

Music History Lecture Notes

Modern Rock

1960 - Today

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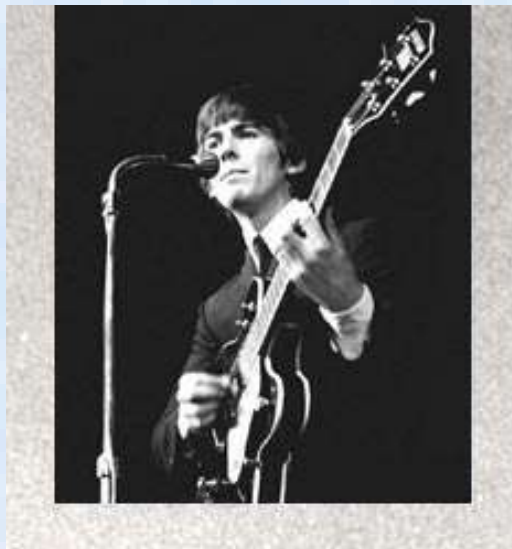
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The Beatles

- **Rock's classic act**
- **1957 John Lennon meets Paul McCartney, asks Paul to join his band - The Quarry Men**
- **George Harrison joins at end of year**
- **Johnny and the Moondogs**



The Beatles

- **New drummer Pete Best - The Silver Beetles**
- **Ringo Star joins - The Beatles**



- **June 6, 1962 - audition for producer George Martin**
- **April 10, 1970 - McCartney announces the group has disbanded**



*John
Gower*

*George
Hanson*

*Paul
Smith*

*Paul
Smith*

Beatles, Popularity and Drugs

- **Crowds would drown of the band at concerts**
- **Dylan turned the Beatles on to marijuana**
- **Lennon “discovers” acid when a friend spikes his drink**
- **Drugs actively shaped their music**
 - **alcohol & speed - 1964**
 - **marijuana - 1966**
 - **acid - Sgt. Pepper and Magical Mystery tour**
 - **heroin in last years**

Beatles and the Recording Process



- First studio band
 - used cutting-edge technology
 - recordings difficult or impossible to reproduce live
- Use of over-dubbing
- Gave credibility to rock albums (v. singles)
- Incredible musical evolution
 - “no group changed so much in so short a time”
- Campbell

Four Phases of the Beatles



- Beatlemania - 1962-1964
- Dylan inspired seriousness - 1965-1966
 - Psychedelia - 1966-1967
 - Return to roots - 1968-1970

Beatlemania

- September 1962
 - “Love me Do”
- 1964 - “Ticket to Ride”
- October 1963
 - I Want To Hold your Hand
 - Best example
- “Yesterday” written Jan. 1964 - recorded June 1965
 - Came to McCartney virtually complete, believed he was simply remembering a folk-song
 - The most covered song of all time



Beatlemania: the fans



Dylan Inspired Seriousness



- **Under influence of new drugs**
- **Music less teen oriented, more diverse subject and tone**
- **Examples**
 - **Drive My Car**
 - **We Can Work It Out**
- **Lennon becomes intrigued by Indian sitar music**



Eleanor Rigby 1966

- **Song about unlamented death broke all pop conventions**
- **No “you” or “I”, all 3rd person, very removed**
- **Backed by string octet**
- **Modal harmonies unlike traditional music**
- **More like an art song than rock**
 - **Birth of the concept album**

Beatles vs. Beach Boys

- **Great competition**
- **Before 1966 Beach Boys were a step ahead of Beatles in production**
 - **Crowning achievement - Good Vibrations**
 - Recorded in 4 studios over 6 months
 - Novel instrumentation
 - Original sound
- **Beatles answer with Sgt. Pepper**



Psychedelia

- **Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**
 - contrasting between the everyday world and heightened sensibility of tripping acid
- **Example: Day In The Life**
 - 4 distinct scenes
 - Instrumental sections depict “tripping”
 - Overall sound scheme is more like 20th century “classical music” than rock

