

Music History Lecture Notes

Roots of Rock

1800 AD - 1960

This presentation is intended for the use of current students in Mr. Duckworth's Music History course as a study aid. Any other use is strictly forbidden.

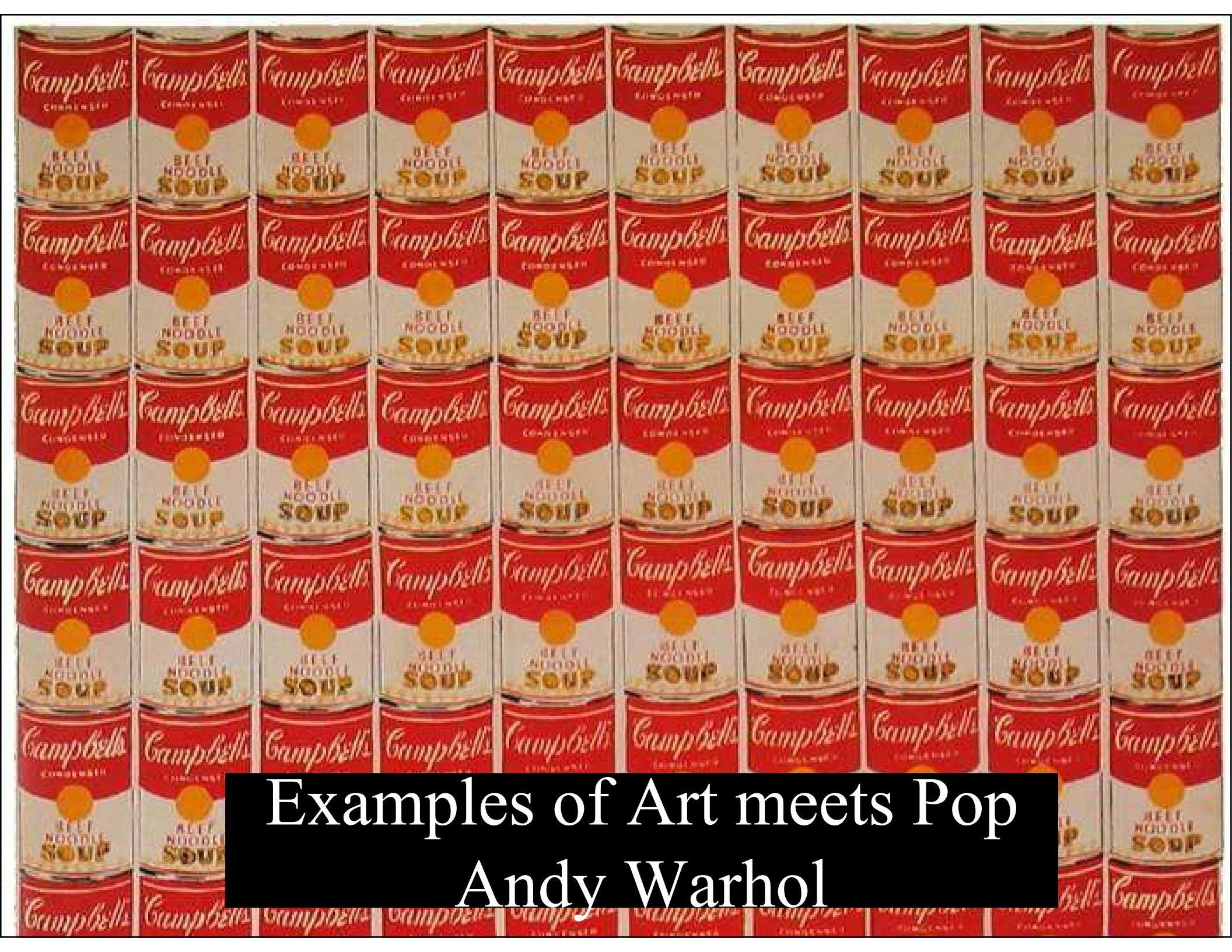
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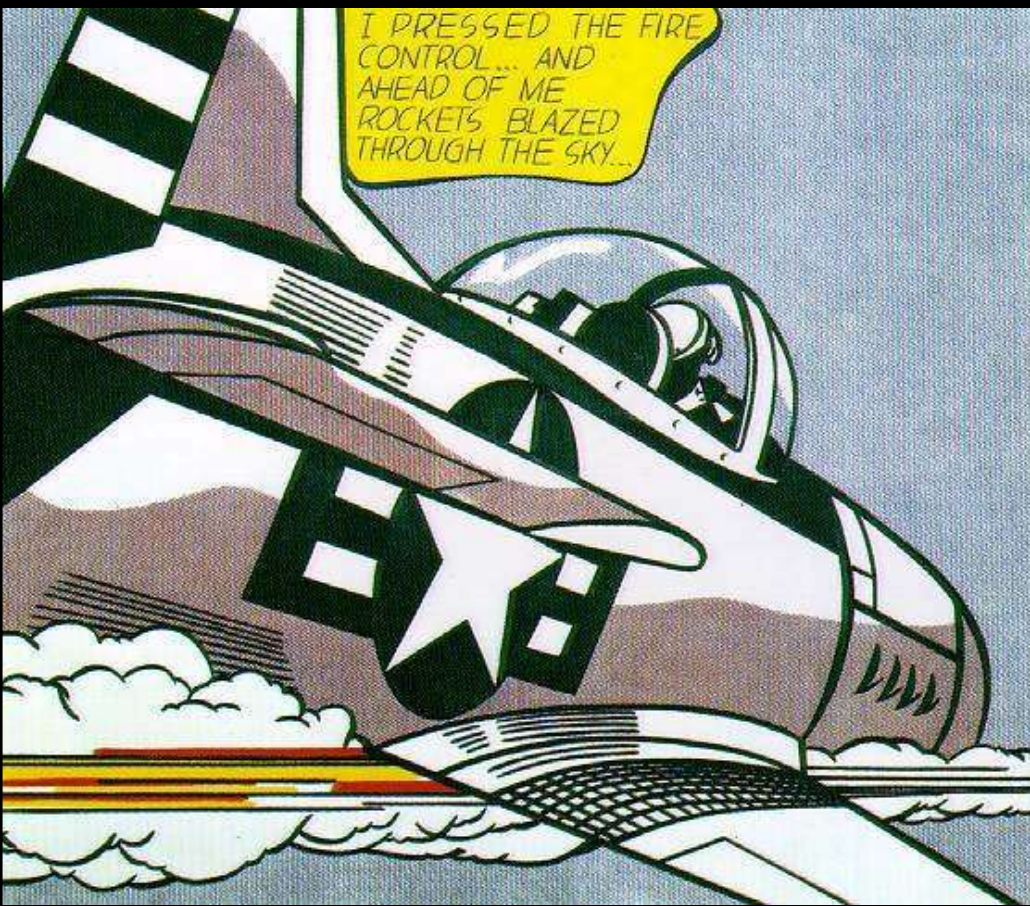
Art vs. Pop

- Pop is short for Popular
 - Better known
 - Influenced by market forces
- Art is short for Artistic
 - Less known by most, but well known by some
 - Influenced by historical trends and politics
- There are some artists that transcend labels



Examples of Art meets Pop
Andy Warhol

I PRESSED THE FIRE CONTROL... AND AHEAD OF ME ROCKETS BLAZED THROUGH THE SKY...



A PAINTING. MOVING.
SPIRITUALLY ENRICHING.
SUBLIME."HIGH" ART!



