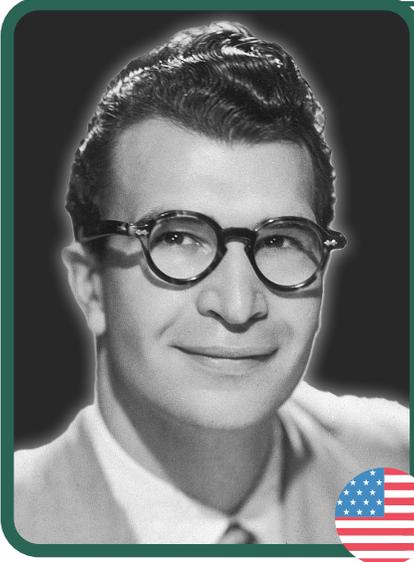




COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**DAVE BRUBECK**

BORN: December 6, 1920

ERA/STYLE: West Coast/Cool Jazz

DIED: December 5, 2012

HOMETOWN: Concord, California

Dave Brubeck was born in 1920 in Concord, California. He was exposed to music early in life by his mother, a piano teacher. Brubeck did not want to play the traditional classical music his mother offered. His passion was creating his own selections and popular tunes, which he began doing when he was just 4 years old!

Brubeck's family moved to a ranch in the foothills of the Sierras near Lone, California when he was 11, and he became enamored with life on the ranch and relished its daily chores. He still enjoyed playing the piano, but he wanted to be a cattleman. Brubeck was reluctant to leave the ranch when he was 18, but his parents persuaded him to go to the College of the Pacific in Stockton, California, by suggesting the possibility of his studying to become a veterinarian so that he could return to the ranch after school. But after just one year of school he switched to a music major.

Brubeck graduated with his music degree in 1942 and was immediately drafted for military service. He led a service band in General Patton's army during World War II and then, in 1946, he started studying at Mills College with the classical composer Darius Milhaud, who encouraged his students to play jazz. Brubeck led a group mostly consisting of fellow classmates, and they recorded as the Dave Brubeck Octet. In 1949, Brubeck organized the Dave Brubeck Trio and spent several years playing nothing but jazz music. In 1951, with the addition of Paul Desmond, Brubeck formed his first quartet, the Dave Brubeck Quartet. They gained great popularity touring college campuses and recording a series of albums. The Quartet's importance in jazz history is unmistakable; it helped to reawaken public interest in jazz after World War II.

After the breakup of the "Classic Quartet" as it had come to be known, in 1967, Brubeck continued to expand upon his role as a jazz-inspired composer, creating ballets, scores, oratorios, cantatas, symphonic pieces, classical compositions, liturgical compositions, and Native American-inspired compositions. He continued to work not only on his own and with contemporary jazz masters, but also collaborated in a Quartet with his three sons. He performed and toured right up until his death in 2012.