

Katherine Charlton

Rock Music Styles

A History

Third Edition

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K a t h e r i n e C h a r l t o n

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Walnut, California



Boston, Massachusetts Burr Ridge, Illinois Dubuque, Iowa
Madison, Wisconsin New York, New York San Francisco, California St. Louis, Missouri


*To my husband and best friend,
Andrew Charlton,
who loves the blues.*

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ROCK MUSIC STYLES, A HISTORY, Third Edition

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Chronology Chart

Historical Events

- 1945 U.S. drops first atomic bomb. End of WWII, beginning of post-war prosperity. Beginning of "baby boom." Truman becomes president.
- 1947 Truman orders all federal government buildings to be racially integrated. The Marshall Plan aids Europe.
- 1948 Apartheid policy becomes official in South Africa. U.S.S.R. blockade of Allied sectors of Berlin. Goldmark invents micro groove system, making LP albums possible.
- 1949 U.S. troops withdraw from Korea. Berlin blockade is lifted. NATO established.
- 1950 Truman authorizes production of H-bomb. U.S. military advisers agree to aid South Vietnam against Communist North. Senator Joseph McCarthy's search for Communists begins.
- 1951 Rosenberg executions. U.S. involvement in Korean War. First transcontinental TV and first color TV marketed in U.S.
- 1952 Immigration and Naturalization Act passes. U.S. explodes first hydrogen bomb.
- 1953 Eisenhower becomes president. Korean War ends. U.S.S.R. tests hydrogen bomb.
- 1954 McCarthy hearings end with Senate condemnation of McCarthy. Racial integration in public schools begins. Some whites resist efforts toward integration of races. U.S. sends military units to South Vietnam as French troops leave.
- 1955 Atomically generated power is used. Bus boycott is organized by African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama. Labor unions merge to form AFL-CIO.
- 1956 Martin Luther King becomes recognized leader of Civil Rights Movement. Supreme Court overturns Alabama Intrastate Bus Segregation Law. First transatlantic telephone cable put into operation.
- 1957 U.S.S.R. launches first satellites (Sputniks I and II). Eisenhower Doctrine seeks to keep Communism out of the Middle East. International Atomic Energy Agency is founded. Federal troops sent to Arkansas to protect African American students at formerly all-white high school.
- 1958 Congressional Committee investigates unethical practices in broadcasting industry (payola scandal). U.S. launches Explorer I satellite. First recordings made in stereo.
- 1959 Alaska and Hawaii join U.S. as states. First ballistic missile submarine and first atomic-powered merchant ship are launched. Castro takes power in Cuba. Soviet Premier Khrushchev visits U.S.

Happenings in Rock Music

- Louis Jordan's "jumpin' jive" style becomes popular with white teens. The Delmore Brothers record "Hillbilly Boogie."
- Country musicians begin to cover African American blues recordings. Atlantic Record Co. formed.
- Pete Seeger and Lee Hays form the Weavers; Chess Brothers change label name from Aristocrat to Chess. 33 1/3 and 45 r.p.m. records first marketed.
- "Race music" begins to be called "rhythm and blues."
- Cool jazz develops from bebop jazz. "On Top of Old Smoky" and "Good Night Irene" hit for the Weavers.
- Car radios become common. Bill Haley and the Saddlemen record "Rocket 88." Popularity of rhythm and blues among white teens increases.
- Bill Haley's Saddlemen become the Comets. Riot at Alan Freed's Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland.
- Weavers break up after HUAC investigation.
- Bill Haley's first release of "Rock Around the Clock." Alan Freed on WINS in New York. 45s replace 78s at RCA and Mercury. "Sh-Boom" by the Chords enters the pop charts. Marlon Brando portrays a rebellious teen in *The Wild One*. Elvis Presley records for the Sun Record Co. Fender releases the Stratocaster.
- Blackboard Jungle* and *Rebel Without a Cause* are released. Chess label signs Chuck Berry. The Platters have a pop chart hit. Elvis Presley makes first TV appearance on the Tommy Dorsey Show. First radio broadcasts in stereo. James Dean dies.
- Ska begins to develop in Jamaica. Elvis Presley's first RCA recording sessions and movie, *Love Me Tender*. Carl Perkins is injured in an auto accident. Buddy Holly and the Crickets sign first record contract. Dick Clark becomes host of "American Bandstand." Many bans on rock concerts sought due to brawls and riots at previous concerts.
- "American Bandstand" broadcast on national TV. Little Richard quits performing to enter the ministry. Jerry Lee Lewis marries 13-yr.-old cousin. Boston bans the Everly Brothers' "Wake Up Little Susie." Paul McCartney joins John Lennon's Quarry Men in Liverpool. Burrough's novel *Naked Lunch* is published. Last 78s are released.
- Army drafts Elvis Presley. Violence causes cancellations of Alan Freed shows. NBC bans rock music. St. Louis DJs break rock records on radio. Aldon Music and Brill Building centers for New York pop songwriting. First Newport Folk Festival. Transistor radios are marketed. First stereo LPs are released.
- Buddy Holly records first rock record using a string section. Alan Freed is fired because of payola scandal. Motown Record Co. starts in Detroit. Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper die.