THE COMIC STRIP. VAPID.
JUVENILE. COMMERCIAL
HACK WORK."LOW" ART.



A PAINTING OF A COMIC
STRIP PANEL. SOPHISTICATED
IRONY. PHILOSOPHICALLY
CHALLENGING.
...."HIGH" ART.



SUPPOSE I DRAW A CARTOON
OF A PAINTING OF A
COMIC STRIP?



SOPHOMORIC.
INTELLECTUALLY
STERILE."LOW"
ART.

The Roots of rock

- **Rock is the product of a long evolution**
 - A synthesis
- **European Culture**
 - “art” music
 - folk song
- **African slave culture**
 - US
 - Cuba & Brazil



The African Influence

- **Not much information about 19th century slave music**
 - **Plantation owners outlawed drums for fear of communication**
 - **Lack of education kept music from being written down**
- **Much rhythmic complexity**
 - **dense, syncopated texture in 8 beat time**
 - **musical layering**
- **A gradual but relentless addition of African musical values into mainstream pop**

The European Influence

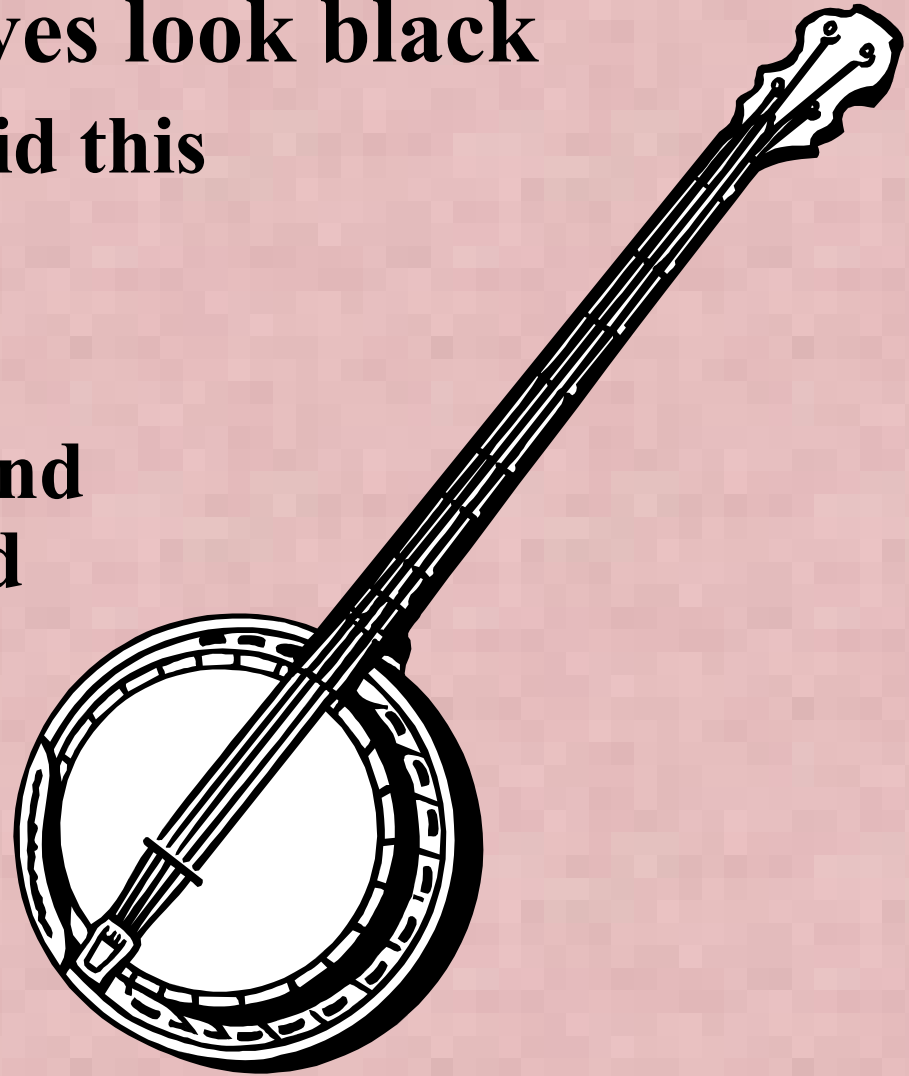
- **Middle and Upper classes of Europe and America shared a musical taste**
 - “Classical” music or art music
- **No gap between art & popular**
- **General style**
 - harmony supports a melody
 - clear rhythmic hierarchy
 - clear form

The Immigrant Influence

- **Immigrants from the British isles brought another type of music: folk**
 - **Ballads - unaccompanied story songs**
 - **Dance music - jigs, reels - often played on fiddle**
- **General style**
 - **story told in plain language**
 - **untrained vocals and uptempo rhythm**
 - **heterophony (multiple versions of a melody played simultaneously)**
 - **alternating verses and refrains**

Blackface

- **A style of performance in which the performers make themselves look black**
 - Even African performers did this
 - Use a burnt cork to apply “blackness” to their face
 - Depiction of black speech and movement was stereotyped
- **African instruments used**
 - Banjo
 - Bones and tambourine



The First Synthesis

- **March 7, 1843 - Virginia Minstrels**
 - **4 men experienced in blackface - the first minstrel show**
 - **“a combination of singing, dancing, and instrumental music... interspersed with jokes, anecdotes, and repartee in pseudo-Negro dialect.” Gilbert Chase**
- **The first American popular music**
 - **irreverent attitude**
 - **vibrant new sound combining African & European traditions**

Minstrel Songs

- **Infused popular (folk) song with high spirits and faster rhythms**
 - **socially incompatible**
- **Fiddle only European instrument used**
- **Mixed folk song and folk dance styles**
- **European harmony & forms with African rhythm and instrumentation**
- **Between Civil War and 1910 most songs alternate storytelling with refrains**

New Sound 1900-1930

- **Introduction of African styles syncopation (authentic African-American rhythm)**
- **Popular animal dances**
 - turkey-trot, monkey glide, bunny hug
- **White & Blacks bought sheet music to play at home**
 - Black music's first commercial presence
- **Piano rags essentially black interpretation of European marches**
- **Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" 1899**



Early Blues

- **First seen 1910-1920**
- **3 waves**
 - popular songs
and dance music
 - jazz bands
 - recorded blues
of 1920s



First Popular Blues



W.C. Handy

- “Memphis Blues” 1912 - first published blues, first foxtrot
- “St. Louis Blues” 1914 - vocal

Foxtrot

- First big dance craze of 20th century

Blues & Jazz

- **1917 - Original Dixieland Jazz band's "Livery Stable Blues"**
- **Early jazz bands (both white and black) played 50% blues material**



- **The early jazz band**
 - **cornet**
 - **clarinet**
 - **trombone**
 - **brass bass**
 - **drums**
 - **banjo**
 - **piano**

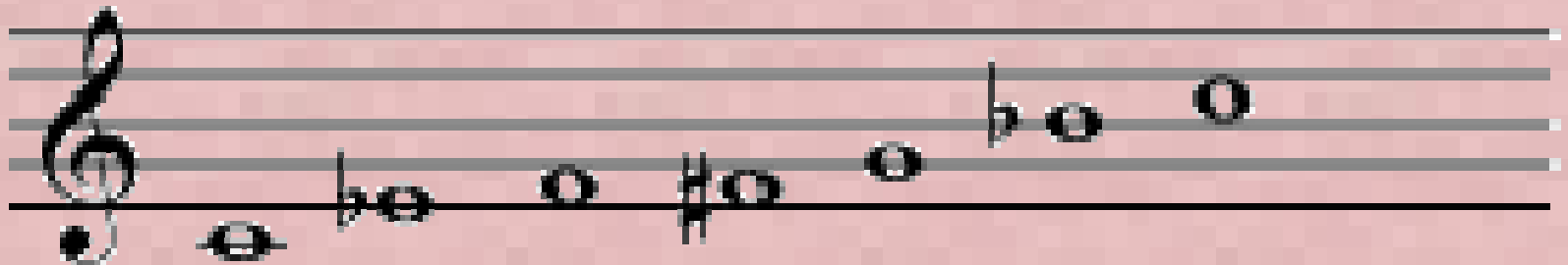
Classic Blues (1920)

