

Elements of Jazz in Jazwinski's *Dreams of Vagabond Winds*

What makes Jazz unique from other music genres?

There are several defining features, or elements, that characterize jazz.

They are as follows (this list is not exhaustive):

- Improvisation
- Harmony
- Swing feel
- Syncopation
- Instrumentation

Though *Dreams of Vagabond Winds* is not jazz it has been influenced by it.

Here are two elements of jazz found in the piece:

Improvisation

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

In the beginning and ending of the piece the oboe, clarinet, and bassoon exchange “riffs” that **sound** improvised.

Below are 3 measures from near the end of the piece.

Musical score for Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.) showing measures 193, 194, and 195. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, and *mp*, and articulation like slurs and accents. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4.

Syncopation

Throughout the piece is repetitious use of syncopated rhythms.

Like in jazz music, the syncopation gives energy, surprise, and an unpredictable feel. Because of this it works hand-in-hand with improvisation.

Below are just two examples of Jazwinski's use of syncopation from the score.

Musical score examples of syncopation for Oboe (Ob.) and Clarinet (Cl.). The top two staves show syncopated rhythms in treble clef. The bottom staff shows a bass line with syncopated rhythms in bass clef. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 4/4. A dynamic marking of *f* is present.