Chronology Chart

Historical Events

- 1960 First use of satellite for TV transmission. Sit-ins to protest Woolworth store's refusal to serve African American students in Greensboro, NC. U.S. U-2 reconnaissance plane is shot down in Soviet Union.
- 1961 Kennedy becomes president. "Bay of Pigs" intervention in Cuba. Amnesty International forms in U.K. Berlin Wall is built. Increase in U.S. military units in South Vietnam.
- 1962 Cuban missile crisis. U.S. puts astronauts into orbit. First African American student is admitted to Univ. of Miss. after 3,000 troops stop riots. R. Carson's *Silent Spring* inspires environmental studies.
- 1963 Supreme Court requires counsel for criminal defendants and outlaws use of illegally acquired evidence in courts. Civil Rights demonstrations in Birmingham, AL. M. L. King's "I have a dream . . ." speech in Washington, D.C. Kennedy is assassinated. Johnson becomes president.
- 1964 Escalation of fighting in Vietnam. Civil Rights Bill bans discrimination in voting, jobs, public accommodations, etc. U.S. Post Office assigns zip codes. M. L. King is awarded Nobel Peace Prize. Warren Commission concludes Lee Harvey Oswald's responsibility for Kennedy assassination.
- 1965 First walk in space. Johnson orders more bombing of North Vietnam. Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, AL. Voting Rights Act passes. 34 die in Watts riot in Los Angeles. Immigration national origins quota system is abolished.
- 1966 U.S.S.R. and U.S. land unmanned crafts on moon. U.S. forces fire into Cambodia and air-bomb Hanoi. Medicare coverage put into effect. Law against use of LSD passes.
- 1967 Large antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C., New York, and San Francisco. Race riots in Cleveland, Newark, and Detroit. Marshall becomes first African American on U.S. Supreme Court. First human heart transplant operation (in Cape Town, South Africa). Three U.S. astronauts die aboard Apollo 1 craft still on launching pad. Abortions are legalized in Colorado. Microwave ovens are marketed for home use. First 911 emergency phone system is established in NY.
- 1968 North Koreans seize *USS Pueblo* and crew. Vietnam peace talks begin. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy are assassinated. Large outdoor rock festivals popular. Riots at Democratic convention in Chicago. First African American woman is elected to Congress.
- 1969 Nixon becomes president. American lands on the moon. U.S. military to Cambodia. Vietnam peace talks expand. 250,000 march in Washington, D.C. to protest Vietnam War. My Lai massacre of civilians is reported. Manson family murders.

Happenings in Rock Music

- Federal Bribery Act outlaws payola to DJs. Elvis Presley out of army. Gene Vincent is injured. "Twist" and other dance crazes are popularized. Beatles perform in Hamburg. Folk singers popular in coffee houses. *Bye Bye Birdie* first Broadway musical to feature rock music. Motown contracts Stevie Wonder. Eddie Cochran dies.
- Surf rock popular on West Coast. Proto-soul music by Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, and Motown singers widely popular. Beatles popular at Cavern Club in Liverpool. Bob Dylan performs in NY. Chuck Berry is jailed. Stereo radio is authorized for FM stations.
- Blues revival bands form in U.K. and U.S. Beatles' first records hit U.K. charts. Bob Dylan releases his first album. Many folk singers change from traditional folk music to protest songs. Folk show "Hootenanny" on ABC TV.
- Nationwide popularity of surf music and Spector's wall of sound. Girl groups popular. Dylan and Baez at Newport Folk Festival. Protest singers at "folk" coffeehouses. Proto-punk "Louie Louie" is released. British press report on "Beatlemania." First cassette tape recorders are sold.
- Beginning of Beatlemania in U.S. and British Invasion. BMI rejects the Who demos. James Brown begins funk. Kinks popularize guitar distortion and Beatles use feedback. Moog synthesizer is developed. Alan Freed, Jim Reeves, and Sam Cooke die.
- Bob Dylan and the Byrds begin folk rock. Electric 12-string guitar popular folk-rock instrument. Term "soul" replaces "rhythm and blues." Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead are featured at psychedelic dance halls in San Francisco. Ken Kessey's Acid Test concerts popular. Fuzztone distortion control and first transistor microphones are marketed.
- Beach Boys release theme album *Pet Sounds*. Last public Beatles concert. Beatles' "Rain" first record to use reverse tape. Garage bands popularize proto-punk rebellion. Many radio and TV stations ban drug songs. Light shows are popularized in psychedelic night clubs. Jan Berry and Bob Dylan in serious accidents.
- Human Be-In "happening" in San Francisco. FM radio allows for album-oriented rock programming. With release of Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper*, albums begin to take over the popularity of singles. Monaural records beginning to be phased out. Monterey International Pop Festival; the Who and Jimi Hendrix destroy equipment on stage. Proto-heavy metal by Hendrix and Cream. Brian Epstein and Otis Redding die.
- Reggae develops from ska in Jamaica. James Brown records "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud." Electric Flag records jazz rock. Dylan, et al. begin country-rock style. "Bubblegum" music marketed for young and pre-teens. Moody Blues record with orchestra to begin art rock in U.K. Ralph Nader warns that loud rock music impairs hearing. Iron Butterfly popularizes heavy metal in U.S.
- Woodstock and Altamont Festivals. Miles Davis records in fusion style. Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, the Everly Brothers, Fats Domino, Little Richard, and Jerry Lee Lewis back touring after breaks. The Who performs *Tommy*. John Lennon/Yoko Ono "bed in" for peace. Jim Morrison is charged with lewd behavior in Miami. Brian Jones dies.

Rock Music Styles: A History is intended to be used as a text for a college-level course on the history of rock music. My primary concern has been to help students develop an understanding of both the musical and cultural roots of rock music and the ability to hear a direct relationship between those roots and the music currently popular. To that end, I have identified the various styles of music that influenced the development of rock and discussed the elements of those styles along with the rock music to which they relate. Careful and critical listening is necessary for one to hear and identify those basic elements of music and then understand how they help define characteristics of the individual styles. To listen critically does not mean that one must try to decide whether the music is pleasing or not, but rather to analyze exactly what one is hearing.