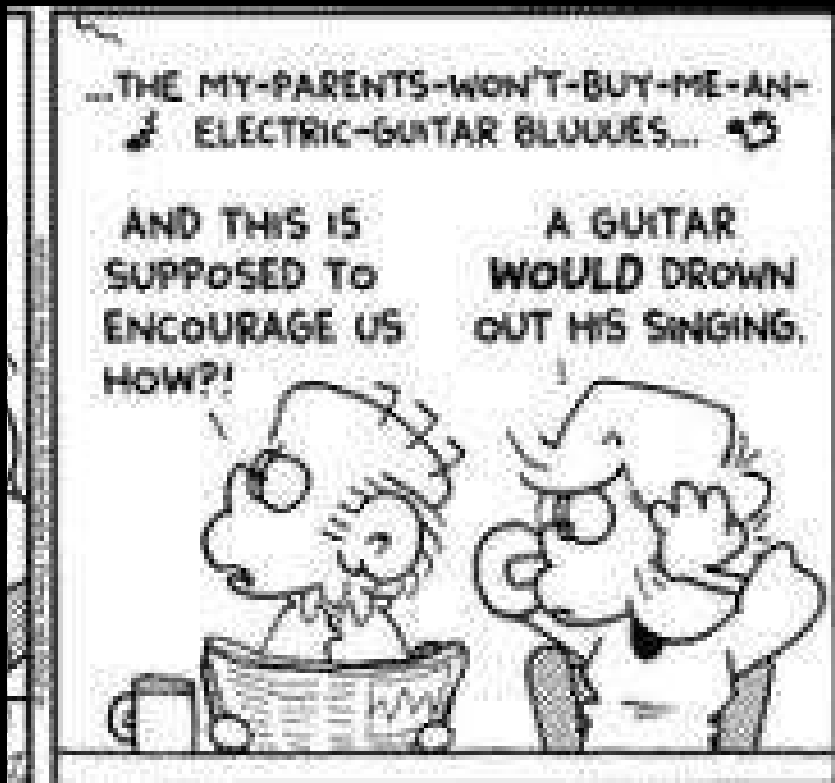
- **Vocal blues with blues form and feeling**
 - **Frequently by women**
 - **Mammie Smith - Crazy Blues**
- **Race records**
 - **Black performers for primarily black audiences**
 - **Designation became Rhythm & Blues in 1949**



Elements of Blues Singing

- Gritty vocal quality
- Conversational phrasing
- Inflections the heighten normal speech
 - blue notes
 - phrases start high & end low
 - narrow melodic range



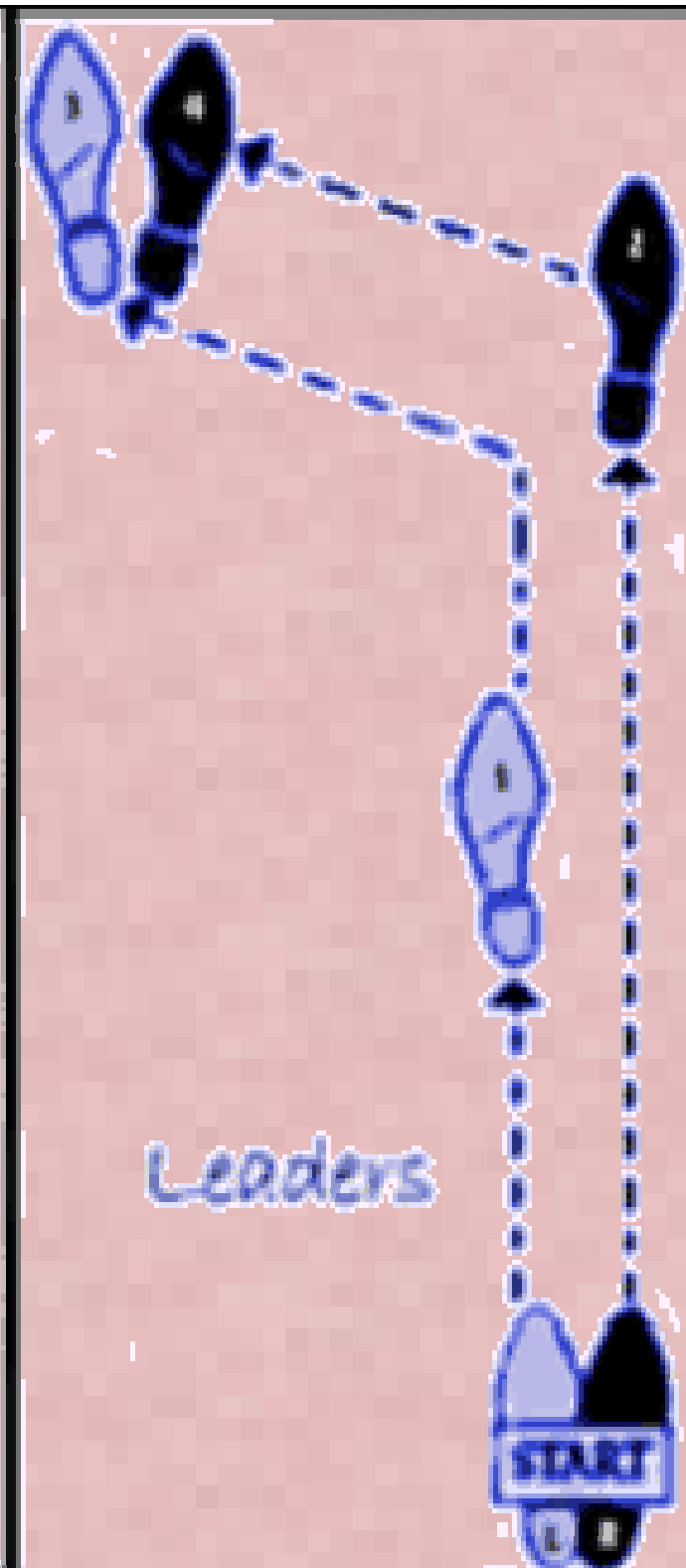
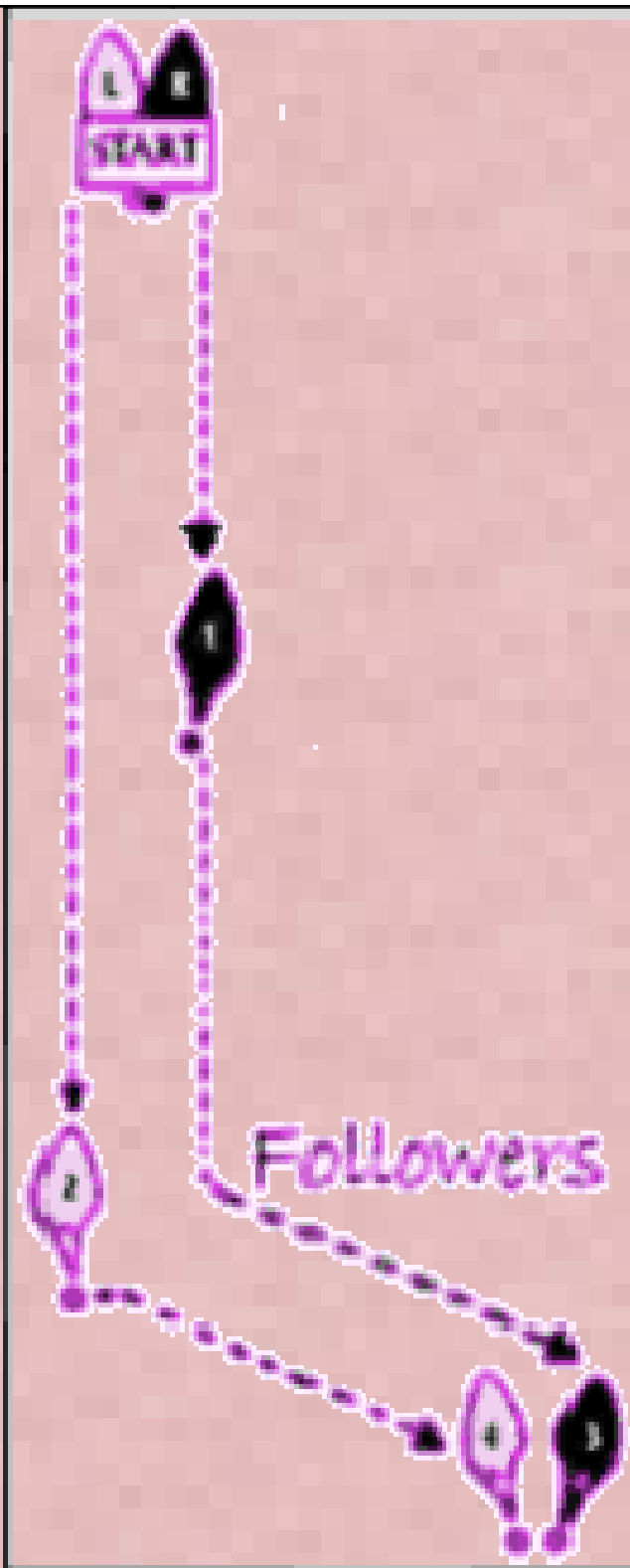