Sgt. Pepper's Cover

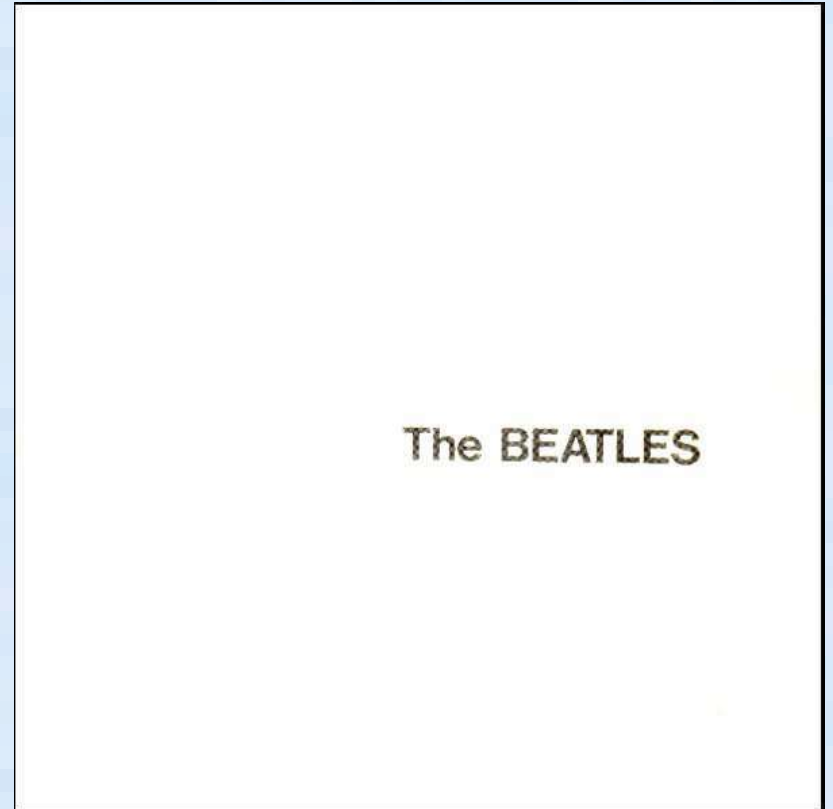
- **Beatles appear twice**
 - Live in Band uniforms
 - Wax museum likeness
- **Beatles portray themselves as playing roles**
- **Dylan only contemporary**
- **Surrounded by icons of pop culture**





Return to Roots

- **From this period**
 - **Get Back**
 - **Ballad of John & Yoko**
 - **Let It Be**
- **White Album**
 - **Back in the USSR**
 - **Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da**
 - **Blackbird**
 - **Revolution Nine**
- **Amazing familiarity and comfort in so many styles**



Rooftop Concert- January 30, 1969





ROLLING STONES



Rolling Stones

- Part of the British Invasion
- Greatly influenced by American blues performers (esp. Muddy Waters)
- Called “The Greatest Rock and Roll Band in the World”
- Led by Keith Richards & Mick Jagger
- First US hit:
(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction

Jimi Hendrix



- **solo-oriented blues approach to rock**
- **Grew up in Seattle, Washington**
- **Influenced by dad's blues and jazz records**

- **Short time in army: back injured in a parachute accident**
- **Became a back-up guitarist for many Black performers**
- **1966 - formed Jimmy James & the Flames**
- **By fall - Jimi Hendrix Experience in Clubs**



Jimi the Performer

- Most influential and innovative soloists
- Showy guitar playing
 - through legs, behind neck, somersault
- Graphic connection between guitar and sexual potency
- Monterey Pop Festival - set guitar on fire

Jimi's Music

- Purple Haze
 - best known song
 - use of tritone “diabolis in musica”
 - guitar becomes more prominent than voice
 - voice spotlighted only in stop-time
 - ensemble vs. solo playing paves way for heavy metal
 - chords built on minor pentatonic scale
 - rock gets new harmonic vocabulary
 - style defined rock solo guitar