The listening guides to individual recordings in this book are intended to aid students in critical, or analytical, listening. Each guide begins with the tempo of the recording. To identify that basic beat in the recording all one has to do, in many cases, is look at the second hand on a clock while listening to it. We know that there are sixty seconds in a minute, so if the tempo is 120, the beats are the pulses in the music that are heard at the rate of two per second. Even if the tempo is 72, one can listen for pulses that are just a bit faster than the seconds to pick out the basic beat. Listening to the music is the most important part of this process, but many non-musicians will need to force themselves to avoid the "tone bath" type of listening they might be used to and listen much more carefully.

After the tempo, the listening guides discuss the form of the recordings. Form in music is the overall structure of the music as defined by repetition and contrast. A song like "Hound Dog," for example, has lyrics in an AAB form. In other words, we hear one line of lyrics, "A" (the first letter of the alphabet is used for the first section of music), and then we hear that line repeated. Those two "A" lines are followed by new lyrics, so we identify those new lyrics by a new letter, "B." When we get into the music analysis we will be outlining when melodies repeat or are contrasted with new melodies. With either lyrics or melody, when we listen for form we listen for a musical element to repeat or for a new and contrasting element to be played or sung.

"Features" in the listening guides vary with the recordings and are my way of describing other musical elements or characteristics that are special in a particular recording and that help to define the general style of the music. This presentation does not allow for the type of detail that a musician who notates and analyzes music note by note or chord by chord uses, but that type of analysis is not the subject of this book. As I said earlier, what I have tried to do here is teach the interested student about the musical characteristics of many different types of music and help that student learn to listen critically so that he/she can make stylistic connections on his/her own.

Lyrics are very important in most rock music and, for that reason, each listening guide includes a simple explanation of the song's lyrics. In some light pop songs that explanation may say as much as do the lyrics

Preface

themselves, but in most cases lyrics contain complexities that are open to many different interpretations that would go beyond the scope of this book. I hope that my representations of lyrics will be used as a point of departure for further thought and discussion about the meaning(s) conveyed in each song.

The availability of appropriate listening examples is a problem for many teachers of rock music history courses, and every effort has been made to concentrate detailed discussions in *Rock Music Styles: A History* on recordings that are fairly easy to obtain. The book's listening guides are intended to be used along with the recordings themselves. Whenever possible, I have selected recordings that are available in the Time-Life *Living the Blues*, *The Rock 'N' Roll Era*, *Solid Gold Soul*, *Classic Rock*, *AM Gold*, *Guitar Rock*, *Sounds of the Seventies*, and *Sounds of the Eighties* sets. For those teachers whose colleges may not be willing to purchase entire sets of recordings, individual cassettes or CDs can be ordered from the Time-Life Company (1-800-621-7026). For more recent examples, such as those in the chapters on Rap and on Underground and Alternative music, I used "best of" collections that represented several performers, thereby limiting the number of cassettes or CDs necessary to cover the chapters. I assume that teachers will add recordings from their own collections as they find appropriate.

Most rock listeners are well aware of the controversial aspects of some rock music, particularly its lyrics. In these cases, I have mentioned some of the issues, but avoided imposing personal judgments in the text. My goal is to be as objective as possible and provide the reader with an understanding of what the music means to the performer and his/her fans. Discussions about any possible negative impact the music or lyrics may have on some listeners can, and I expect will, take place in individual classrooms without any biased opinions from the textbook.

It may not be necessary to say this, but being a native Californian who has traveled all over Mexico and parts of Canada, I realize that my references to "America" for the United States of America may seem naive or even arrogant to people on the rest of the American continent. I am well aware of that potential problem and yet it is so very awkward to constantly write the full name of our country. Even "U.S.A." does not work in all cases and certainly not when the term to be used is "American." The United States of Mexico can be shortened to

"Mexico" and the people there can be called "Mexicans" without assuming the name of the entire continent, but that not being the case for the U.S.A., I simply ask that my use of "America" be understood.

This book is dedicated to my husband, Andrew Charlton, for many reasons. I also owe much thanks for the hours of time and thoughtful advice given to me by my friend Robin Matthews of Golden West College, who owes the world a book of his own. Many improvements beyond the first edition have been made thanks to suggestions given to me by Peter Winkler, SUNY-Stony Brook, whose lectures I have often enjoyed at College Music Society conferences. In addition, I am grateful to my record collector and eternal rock-fan friend in Cleveland, Pat Phillips, who has introduced me to much wonderful music that I might otherwise have missed. The A.I.F.S. staff members at the University of London were a great help to me in organizing "rock tours" for my students during the semester (or "term" to the British) I taught there, and, while I cannot name everyone who helped me, I appreciate the support I received.

Rock historians whose advice was a great help to me include Paul Feehan, University of Miami-Coral Gables; John R. Harding, University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Ron Pen, University of Kentucky; Darhyl S. Ramsey, University of North Texas; Jim Albert, Eastern Washington University; Albert LeBlanc, Michigan State University; David H. Stuart, Iowa State University; Richard Weissman, University of Colorado-Denver; Robert Bozina, Santa Clara University; Carl Woideck, University of Oregon; Mark Forry, University of California at Santa Cruz; Stephen Young, University of Tennessee; and John Webb, University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. Others whose support was invaluable include Francie and Richard French, Susie and Doug Morrison, Ralph Spaulding, Andrew Markham, Ed Huddleston, Karen Speerstra, Raphael Kadushin, and Meredith M. Morgan, along with Julie Kennedy, Karen A. Pluemer, Karen Hostert, Deborah Daniel, Lorraine Zielinski, Rosemary Bradley, Chris Freitag, M. J. Kelly, Kris Queck, Shirley Lanners, Peggy Selle, and editors and staff members at McGraw Hill Higher Education. Of course, I must remember that it is my students who have asked questions requiring me to look at rock music from many different perspectives who are really the only reason this book exists. I thank them all, and hope for many more exchanges of ideas with more students in the future.