Changing Pop's Purpose



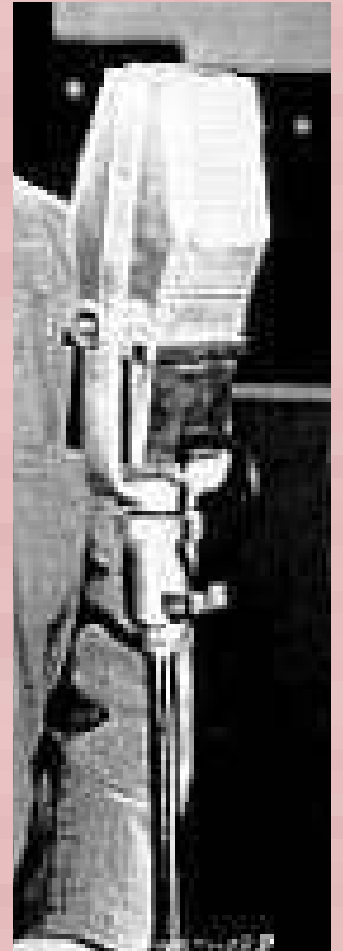
- **Before 1920 popular music was sung**
- **After this infusion of African style music had to be danceable**
 - e.g. Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers dancing “cheek to cheek”

- **Almost all popular songs of the 20s were foxtrots**
 - **Conversational lyrics with riff-based melodies and syncopated rhythms**
- **Chorus became the most important part**
 - **Usually AABA form**



The Electric Revolution

- The advent of electric recording and amplification changed music forever
- Recordings sounded better
- The crooner replaced the belter as the voice of choice
 - Bing Crosby
 - Louis Armstrong
- Lyrics could now be understood in a more intimate, personal manner

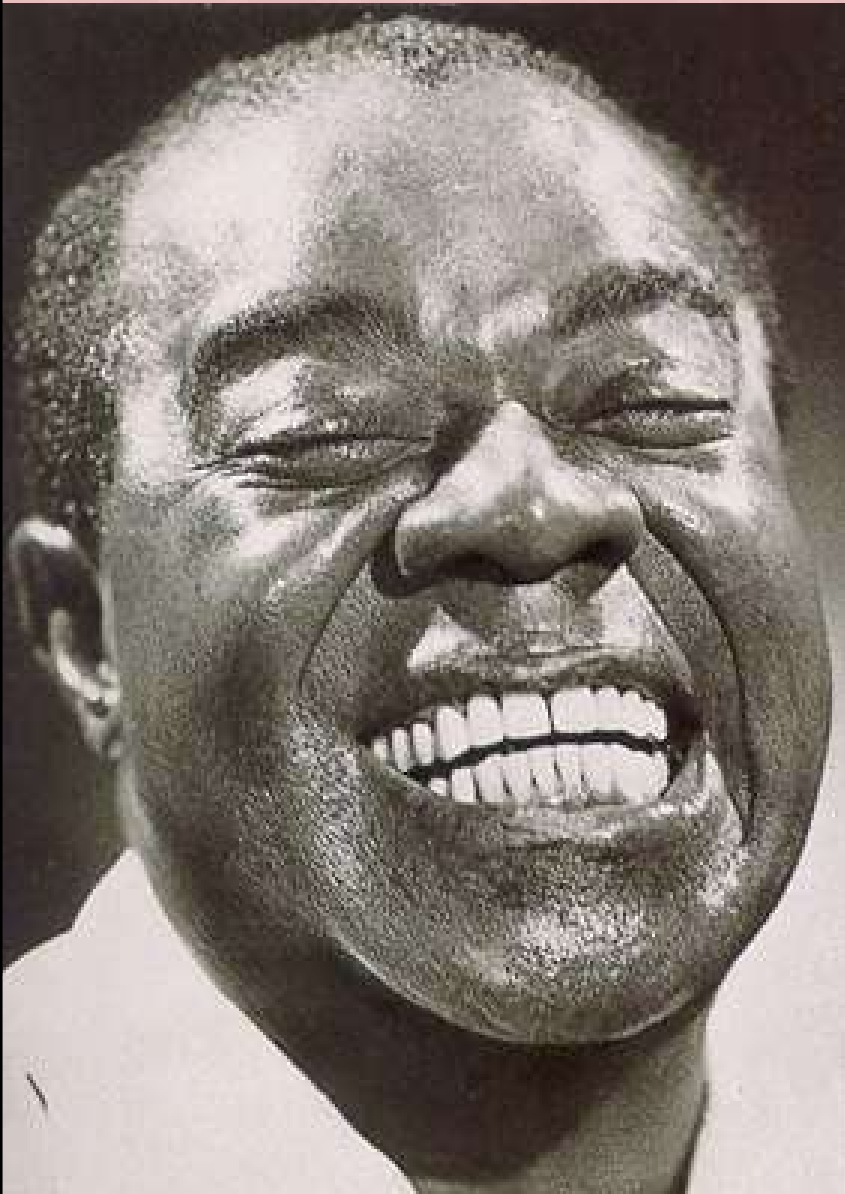


Bing Crosby

- Born Harry Lillis Crosby
- Influential in the recording industry, motion pictures and television.



