music, like Jazwinski's *Dreams of Vagabond Winds*, is NOT jazz but has been influenced by jazz music.

This means that it includes some jazz elements.

Here are **TWO**:



## Syncopation

**Syncopation** is rhythm that doesn't happen on the beat.

This means if you are tapping your foot to the beat, some notes happen when your foot is off the ground!

Below is a clip of Jazwinski's piece. The **beats are marked** so you can see that the notes are **syncopated** (not on the beat).



## Improvisation

Improvisation is making up music on the spot. Jazz is full of improvisation.

*Dreams of Vagabond Winds* has improvisatory-like sections (though, not *true* improvisation because the notes are written on the page).

In the beginning and ending of Jazwinski's piece the oboe, clarinet, and bassoon exchange "riffs" that **sound like** they were improvised.

See below for an example of what this section looks like in the music.

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