Chronology Chart

Historical Events

- 1970 National Guard kills four students at Kent State Univ., Ohio, at antiwar demonstration. Antiwar demonstrations cause the closing of U.S. colleges and universities. U.S. signs cease-fire agreement in Vietnam. SALT talks begin. First Earth Day celebration. Portable electronic calculators are marketed.
- 1971 U.S. Mariner 9 orbits Mars. 18-yr.-olds given the right to vote. Pentagon papers on Vietnam War are publicized. Food and Drug Administration establishes the Bureau of Product Safety.
- 1972 Leakey, et al., find 2.5-million-yr.-old hominid skull. SALT I is signed. Nixon visits China. U.S. combat troops leave Vietnam. Strategic arms pact between U.S. and U.S.S.R. Watergate break-in. ERA is sent to states for ratification. Bombing resumes in Vietnam after impasse in peace negotiations.
- 1973 Watergate hearings on national TV and radio. Airlines begin regular screening for weapons. Abortion is legalized nationwide. Vietnam peace pacts are signed, North Vietnam releases U.S. prisoners, last troops leave, military draft ends. Henry Kissinger is awarded Nobel Peace Prize. Vice President Agnew resigns.
- 1974 Impeachment hearings open against Nixon; Supreme Court orders release of Nixon tapes; Nixon resigns presidency. Ford becomes president and pardons Nixon. Patty Hearst is kidnapped. National Guardsmen who shot students at Kent State are acquitted.
- 1975 Attempt on life of President Ford. 140,000 refugees from South Vietnam are flown to U.S. U.S. and U.S.S.R. spacecrafts link in space. VCRs commercially available. Patty Hearst is arrested.
- 1976 U.S. bicentennial celebrations. U.S. soft landing on Mars. Race riots in South Africa. Home computers are marketed. North and South Vietnam unite as a socialist republic. 29 die from mysterious "legionnaire's disease."
- 1977 Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Amnesty International. U.S. is involved in Nicaragua. Carter becomes president. Panama Canal treaty is ratified. Conditional amnesty given to draft evaders. Energy Department is established.
- 1978 First "test-tube" baby is born in U.K. U.S. and China establish a diplomatic relationship. Humphrey-Hawkins Bill passes Congress to help reduce unemployment.
- 1979 Nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. 90 hostages (including 63 Americans) are taken at U.S. Embassy in Iran.
- 1980 U.S. boycotts Moscow Olympics. 8 Americans are killed in ill-fated attempt to free hostages in Iran. Mt. St. Helens erupts. Carter reinstates draft registration.
- 1981 Reagan becomes president. 53 American hostages are freed by Iran. AIDS (HIV) virus is discovered. Assassination attempt on life of Reagan. Air traffic controllers strike. Sandra Day O'Connor is appointed to U.S. Supreme Court.

Happenings in Rock Music

Nationwide, city councils and police fight to ban rock festivals. Folk rock popularity gives way to more introspective singer/songwriter style. Allman Brothers Band establishes southern-rock style. Santana records Latin rock style. Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin die.

Glitter rock emerges, led by David Bowie and Marc Bolan. Proto-punk poet Patti Smith performs in New York. Philadelphia Int. Record Co. forms. Berry Gordy, Jr., moves Motown to L.A. Jim Morrison and Duane Allman die.

"Underground" FM radio gains popularity over AM. "Oldies" radio stations play fifties hits. Country and Southern rock increase in popularity.

Reggae becomes popular in U.S. The Everly Brothers break up. AM and FM radios standard in new U.S. autos. Pink Floyd releases *Dark Side of the Moon*. New York Dolls release debut LP. The group Television formed. Jim Croce and Bobby Darin die.

New York punk by Patti Smith, Television, the Ramones, and the New York Dolls popular at CBGB's. Cass Elliot dies.

Government begins new probes into payola practices. Sex Pistols form in U.K. Blondie, Devo, and Talking Heads form in U.S. Disco becomes popular in gay and black clubs in New York. 12-inch singles are released to limited market.

Liverpool's Cavern Club closes and sells pieces of stage to fans. Punk becomes stronger movement in U.K. than in U.S. Sid Vicious starts pogo dance craze. Lasers are used by the Who in concert. Highly synthesized disco gains wide popularity.

NY disc jockeys use dubbing vocals. Some punk bands commercialize and develop new wave. Tape sales increase to 26% of recorded music on market. Elvis Presley, Marc Bolan, and members of Lynyrd Skynyrd die.

Sex Pistols break up. Dead Kennedys form. Bee Gees' brand of disco is popularized through movie *Saturday Night Fever*. Blondie adds disco to punk style. 45 r.p.m. picture disks are sold. Keith Moon and Terry Kath die.

No Nukes concert and film. UNICEF concert at U.N. General Assembly. 11 fans die at Who concert in Cincinnati. Revival of old rock styles. Sid Vicious dies.

Frank Zappa starts his Barking Pumpkin company. *The Decline of Western Civilization* is filmed. John Lennon is murdered in New York. Bon Scott, Ian Curtis, John Bonham, and Steve P. Took die.

Rap develops out of dubbing. Heavy metal splits into progressive, glam, and thrash in addition to older blues style. MTV airs. Popularity of Sony Walkman pocket tape players increase demand for cassette tapes. Bill Haley, Bob Marley, and Harry Chapin die.