Louis
Armstrong
• Satchmo



1926-1940

- **Blues diversified**
 - **Country blues**
 - **Boogie woogie**
 - **Urban Blues**
- **Jazz matured**
 - **big band swing**



Changing Blues

- The great depression transformed the blues on record
- African Americans could no longer afford to support classic blues singers
 - Their careers effectively ended by 1930



- Country blues was a small but visible niche of the industry
 - Centered in the Mississippi Delta region, south of Memphis
 - Robert Johnson & Muddy Waters



Boogie Woogie

- **Evolved in nightclubs where aggressive style was needed to be heard over noisy crowds**
 - **Left hand plays repetitious figure in a shuffle rhythm with blues harmony**
 - **Right hand plays riffs**
- **Idiomatic blues piano style**
 - **Pine Top Smith's "Pine Top's Boogie Woogie"**
- **North of the delta**
 - **Chicago, St. Louis, Orleans**



Jazz Singing

- **Before 1930 jazz was primarily instrumental**
- **After 1930 jazz gave birth to a new vocal and dance styles**
- **Jazz became a truly popular music**
- **Louis Armstrong**
 - **A prominent jazz figure on trumpet before WWII**
 - **His rough voice brought a blues feel to the freedom of jazz rhythm and phrasing**



Swing

- Before 1935 mainly in urban black orchestras
 - Duke Ellington
 - Fletcher Henderson

- 1935 Benny Goodman brought swing to white audiences





- Other white bands followed
 - Dorsey brothers
 - Glenn Miller

- Black bands found a wider audience
 - Count Basie (Kansas City)
 - Duke Ellington



Social Trends after the War

- Recording industry had been crippled by the Great depression
- Post war boom meant
 expendable income = entertainment
- TV moves from luxury to essential household appliance
- Cars came to high demand with families buying more than one
- Development of suburbia
- Teenagers subculture emerges

Race Relations

- 1948 President Truman ends discrimination in the armed services
- 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education repeals “separate but equal” policy of 1896



- White children grew up hearing and enjoying black performers breeding respect for African-American's as individuals

Why is society segregated if music is not?

The Teenage Rebellion

- Teens now worked by choice
 - Not farm chores or work-to-survive mentality
- Many teens had allowances and own car
- More leisure time
 - Hang out spots - Drive In, Car-hop



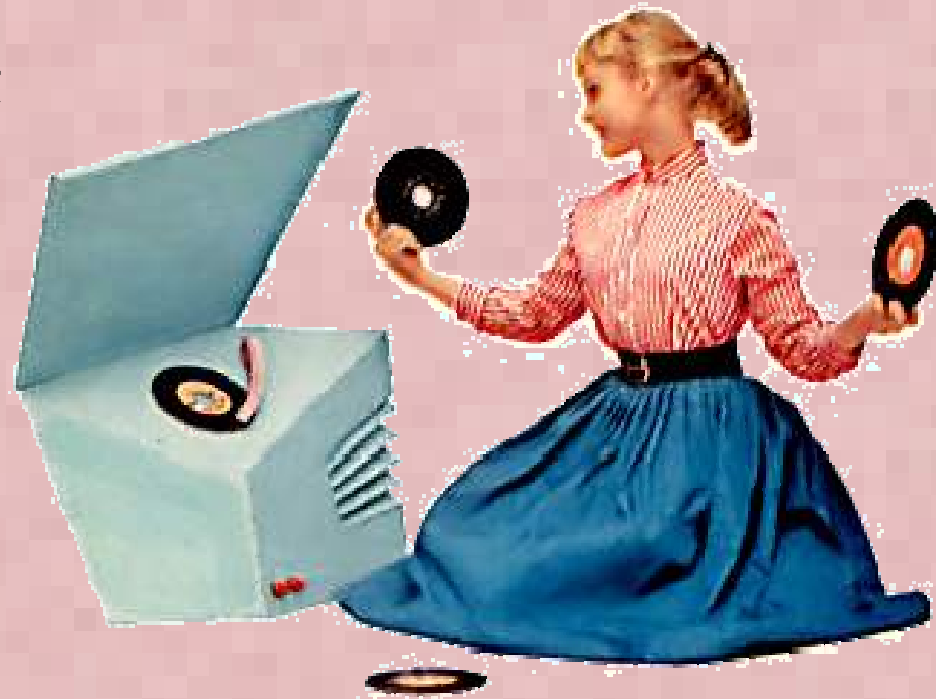
The Teenage Rebellion

- **Revolt against the status quo most evident in music**

Obviously black or black-inspired

Much was sexual

“Rock stars” looked and acted different



Music and Technology



- The Television
 - 1949 fewer than a million
 - 1953 over 20 million
- New dominant mass entertainment

- 3 networks controlled virtually all programming
- Dick Clark's American Bandstand geared to teens



- Radio series are replaced almost entirely by music

Records



- **78 rpm disc**
 - 3 minute on 10” disc
- **1948 Columbia records releases the LP**
 - 12” disc revolving at 33 1/3 rpm
 - over 30 minutes of music
- **1949 RCA releases the 45**
 - as much music as a LP but lighter and cheaper
 - injection molding
- **Teens preferred 45 rpm singles, adults primarily bought LP albums**

Solid Body Electric Guitar

- Guitars are naturally a soft instrument
- Some makers added a pick-up to an acoustic to amplify the sound
- Electric hobbyist Les Paul experimented with a guitar with no sound chamber at all
 - A railroad tie with a guitar neck - “the log”
- The sound was clearer and could be sustained





- CA guitar builder Leo Fender refined the electric guitar
- Fiberglass solid body
 - nearly indestructible
- Variety of settings allowed new sound possibilities
- 1951 Fender invents the electric bass to compliment his guitars
 - Easier to play than an upright
 - Allows more difficult riffs even melodies to be played

Distortion

- 1951 Jackie Brenston is driving to the recording studio
- Amp falls off the car and the cone is broken
- Records anyway with a fuzzy sound on his guitar
- Became popular as a compliment to a rough vocal sound
- By 1963 the “fuzz box” enabled guitarists to control distortion

Country Music

- Atlanta, 1922 - First radio broadcast
- “old time music” was commercially viable
- Recording helped solidify the style
- Early stars
 - Carter Family
 - Jimmie Rogers
- Country’s “sound”
 - nasal, unadorned, straight forward melody



The Honky-Tonk



- After prohibition where whites went to drink and dance
- Rough places with loud crowds
- Musicians had to use amplification to be heard
- Songs reflected the audiences
 - drinking, traveling, trucking, etc.
- 1952, Hank Williams, Sr., “Your Cheatin’ Heart”

Electric Blues

- **Muddy Waters began playing on electric guitar in 1944 to be heard over bar noise**
- **John Lee Hooker’s “Boogie Chillin’” topped R&B charts in 1949**
 - **The urbanization of Delta Blues**
 - **Blues style with amplified guitar**
 - **Tell a story over a repeated riff**
- **Blues migrated from the plantations of Mississippi to Chicago’s south side**



Gospel Music

- African-American religious music blend
 - Protestant hymnody
 - the Spiritual
 - Blues
- Emerges around 1930
- Began by blues pianist “Georgia Tom” - Thomas A. Dorsey
 - **“This music lifted people out of the muck and mire of poverty and loneliness, of being broke, and gave them some kind of hope anyway. Make it anything other than good news, it ceases to be gospel.”**



Gospel Music

- Originally called evangelistic songs
- The music remained virtually unknown outside the African-American church community
- Both a musical repertoire and a performance style
- 2 performing traditions of early gospel
 - Male quartets without instruments
 - Female soloists

