

Do you know what you're playing: lesson 1

The Dobbiaco Survivors' Club has asked the Editor to provide you with a brief insight to what constituted your summer torture treatment, so here we go:

Take Five

The **Dave Brubeck Quartet** was an American jazz quartet founded in 1951 by Dave Brubeck and originally featuring Paul Desmond on saxophone and Brubeck on piano. Over the years the group remained a quartet although there were changes in drummers or bassists.

Dave Brubeck's music is known for employing unusual time signatures, and superimposing contrasting rhythms.

In 1959, the Dave Brubeck Quartet released *Time Out*, an album that contained all original compositions, almost none of which were in common time. Nonetheless, on the strength of these unusual time signatures (the album included "**Take Five**") it quickly went platinum.



Almost all countries follow variations of the Recording Industry of America certification categories, which are named after precious materials. Typically, they are awarded only to international releases and are awarded individually for each country in which the album is sold. For your information, in order for an album to be awarded a platinum label you need to sell 1,000,000 copies (in the USA) or 300,000 (if in the UK) or 60,000 (if in Italy): the thresholds vary from country to country.



Lesson 1: Music & English

English phrasal verb: to go platinum, meaning to reach the necessary threshold of sales for a platinum label.

Take Five, written by the Quartet's saxophonist Paul Desmond, is probably the Quartet's best remembered piece. It is in 5/4 time and is considered as a jazz classic.

Birdland

This work was originally composed by **Weather Report**, an American jazz fusion band of the 1970s and early 1980s.

For your information **jazz fusion**, **fusion**, or **jazz-rock** developed from mixing funk and R&B rhythms and the amplification and electronic effects of rock music, complex time signatures derived from non-Western music and extended, typically instrumental compositions with a jazz approach to lengthy group improvisations, often using wind and brass and displaying a high level of instrumental technique. The term "jazz rock" is often used as a synonym for "jazz fusion" as well as for music performed by late 1960s and 1970s-era rock bands that added jazz elements to their music.

Birdland is performed completely in the key of G, however the piece continually flows back and forth utilizing major, minor, blues, and modal (mixolydian) strains-even including a diminished-related strain. Translated into real words what it really means is that Birdland is a very tricky piece to play.