Chronology Chart

Historical Events

- 1982 U.S. supports U.K. in Falklands. Peace Week demonstrations for disarmament. ERA is defeated in vote for ratification. Space Shuttle Columbia completes first operational flight. Dr. Barney B. Clark receives first permanent artificial heart.
- 1983 U.S. military is sent to Lebanon. U.S. Marine headquarters and French paratrooper barracks are bombed in Lebanon. Korean jet is shot down in Soviet airspace.
- 1984 Famine in Ethiopia. First female vice presidential candidate. Vietnam vets settle with chemical companies over Agent Orange dispute. L.A. olympics. Vanessa Williams resigns as Miss America. Bishop D. Tutu is awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1985 Ethiopians starve while food rots on docks. U.S. sends aid to Contras in Nicaragua. U.S./U.S.S.R. disarmament talks begin. Government cuts student loan funds. *Achille Lauro* hijacking. New tax law passes. "Baby boomers" begin to turn 40.
- 1986 First Martin Luther King Day is observed. Nuclear accident in Chernobyl, U.S.S.R. AIDS crisis escalates. U.S. astronauts die when Challenger explodes after takeoff. U.S. attacks Libya; Quaddafi threatens retaliation. U.S. imposes economic sanctions on South Africa. Hands Across America fund-raiser.
- 1987 Marcos leaves the Philippines. Gay rights rally in Washington, D.C., displays AIDS quilt. Stock market crashes. Scandal causes Gary Hart to pull out of presidential race. Scandal causes Jim and Tammy Bakker to resign from P.T.L. leadership.
- 1988 I.M.F. Treaty is signed. Glasnost becomes a distinct possibility. Launch of Discovery successful. U.S. Navy warship mistakenly shoots down a commercial Iranian airliner. Jimmy Swaggart scandal.
- 1989 George Bush becomes president. Exxon oil spill in Alaska. Gorbachev visits Cuba and China. U.S. recognizes P.L.O. U.S. troops invade Panama. Students in Beijing demonstrate for Chinese political reforms. The Berlin Wall is removed.
- 1990 East and West Germany reunite. Nelson Mandela is released from prison in South Africa. Iraq invades Kuwait. Operation Desert Shield troops leave for Saudi Arabia. Clean Air Act is signed to update the 1970 Clean Air Act.
- 1991 The Gulf War forces Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait. Rodney King beating videotaped in L.A. Justice T. Marshall retires from the Supreme Court. Anita Hill testifies at Clarence Thomas confirmation hearing. Charges against Oliver North are dropped. Strategic Arms Reduction Agreement is signed. Magic Johnson announces his HIV infection. Middle East Peace talks begin. Soviet Union is replaced by Commonwealth of Independent States. UN expels Yugoslavia because of civil wars. Rajev Gandhi is assassinated.

Happenings in Rock Music

- The Who on "final" tour. Stray Cats revive rockabilly. John Belushi, Randy Rhoads, Murray "the K," Lester Bangs, and James Honeyman-Scott die.
- Duran Duran introduces British new romantic style. Muddy Waters, Dennis Wilson, and Karen Carpenter die.
- Band Aid and USA for Africa raise money to help feed starving in Ethiopia. Everly Brothers reunite. Madonna releases debut LP. Jackie Wilson and Marvin Gaye die.
- Live Aid, Farm Aid, Artists United against Apartheid concerts. Organized efforts to censor rock lyrics with warning labels. Soul stars celebrate 50th anniversary of the Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Big Joe Turner and Rick Nelson die.
- First annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame bash in NY. Violent outbreaks plague Run-DMC concerts; deaths at Ozzy Osbourne and Judas Priest shows. "New age" music pacifies the yuppie generation. Amnesty International's Conspiracy of Hope tour. Richard Manuel, Ian Stewart, Sonny Terry, Cliff Burton, and Albert Grossman die.
- Paul Simon's *Graceland* features South African musicians. Metal bands dominate the charts. American and Soviet bands unite in Russia for The July Fourth Disarmament Festival. Farm Aid II. Lynyrd Skynyrd survivors reunite. Lee Dorsey, Buddy Rich, John Huston, John Hammond, Jaco Pastorius, Paul Butterfield, Peter Tosh, and Andy Warhol die.
- Atlantic Records celebrates 40th anniversary. Nelson Mandela Freedomfest in London honors imprisoned South African leader. Amnesty International's Human Rights Now! tour. Alternative rock bands combine old styles in search of new ones. Nico, Roy Buchanan, Andy Gibb, Dave Prater, Clifton Chenier, Gil Evans, Brook Benton, Memphis Slim, Chet Baker, Will Shatter, Eddie Vinson, Hillel Slovak, and Roy Orbison die.
- Cat Stevens voices support of Iranian death threats against author of *The Satanic Verses*. Glam and metal bands are featured at Moscow Music Peace Festival. Yo! MTV Raps is added to MTV lineup. James Brown is jailed. Salvador Dalí, Abbie Hoffman, Nesuhi Ertegun, Gilda Radner, Graham Chapman, Keith Whitley, and John Cipollina die.
- "That's What Friends Are For" AIDS benefit concert. Judas Priest is exonerated on subliminal message charges. Allen Collins, Tom Fogerty, Stiv Bators, Brent Mydland, Cornell Gunter, Del Shannon, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Art Blakey, Jim Henson, Dexter Gordon, Johnny Ray, and Sarah Vaughan die.
- James Brown is released from prison. Oliver Stone revives the sixties in the movie *The Doors*. Riot at Guns N' Roses concert in St. Louis. Debut of Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio*. Tenth anniversary of MTV. Post-punk bands join for Lollapalooza tour. "Record" stores stock only cassettes and CDs. Steve Clark, Steve Marriott, Johnny Thunders, Rob Tyner, Rick Griffin, Leo Fender, Doc Pomus, Freddie Mercury, Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Bill Graham, Gene Clark, David Ruffin, and James Cleveland die.