Woodstock Music Festival

- Exemplified the “Hippie” counter-culture
- 3 day festival in 1960 in Bethel, New York featuring 35 bands
- Filming rights were sold to Warner Bros. who released a movie of the event in 1970
- Promoters planned for 186,000, over half a million showed up







Woodstock

- Severe lack of medical and sanitary facilities
- A lot of drug use and “free love”
- Surprisingly uneventful given the number of people there
- Largest music audience ever at time

Rock vs. Rhythm & Blues

- Big differences: Lyric content, vocal style
- Black music
 - Discuss romance
 - Bass is most prominent
 - Includes a horn section
- White Music
 - Seldom mention romance
 - Guitar is king
 - Thicker texture

Pink Floyd



- Part of the movement from rock as dance music to rock as intellectual music
- Most successful effort:
 - Dark Side of the Moon

– Album remained on Top 200 charts for 741 weeks (14 years)

- longest in history

- More famous: The Wall



Lynyrd Skynyrd

- Name is a parody of Leonard Skinner, a PE teacher the band members hated
- Fully integrated country and blues music into Southern Rock



Hit: “Sweet Home Alabama”

Reggae

- **First regional rock style to gain international fame**
- **Jamaica gained sovereignty from Britain in 1962**
- **Independent music style**
 - **more recordings per capita than any other country**
- **Influenced by radio broadcasts of American music**



- **First ska songs borrowed subjects from American R&B**
- **Music used a rhythm heavy in after-beats (Rocksteady)**
- **In 70s raggae became public symbol of the Rastafarians**
 - **Religious cult that viewed Africa as the promised land, deified Haile Selassie (Ethiopian emperor) and used ganja (marijuana) as part of their religion**



Bob Marley



- **Born in Jamaica in 1945**
- **Signed with Island Records and gained international reputation**
- **Music is a collective process (The Wailers)**
- **Outspoken for peace, brotherhood and Rastafarianism**
- **Died from cancer in 1981**
- **Hit: “Get Up, Stand Up”**

Toasting

- **Sound system**
 - huge hi-fis in or on vans
 - instant parties wherever they parked
- **DJs would talk (toast) over extended intros**
 - politic to personal matters
 - used looping and remixing to extend toast times
 - direct predecessor to rap



The Jackson 5



- **Gordy's last big act**
- **5 oldest sons of Joseph and Katherine Jackson**
 - **Joseph, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, and Michael**
 - **All nine children had successful music careers**
- **Dad formed group in 1964**
- **Discovered by Diana Ross**
 - **although it was probably Gladys Knight**
- **First hit: I Want You Back (1970)**

Jackson Five Sound

- **Michael was only 6 when group formed**
- **His prepubescent sound gave the group an innocent sound**
- **Music was sophisticated and current**
- **Characteristic Tune: ABC**

- **Jermaine married Gordy's daughter, Hazel**
- **Rest of group left Motown to form The Jacksons**

Social trends 1974-1985

- **Beginnings of the global village**
- **Telecommunications breakthroughs**
- **Music was truly a universal language**
- **Russia opens up to the rest of the world**
- **Increased tensions in the middle east**
- **Inflation threatened to destroy the economy**
- **Major mergers threw 1000s out of work**
- **Rise of Women's and Gay Rights**



The Music Industry

- **Platinum (1 million units) becomes the measure**
- **6 corporations run 4/5 of music industry**
 - **CBS (now Sony)** - **Polygram**
 - **RCA (now BMG)** - **ABC**
 - **EMI** - **WEA**
- **By 1990 4 were headquartered outside US**
- **Music diversified in number of styles**
- **Television became primary musical outlet**