The Early Gospel Style

- Blues vocal style
- Two keyboards
 - Piano
 - Hammond Organ
- Gospel harmony
 - European hymns with blues harmony
- Melismatic singing
 - in most African-American singing styles but more so in gospel than any other
- Processional rhythm



Doo-Wop

- **Music created by vocal groups between the late 40s and early 60s**
- **Gospel influenced, mostly male groups singing as a unit**
 - **More influenced by male quartets like the Ink Spots than R&B**
- **Two styles**
 - **fast (jump style)**
 - **slow (pop ballad style)**
- **Vocalists sing the riffs that would have been played by a horn section**
- **Name from the nonsense syllables they would sing**



Doo-Wop Breaks Through

- The Chord's R&B song "Sh-Boom" hits charts July 3, 1954.
- The Crew Cut's cover hit No. 1 the following week



- Many doo-wop songs were cover versions
- Created some race issues within the music business
- The most enduring doo-wop hit "Earth Angel"

Rock and Roll



- **Set aside by its beat**
- **Rock and Roll began in 1951**
 - **Alan Freed started calling the rhythm and blues he was playing on the radio in Cleveland “rock and roll” - “Moondog’s Rock and Roll Party”**
 - **blues lyrics - rockin’ and rollin’ - was a euphemism for sex**
- **1964 transformed into rock**

Chuck Berry



- **The architect of rock and roll**
 - synthesized blues, boogie-woogie, r&b and country
- **distinctive features**
 - beat
 - assertive guitar
- **lyrics deal with teen themes**
 - preceded by blues lyrics but without the depressing elements

Berry's Music

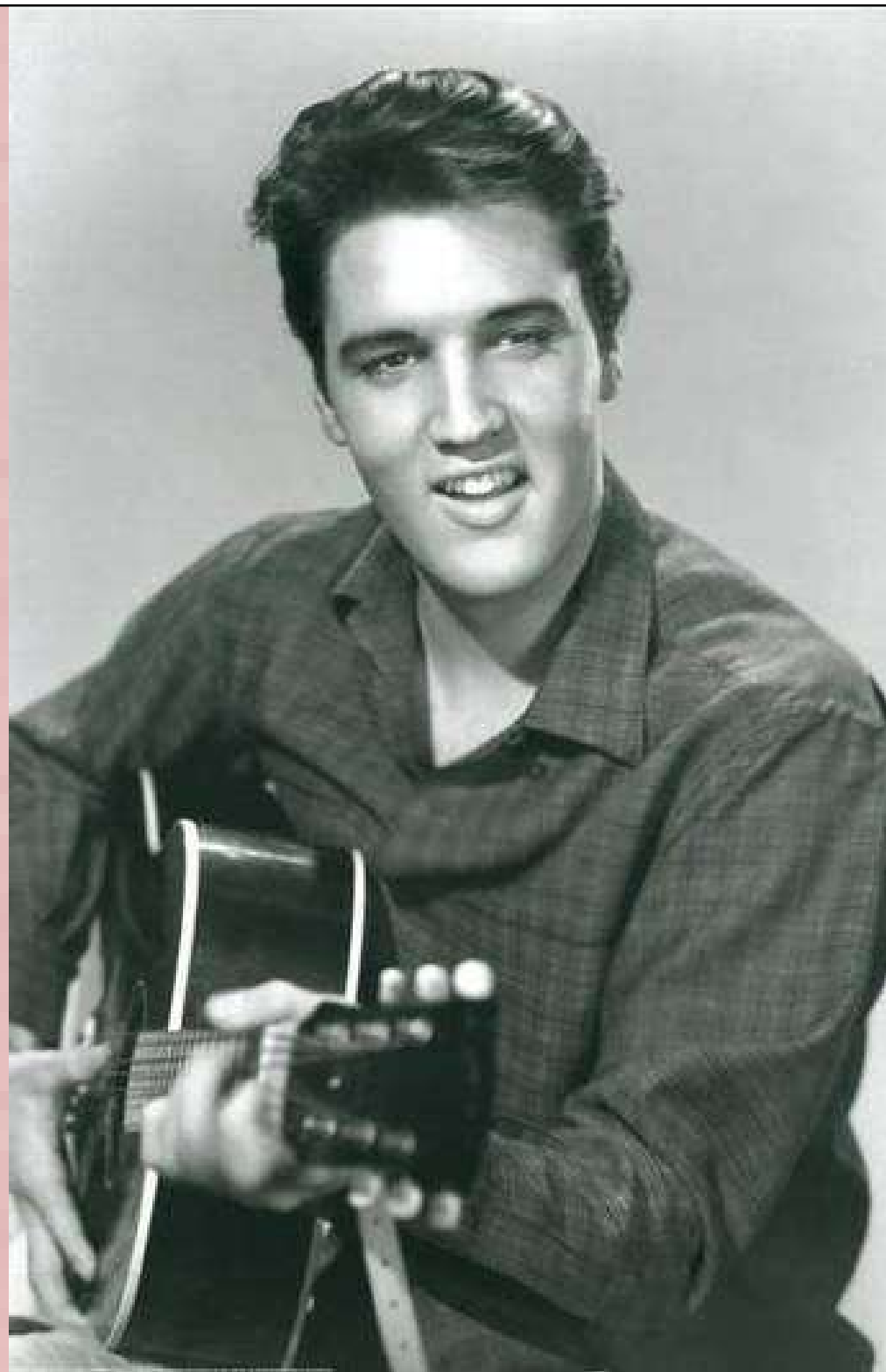
- Brought the guitar to the foreground
- Made the guitar rock and roll's lead voice
 - virtuoso performer - especially introductions
 - trademark double note lines
- Hit Songs
 - Maybellene
 - Johnny B. Goode
 - Roll Over Beethoven



The Duck Walk

Elvis Presley

- **The King of Rock'n'Roll**
 - unparalleled contributions to the genre
 - everyone knew of him





**18 million selling records
before 1960**

- **dominated the foreign market - esp. Britain**
- **vivid visual images**
 - **overly sexual stage persona sent girls into hysterics**
 - **unique voice - “I don’t sound like nobody”**
- **after 2 years in army left music to focus on film**
- **first rock artist with a movie career**

- Enormous commercial success
 - 14 gold records and a movie in 2 years
- uninhibited performing style - wiggling
- rock'n'roll's new attitude
- Biggest hits:
 - Hound Dog/Don't Be Cruel
 - topped pop, R&B and country charts in 1956





Little Richard

first loud rock'n'roller

flamboyant personality and outrageous appearance

high energy performance

Musical contributions

- **vocal power over prettiness**
- **Volume: starts loud, stays loud**
- **trademark falsetto howls**
- **percussive piano style**

Jerry Lee Lewis



- **Career just over a year long**
- **1st rock hit - 1957**
“Whole Lot of Shakin’ Goin’ On”
- **Biggest hit: Great Balls of Fire**
 - **overtly sexual to a degree beyond Elvis of Little Richard**
- **A white man singing about lust using rock and roll as a subtext**
- **Pounding piano style with trademark glissandos**

