

# Big Band and Swing

## Musical Styles Through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Swing began in the late 1920s but it was between 1935 and 1946 when big band swing music became the most popular music in America, also known as the Swing Era.
- A typical song played in swing style would include a strong rhythm accompanied by wind, string or brass instruments, as well as vocals. A soloist would commonly take centre stage and improvise a solo with the band in the background.
- Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington are two of the most famous big band leaders from this time.
- By the late 1940s, this type of music was less popular.
- It had a revival in the late 1950s and 1960s when singers, such as Frank Sinatra, sang with swing bands, and again in 2001, when Robbie Williams recorded an album of popular swing covers.

### Notable Artists

Billie Holiday  
Louis Armstrong  
Tommy Dorsey  
Ella Fitzgerald  
Cab Calloway