Chronology Chart

Historical Events

- 1992 L.A. Riots follow verdicts in Rodney King beating case. Independent candidate Ross Perot shakes up presidential race. U.S. military leads Operation Restore Hope to aid the starving in Somalia. Middle East peace talks deadlock. Earth Summit in Rio. Navy sex-abuse scandal.
- 1993 Bill Clinton becomes president. Czechoslovakia splits into two countries. Thurgood Marshall dies. Massacres and "ethnic cleansing" in former Yugoslavia. Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki. "Blizzard of the Century" hits 25 southern and eastern states. Air food/medical aid drops to former Yugoslavia. Yeltsin battles with Russian Congress over reform movement. NY World Trade Center bombing. A "500 year" flood hits the Midwest.
- 1993 Janet Reno becomes first female U.S. Attorney General. Branch Davidian disaster in Waco, Texas. Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk share Nobel Peace Prize. The Tailhook Convention sexual assault scandal is exposed. "Don't ask, don't tell" policy for homosexuals in the U.S. armed forces instituted. NAFTA passes. Vincent Foster dies.
- 1994 Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat share Nobel Peace Prize. Nelson Mandela elected President of South Africa. Fiftieth Anniversary of D-Day celebrated. Republican majority is elected to the Senate and the House for the first time in 40 years. Trade embargo against Vietnam ends. O. J. Simpson murder trial is televised. Major league baseball strike. Resignation of Jocelyn Elders as U.S. Surgeon General. U.S. troops aid Jean-Baptiste Aristide's return to Haiti. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and former president Richard Nixon die.
- 1995 Devastating earthquake in Kobe, Japan. Bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City. Louis Farrakahn's "Million Man March" in Washington, D.C. U.S. troops sent to Bosnia to enforce peace accord. O. J. Simpson acquitted of murder charges. Assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.
- 1996 Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and others killed in plane crash near Dubrovnik, Croatia. Unibomber suspect arrested and charged in two deaths. ValuJet plane crashes in the Florida Everglades. Bombing of U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia. TWA flight 800 explodes and crashes off Long Island, NY. Beginning of O. J. Simpson's wrongful death civil trial. Reelection of President Clinton.
- 1997 Madeleine Albright becomes first female Secretary of State. O. J. Simpson found "responsible" for the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman.

Happenings in Rock Music

Alternative music becomes mainstream through pop chart hits. AIDS benefit tribute to Freddie Mercury in London. Ice-T pulls "Cop Killer" off of *Body Count* LP. Lollapalooza II tour. Ozzy Osbourne on farewell tour. ROCK THE VOTE movement attempts to attract younger voters to the polls. Mary Wells, John Cage, Eddie Kendricks, Dee Murray, Roger Miller, Stefanie Ann Sargent, Jerry Nolan, and Willie Dixon die.

Rock musicians perform at President Clinton's inaugural balls. Time-Warner cancels Ice-T's contract after attacks over lyrics. Thomas A. Dorsey, Dizzy Gillespie, Toy Caldwell, Sun Ra, Conway Twitty, and Frank Zappa die.

Broadway musical version of *Tommy* nominated for 11 Tony awards. Walter Becker and Donald Fagen reunite as Steely Dan. Pearl Jam refuses to release singles or make videos from *Vs.* Dizzy Gillespie dies.

Pearl Jam cancels summer tour because of Ticketmaster's high prices. Heart attack forces cancellation of John Mellencamp's planned North American tour. Three days of music and mud at Woodstock '94. Robert Plant and Jimmy Page reunite, but without John Paul Jones. Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley marry. Kurt Cobain commits suicide. Major Lance, Harry Nilsson, Fred "Sonic" Smith, and Kristan Pfaff die.

Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr reunite to record new Beatle song, "Free as a Bird," made with a tape by John Lennon. The first Beatles Anthology is released. Opening of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley divorce. Latin pop singer Selena murdered. Eazy-E dies of AIDS. Peter Grant, Junior Walker, Bob Stinson, Jerry Garcia, Sterling Morrison, Shannon Hoon, and Rory Gallagher die.

Reuniting of the original Sex Pistols. Snoop Doggy Dogg acquitted of murder charges. Death Row rapper Tupac Shakur shot to death. David Bowie releases "Telling Lies" single on the World Wide Web before its CD or cassette release. Gerry Mulligan, Jonathan Melvoin, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, and Bill Monroe die.

Col. Tom Parker and Richard Berry die.

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Was there life before rock and roll? Died-in-the-wool rock fans might think not, or at least that whatever life there was was not worth living, but that, of course, was not the case for those who lived before the emergence of rock and roll. People have always entertained themselves and one another with songs, dances, and other types of music. Music that is simple and catchy enough to immediately appeal to large numbers of people is generally dubbed “popular,” and a large body of popular music existed before rock and roll and alongside rock music through to the present time.

Much popular music today is rather complex and would be beyond the ability of an average person to perform. Before the existence of such twentieth century inventions as radio, television, and good-quality record, tape, or CD players, the only way most people could hear music was to perform it themselves, hire performers to play for them, or go to a public performance. Because of this, popular music of past times was often either relatively simple or composed to be part of large-scale public extravaganzas. In addition to its broad appeal, popular music is generally, although not necessarily always, **secular**. Through the years popular music has become very big business, and is usually produced primarily to generate financial gain for the writer, publisher, and performer.

The earliest popular songs in America were brought to the colonies by British and other European settlers. The business of producing, publishing, and selling music in America was aided by the passage of the first American National Copyright Act in 1790. **Copyright** protected the composer’s credit and allowed him/her and the publisher to receive payment for the sale of published songs and maintain control of their distribution. With many people willing to pay for printed music, the popular music industry in the United States grew rapidly during the nineteenth century. It exploded in the twentieth century with the availability of phonograph recordings in the first decade of the century, radio beginning in the twenties, and television in the forties. Rock music developed into a large-scale industry of its own in the fifties, but that happened only after and because of the popular music that preceded it.