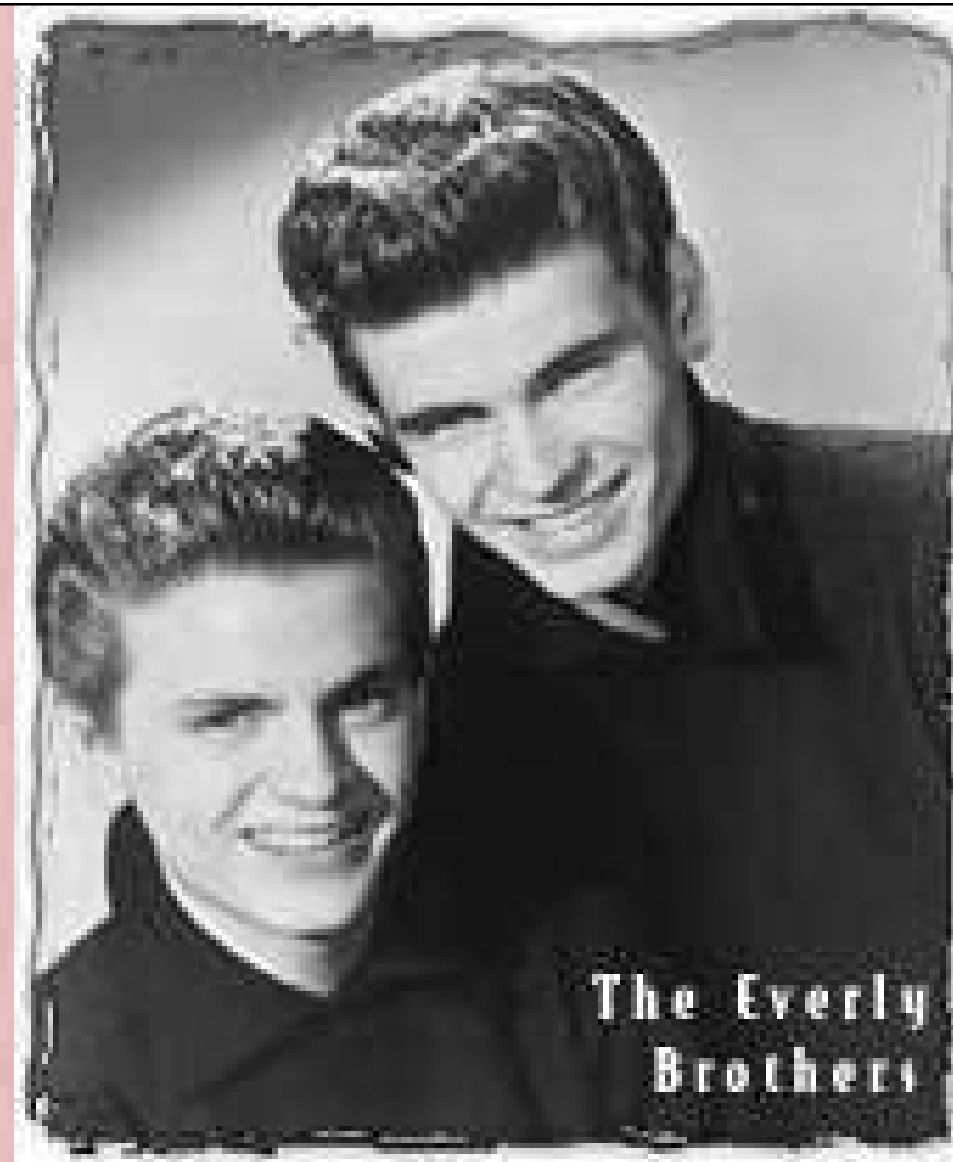
Jerry Lee Lewis

- Career died when he married his 13 year old cousin
 - his divorce to his 2nd wife wasn't even final at the time



Everly Brothers

- **Began as country entertainers**
- **Contract with Cadence records in Nashville**
- **Early hits crossed into pop charts**
 - **Bye, Bye Love**
 - **Wake Up Little Susie**
- **1958 “All I Have to Do is Dream”**
 - **a slow song with a gentle rock beat**
- **Brought rock and roll to the pop music audience**



Buddy Holly



- **Bridge between 50s and 60s rock**
- **Career lasted only 1.5 years**
 - **August 1957 - That'll Be The Day**
 - **Died in plane crash February 1959**
- **Looked more like a nerd than rock star**
- **A curious imagination beneath a shy and gawky exterior**
- **Most songs deal with insecurities of teen relationships**

Moving to the 60s

- **A time of transition**
- **Rock was mainly fabricated teen idols and black pop was doo-wop**

The word "Billboard" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The four 'o's in "board" are replaced by solid colored circles: red, yellow, blue, and yellow from left to right.

- **November 30, 1963 Billboard suspended the R&B singles chart**
 - **enormous crossover between R&B and pop**
- **Racial integration finally permeated the record industry and even the bandstand**

Popular Music Changes

- **Popular music 1920-1940**
 - **song written by a writer or team**
 - **arrangements were written for various media**
 - **bands**
 - **piano**
 - **vocal**
 - **songs could be performed by anyone**
 - **no single person controlled the sound of a song**
 - **no authoritative version**

Popular Music Changes

- **Popular music after 1960**
 - **songwriters within a band would write**
 - **band would work out all details**
 - **record their version in a studio**
 - **single is released**
 - **record would be played on radio**
 - **almost no covers would ever be recorded**
- **multi-track recording made the biggest changes**



Louie, Louie

- By the Kingsmen
- World's most famous rock song
- lyrics are unintelligible
- uses only 3 chords
- returns to nastiness of early rock and roll
- proved that anyone could be a rock star
 - launched 1000s of garage bands

Roy Orbison



- last rockabilly and first country rocker
- moved from Texas to Tennessee in 1956
- along with producer Fred Foster developed a more melodramatic rock ballad
- Masterpiece: Pretty Woman
- Music acts as a soundtrack capturing the basic mood of the story and highlighting changing emotions

The Beach Boys

- Proof that rock had spread from the middle of America to it's coast
- Rock was a subculture for southern California surfers
- 3 brothers, a cousin and a friend
- Guitar styles recall Chuck Berry
- Vocal style was truly unique with tight, high harmonies
- Brian Wilson's creativity added to their sound