- **Emergence of cable TV allows “niche” channels to become feasibly viable**

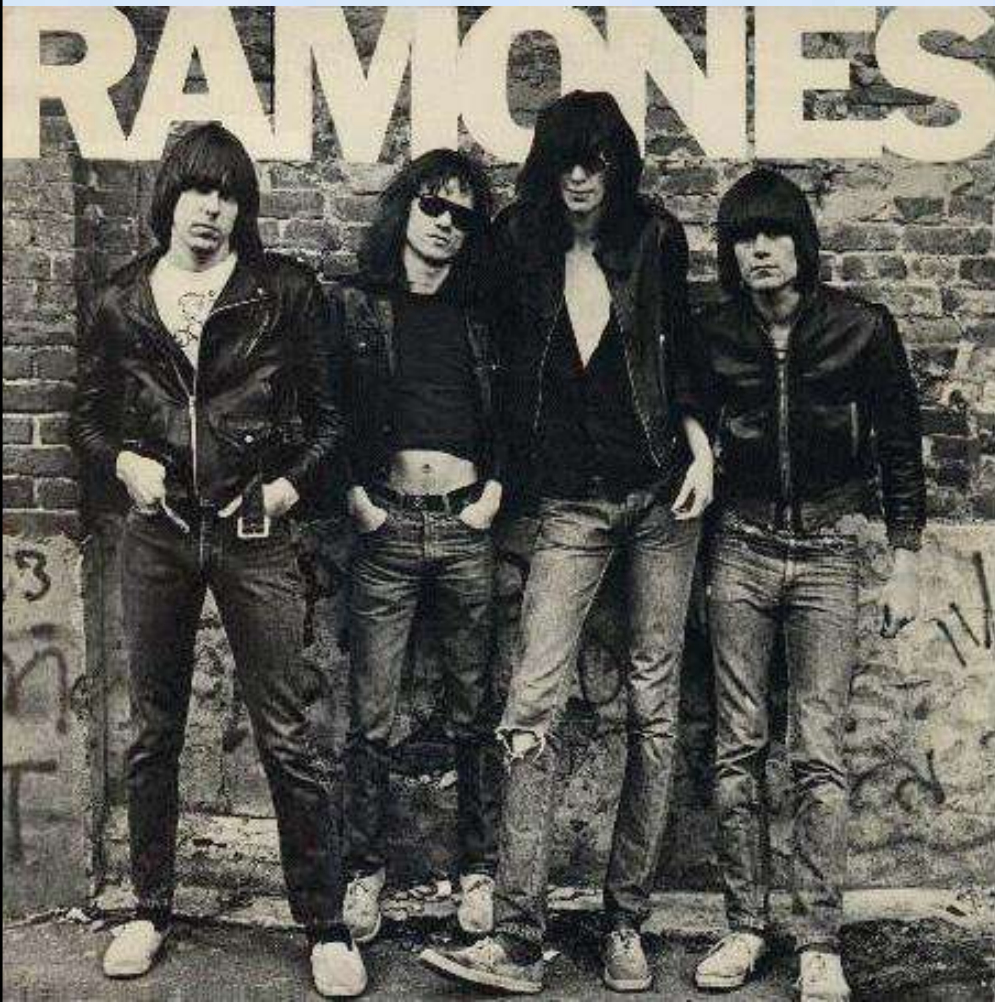
- **Using moving pictures to support music was not new**
 - **50s - lip-syncing on variety shows**
 - **Popular groups in movies**
- **Some videos were merely concert footage**
- **Duran Duran were first to master MTV**
- **Michael Jackson established the music video as an art form**

Punk's Influence

- **Shot of adrenaline in a complacent world of rock**
- **Surfaced in New York in 1975, London in 1976**
- **A calculated attempt to outrage**
- **Attitude and fashion statement preceded music**
- **Masterminded by Malcolm McLaren**
 - **Owned a clothing store: Sex**
 - **torn t-shirts, fetish leather and other designs**



The Ramones



- **Created the sound of punk**

3 chord rock - loud and fast

All 4 members went to Forrest Hills High School in Queens

Typical song: Blitzkrieg Bop (1976)