European Influences from Colonial Days through the Early Nineteenth Century

Many of the songs that were first published in the United States came from English or other European theatrical stage shows. English **ballad operas** such as John Gay’s *The Beggar’s Opera* (first performed in London in 1728) were staged in the American cities of New York and Williamsburg by an English theatrical troupe in the 1750s. Later performances by other troupes took place in large cities such as Philadelphia and Baltimore. Songs from

American Popular Music Before Rock and Roll

Gay's opera and other shows were published individually and entered the American popular song repertoire.

As was bound to happen eventually, songs by American-born composers began to appear in print. Many of the earliest American works were **psalms** and **hymns** composed to be used in church services. Francis Hopkinson (1737–1791), a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1776 and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, claimed to be the first American-born composer. Such credit was difficult or even impossible to prove, since many people may have written music that was not published, but he certainly was among the first. He wrote collections of songs to be sung with **harpsichord** or **forte piano** accompaniment, as well as a number of psalm tunes for use in religious services. Another important early American composer, William Billings (1746–1800), wrote over 340 psalm melodies, hymn tunes, and other compositions for four-voice chorus. In addition to his work for his church, Billings established a singing school in Boston in 1769. His school became a model for many later schools that helped to foster basic musical literacy in large numbers of otherwise untrained **amateur** musicians.

French operas had been produced in New Orleans as early as the late eighteenth century, but those large-scale “grand” performances in the French language had little appeal for American audiences in other cities. By the early nineteenth century, productions of Italian operas and some operas by Mozart written in the Italian style became popular outside New Orleans, but not in their original forms. The versions of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*) and *Don Giovanni*, and Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (*The Barber of Seville*) and *La Cenerentola* (*Cinderella*) that became popular in London and in a number of American cities had been “Englished” by such composers as Sir Henry Rowley Bishop (1786–1855). To “English” the operas, Bishop not only translated the Italian into English, but also replaced **recitatives** with spoken dialogue and shortened many of the **arias** to make them popular with musically unsophisticated audiences. While music historians were uniformly horrified by these “mutilations” of the operatic art, the performances did add much to the body of American popular music and paved the way for the future large-scale popularity of American musicals.

In addition to songs from ballad operas and Englished versions of Italian operas, the development of American popular music was influenced by songs and dances from Ireland and Scotland. Influential Irish poets/composers/performers whose works were widely popular included Thomas Moore (1779–1852), whose poetry became lyrics for songs by Sir John Stevenson (1761–1833) and Samuel Lover (1779–1868). Lover came to America to perform his music and spent two years (1846–1848) touring from New York to New Orleans, Lake Superior, and then north into Canada. Texts by Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759–1796) such

as “Auld Lang Syne” and “Comin’ thro the Rye” were set to traditional Scottish melodies and published in the United States in and after 1787. Some of those songs have continued to be part of American traditions well into the late twentieth century, as any American who has sung “Auld Lang Syne” (“Should auld acquaintance be forgot . . .”) at a New Year's Eve party can attest.

Minstrel Shows

African American styles of music eventually became an important part of American popular music, but not in any real sense until the twentieth century. Slavery and a general view of African Americans as inferior beings were still common among white Americans through most of the nineteenth century. Slavery was not completely abolished until the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1865. (Note: The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 is sometimes given credit for freeing slaves, but because it proclaimed freedom for slaves in the South while the Civil War was still going on, it was not respected in the South and did not, therefore, really end slavery.) The very popular minstrel shows of the nineteenth century helped promulgate the common view of African American people as inferior, and for that reason are, from today's slightly more enlightened attitudes, an embarrassment in American history. They cannot be ignored, however, because they had a tremendous influence on the development of later types of entertainment.

Minstrelsy began with performances by English singer/actors such as Charles Dibdin (1745–1814), who played the comic black role of Mungo in the popular musical extravaganza *The Padlock* (1768). By the 1820s white American entertainers put burnt-cork makeup on their faces to play African American characters in their minstrel shows. George Washington Dixon (1808–1861) was the first American to become famous for his black-face performances. He played the two most popular images of African Americans, the “dandy” and the stupid and foolish Sambo. The “dandy” character (also commonly called “Zip Coon” or “Dandy Jim”) portrayed an urban African American dressed in an ill-fitting blue coat, tails, and top hat, who looked ridiculous as he spoke with mispronounced and incorrectly used words. His look and talk indicated that he had gotten “above himself” and was trying to imitate his white “betters.” Dixon also played the opposite type of character, the poor, stupid, and lazy “Black Sambo,” who was superstitious and foolish. Another American, Thomas Dartmouth “Daddy” Rice (1808–1860), played the character that gave the name “Jim Crow” to the same type of shuffling clown image Dixon had played as Black Sambo. Rice eventually became known as the Father of American Minstrelsy.



The Virginia Minstrels: Dan Emmett (center, fiddle), Dick Pelham (tambourine), Billy Whitlock (banjo), and Frank Brower (bones) from the title page of a song collection published in Boston in 1843.

Reproduced by permission of Harvard Theatre Collection, The Houghton Library.