- **Recordings between 1963-1965 glorified surfing lifestyle**

- **surfing**
- **cars**
- **Girls**

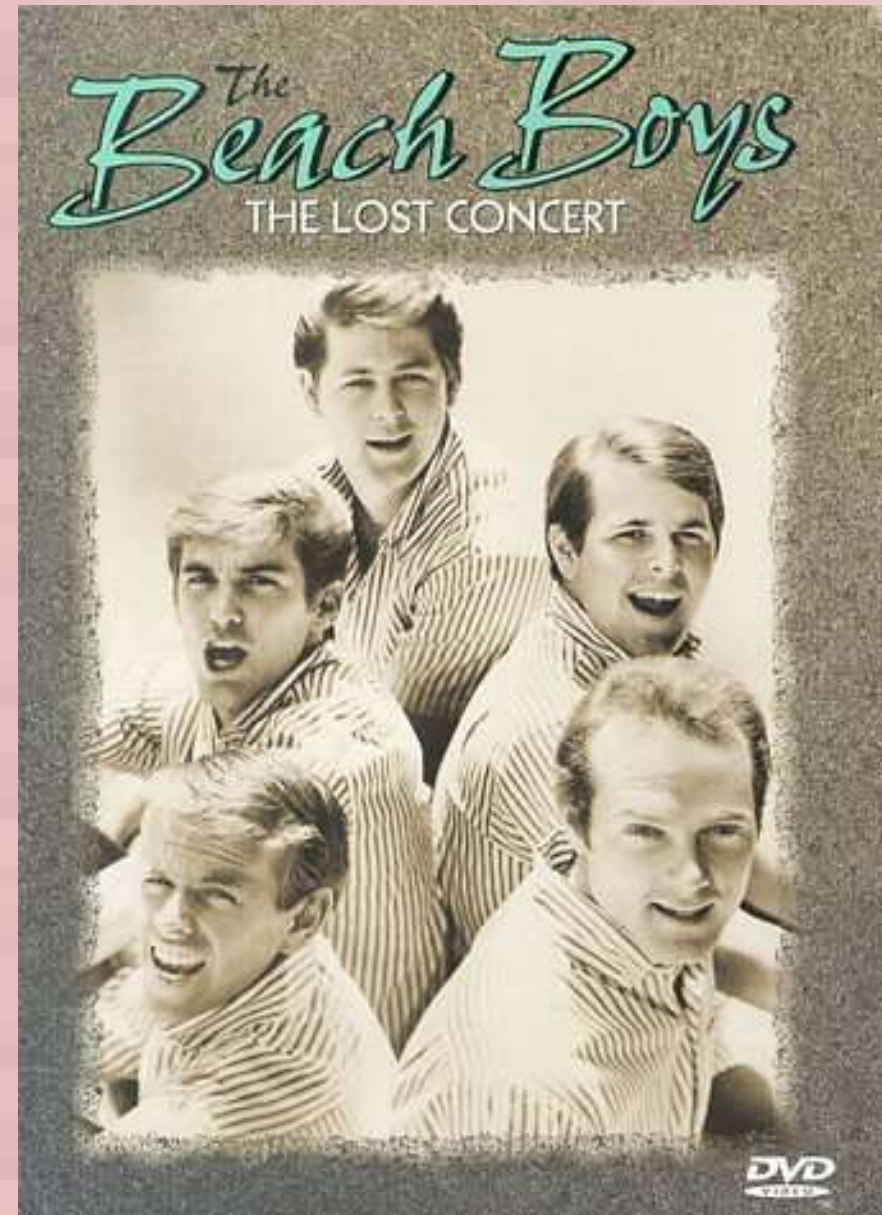


- **Despite “mindless” lyrics music was exceedingly sophisticated**

- **mainly work of Brian Wilson who wrote most songs and produced recordings**
- **Nervous breakdown in 1965**

Beach Boy 1964 Hits

- 1964 - I Get Around
 - begins with just voices
 - supported by a driving rock rhythm
- 1964 - Dance, Dance, Dance
 - begins with a bass riff and groove
- Interest is maintained by varying the musical settings



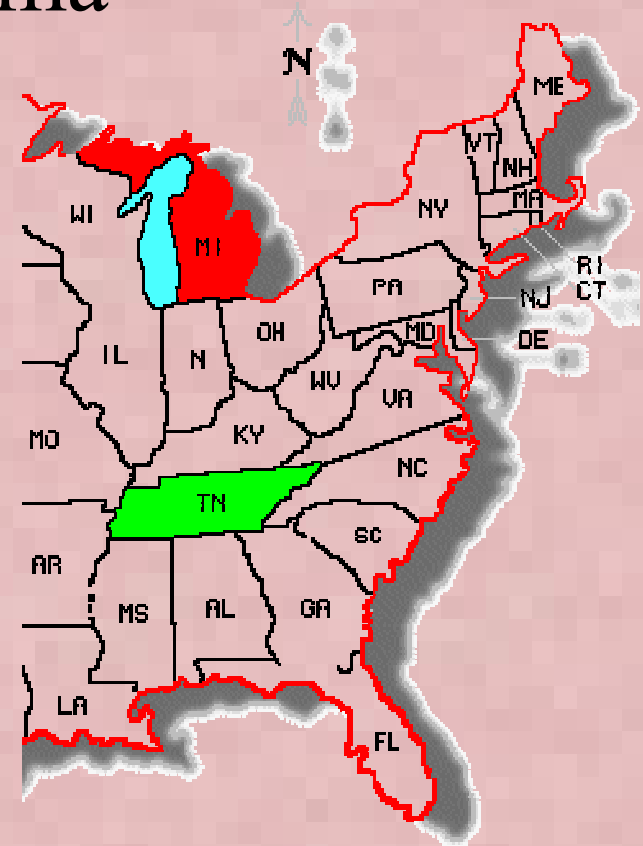


Technology 1964-1974

- **“Bouncing down” replaced by 16-24 track recorders**
 - A recording became different than anything possible in live performance
- **Minimoog synthesizer**
- **Marshall stacks - everything got LOUDER**
- **Rock moves from the stage to the stadium**
- **New guitar styles**
 - looping, choking

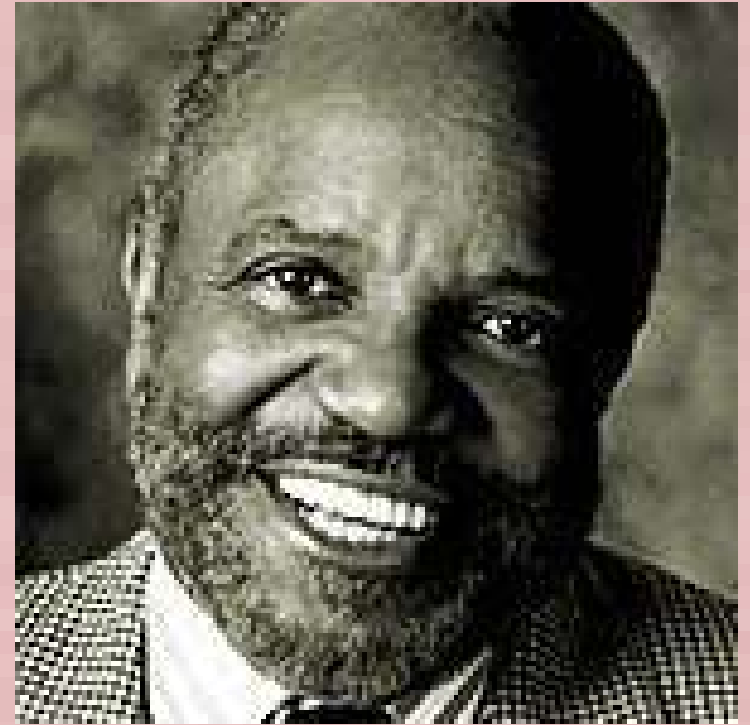
Black Music

- reached commercial and artistic peak at top of civil rights movement
- began to lose it's racial stigma
- Detroit became center of Motown
- Memphis became the center of soul



Motown

- Berry Gordy
 - loved jazz but understood commercial profits of pop
 - began own record company 1959
 - First African -American to run a label
- By 1964 3/4 Motown releases charted
- Formula: well dressed, well rehearsed, presentable in every way
 - appealed to the widest possible audience



Evolution of Motown

- **Early tunes**
 - **good stories, catchy lyrics, melodic hooks, innocent young voices, frequent use of simile**
 - I.e. “My Guy”
- **Later 60s Motown**
 - **shift from romance to reality, more emotional depth**
 - I,e, “I Heard it Through the Grapevine”
- **Despite frequent cross-Motown covers, artists had freedom to “customize” a song**



Soul

- Synthesis of blues, gospel, R&B, rock
- Two centers
 - Memphis, Tennessee
 - Muscle Shoals, Alabama
- Soul seemed to die along with Martin Luther King Jr.
- Aretha Franklin
 - Queen of Soul

Aretha Franklin

- **Father was a charismatic preacher**
 - Aretha met many of the best Black entertainers in her own home
- **Mother left when she was 6**
- **Career began in 1960 under producer John Hammond**
- **1966 Jerry Wexler bought contract**
- **First up-tempo hits**
 - **Think**
 - **Respect**