The Sex Pistols

- **Motivated by the Ramones tour of the UK in 1976**
- **Group tended to hang out in McLaren's shop - Sex**
- **Bassist, Glen Matlock, worked for McLaren**
- **McLaren acted as producer, providing rehearsal space and arranging gigs**
- **None of the performers had much musical skill**
- **Guitarist, Jones, stole the groups first sound system**

Sex Pistols

- Punk was nihilistic - no future
- Pounding, unrelenting rhythm
- Ability to shock, provoke, convict and incite riot
- Most influential group for such a modest career
- Song examples:
 - **Anarchy in the UK**
 - **God Save the Queen**



New Wave

- Centered in London, New York, Ohio
- Drew on energy and attitude of punk
- Replaced rage with quirky humor, parody, nonsense and more
- Leading figure: Elvis Costello
- Other big acts:
 - Talking Heads
 - Devo
 - Blondie
 - B-52s



Devo



- Showed that new wave also had a sense of humor
- Projected image of science-fiction space people
- First hit: Jocko Homo (1977)
 - Only 7 beats per measure
 - Required great musicianship to play
- Biggest hit: Whip It (1980)

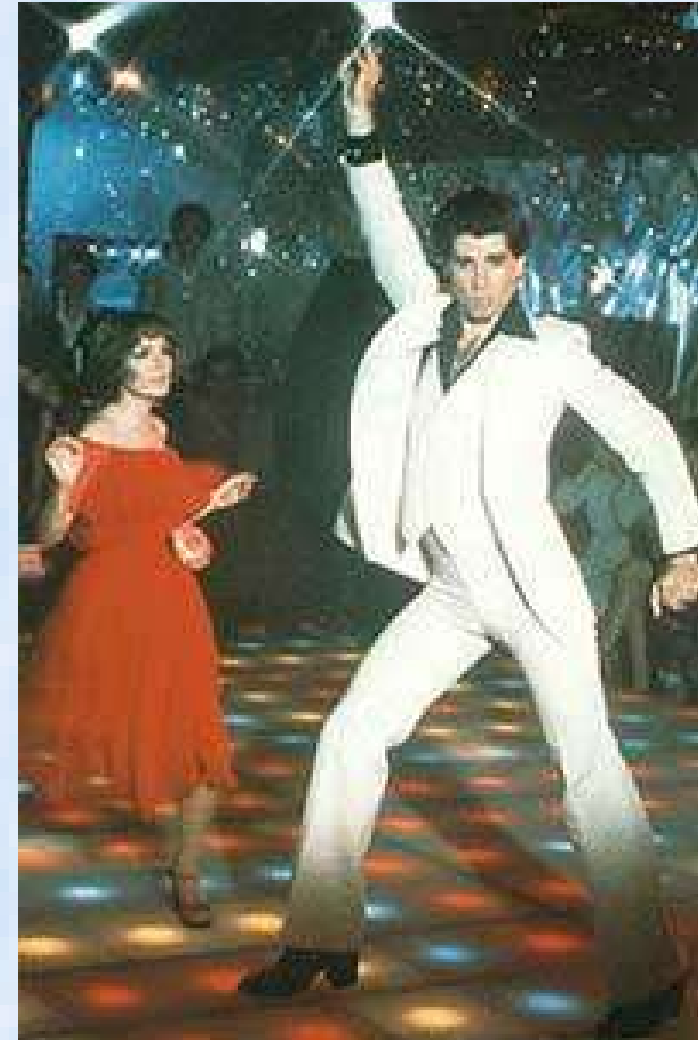
B-52s



- **Cultivated image of a 50s band**
- **Name comes from a 50s hairstyle**
- **Intentionally cheesy musical settings**
- **Famous songs**
 - **Rock Lobster**
 - **Love Shack**

Disco

- original a minority music
 - blacks, Latinos, gays
- Moved mainstream after movie “Saturday Night Fever”
- The discotheque
 - a nightclub with recorded music rather than a live band
 - very popular in Europe
- Disco emerged as a style in 1974