Minstrel shows included skits, dances, and crude jokes, all of which were calculated to ridicule African Americans by their use of exaggerated stereotypical images. The banjo, violin, tambourine, and bones (lengths of rib bones held between the fingers and shaken rhythmically) were the common instruments employed as accompaniment to songs and dances. The entertainers would sit in a semicircle on the stage with the main comic figures placed at each end. An interlocutor, who functioned as a master of ceremonies and straight man, introduced each act and would trade banter with the comics. Daniel Emmett (1815–1904), the composer of “Dixie” and a number of other popular songs of the day, was a white blackface violinist and entertainer in one such minstrel show, the Virginia Minstrels. Eventually some troupes began to downplay some of the blatant ridiculing of African Americans by including more genteel non-dialect songs by composers such as Stephen Foster in their shows.

After the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, a number of African American minstrel troupes were organized, serving to display their talents as performers (although the African American performers still often wore burnt-cork face makeup). Their shows included songs, dances, and skits based on plantation life. Because their audiences were composed mainly of whites, they pandered, to a degree, to the white image of the African American, but without the extreme negative racial overtones that characterized the white blackface shows. The increasing popularity of minstrel shows allowed for more acceptance of African American performers by white audiences and helped to establish those entertainers and their types of music in the mainstream of American show business. The blackfaced white minstrel image was still popular in vaudeville shows of the

early twentieth century. Al Jolson (1886–1950) wore black makeup and played a minstrel character in films, on radio, and on television, singing such hit songs as “My Mammy,” “Swanee,” and “Rockabye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody.”

The Middle Nineteenth Century and the Civil War Era

The most popular American songwriter of the nineteenth century was Stephen Foster (1826–1864). He wrote the lyrics and music to over 200 songs. Many of his songs were nostalgic about the past or told about love and problems people experienced in their daily lives. He wrote some songs such as “Lou’siana Belle” and “Oh! Susanna” for blackfaced white minstrel troupes, but most of his music was intended for average Americans to play and sing for their own entertainment in their homes. “Jennie with the Light Brown Hair,” “Old Folks at Home,” “Beautiful Dreamer,” and many other songs soon came to represent American culture like no songs before them. Foster was at the end of his writing career when the Civil War began in 1861. He wrote several songs in support of the Northern cause, including “We’ve a Million in the Field” and “We Are Coming, Father Abraham, 300,000 More.” Stephen Foster was the first American composer to sell enough music to give up other employment and make a living from his song royalties. He was also the first musician to be honored in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

The American Civil War (1861–1865) affected the lives of the people of both the North and the South, and many popular song texts were written for each side. Some, such as those by Stephen Foster, George Frederick



Stephen C. Foster, ca. 1859
National Portrait Gallery



Irving Berlin
Bettman Archive

Root (1820–1895), and Henry Clay Work (1832–1884) were newly composed, but others were new texts sung to older popular melodies. The Confederate anthem “The Bonnie Blue Flag” was based on an old Irish tune originally called “The Irish Jaunting Car,” and the very popular “When Johnny Comes Marching Home” was written to be sung to the traditional Scottish melody of “John Anderson My Jo.” One of the most popular songs of the Confederate cause was “Dixie,” written by Northerner Daniel Emmett for his minstrel shows.

Minstrel shows continued to be popular through the postwar era, and were often included as part of a new type of stage show called **vaudeville** that began just after the war. Vaudeville shows evolved directly out of the earlier British music hall shows and minstrel shows. They usually consisted of as many as fifteen different acts that included singing, dancing, comedy routines, and other types of entertainment. Until it was overtaken by radio and television during the twentieth century, vaudeville was the most popular type of live entertainment in the country, with, at one point, over 10,000 theaters nationwide. Entertainers of the recent past such as Jack Benny, George Burns, his wife Gracie Allen, and Fred Allen began their careers on the vaudeville stage.

Tin Pan Alley and Musical Theater

The term “Tin Pan Alley” referred to the thin, tinny tone quality of cheap upright pianos used in music publishers’ offices on New York’s West 28th Street. Songwriters used these pianos to play their songs for publishers in hopes of getting them printed, distributed, and sold. The name “Tin Pan Alley” eventually came to represent the style of the songs that were published in that area. Generally, the songs were sentimental ballads or songs that portrayed the “gay nineties” as being full of fun and escape from life’s realities. Many of the songs were based on triple-meter **waltz** rhythms because of the popularity of that

dance. Tin Pan Alley continued to be a very important source of American popular music well into the twentieth century, when the music helped to popularize other dances such as the Latin **tango** of the twenties, the **rumba** of the thirties, and the **samba** of the forties.

Not all American popular music originated in New York, however. The 1890’s was also the time when **ragtime** piano and band music became popular along the Mississippi River. Ragtime was primarily, although not exclusively, an African American style. It was named for the “ragged” or **syncopated rhythms** played by the pianist’s right hand, or the main melody played by the band. The ragged lines were generally accompanied by a steady alternation between a single note and a chord in the bass or lower band parts. Popular ragtime composers included Scott Joplin (1868–1917), James Scott (1886–1938), and Joseph Lamb (1887–1960). The spread of ragtime and other popular music was aided by the invention of new sound devices such as the player piano, the phonograph, and jukebox-type players.

Many of the greatest writers and entertainers of the Tin Pan Alley era were Jewish immigrants who had entered the United States after fleeing the anti-Semitism rampant in Germany, Austria, and Russia. One of the most important of the Jewish-American songwriters of this era was Irving Berlin (Israel Baline, 1888–1989). Berlin was born in Russia and moved to New York City with his family when he was only four years old. He began his singing career as a cantor in a synagogue and later was hired to be a singing waiter. He learned to play the piano by ear and became fascinated by ragtime rhythms. He adapted these rhythms to his own songwriting style and had his first big hit with “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” in 1911. As an entertainer and songwriter, he moved on to vaudeville and finally to musical theater. “God Bless America,” a song that some Americans have come to think of as a second national anthem, was written by Berlin just before America entered World War II. Of the musicals for which he composed scores, *Annie*