Disco

- **Producer's music - musicians just hired hands**
- **A faceless and underground music**
- **Visual images**
 - **Glittery costumes**
 - **Platform shoes**
- **Beat more prominent with bass drum “thumps”**
- **Songs 120-126 BPM - allowed cross-fades**

Disco Groups

- **Van McCoy's**
 - **The Hustle**
- **KC and the Sunshine Band**
 - **That's the Way (I Like It) 1975**
- **BeeGees (Brothers Gibb)**
 - **Provided 6 tracks for Saturday Night Fever**
 - **White group evoking the sound of black pop**
- **Village People**
 - **YMCA (1979)**
 - **Pandered to the gay audience**







Michael Jackson

- Veteran of Motown
- Had been a performer all his life
- Solo career took off in 1978 when he starred in “The Wiz”
 - Met Quincy Jones

- **As good a singer as dancer**
 - **MTV was perfect mode for him**
- **Made music videos as mini-films**
 - **Thriller (1982)**
- **Died of a drug overdose in 2009**



Prince

- Born Prince Rogers Nelson (1958)
- Produced and played all instruments on first 5 albums
- First hit: Soft and Wet
- Film: Purple Rain (1984)
 - When Doves Cry
- Obliterated his own identity
 - artist formerly known as
- The most consistently successful artist of the 80s



Madonna



- **First woman star to be as sexually provocative as male counterparts**
- **Portrayed herself as in control of herself and those around her**
- **An excellent dancer**
- **Music is essentially conservative, image is provocative**
- **Has reinvented look numerous times throughout career**

The Name Game

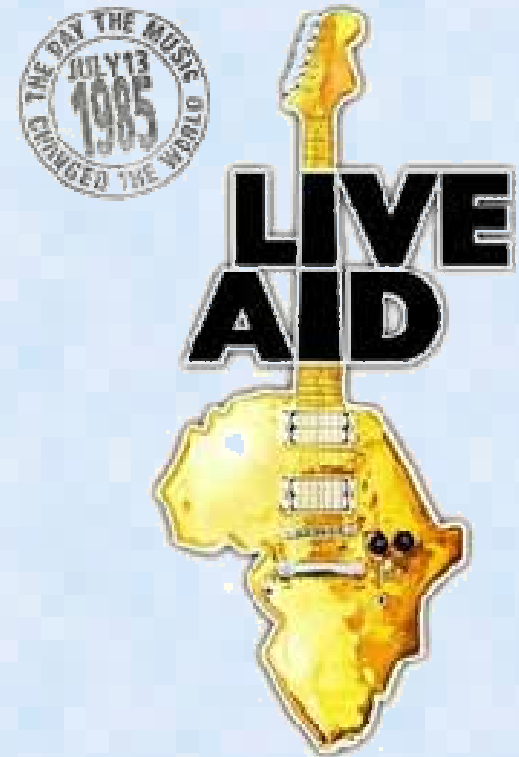
- Much of Madonna's controversy came from her name
- Madonna is the Roman Catholic term for virgin Mary
- Songs like
 - Like A Virgin (1984)
 - Like A Prayer (1989)

Play on this
juxtaposition



Rock of Significance

- 1984 - U2s Adam Clayton performs on the Band-Aid Single: Do They Know It's Christmas
 - Raise money for famine victims in Ethiopia
- Quincy Jones organizes “We Are The World” video
 - USA for Africa
- 1985 Live Aid
- Rock had rediscovered a conscience



U2

- **Irish band tackling social and political issues**
- **Big sound to back important messages**
- **Music has Irish overtones - active melody lines replace riffs**
- **Famous members**
 - **Bono (voice)**
 - **The Edge (guitar)**
 - **born David Evans**
 - **Adam Clayton (bass)**
 - **Larry Mullen (drummer)**



U2



- **Named “band of the eighties” by Rolling Stone**
- **Only achieved financial success after 1987’s “Joshua Tree”**
- **Famous songs**
 - **Sunday, Bloody Sunday (1983)**
 - **With or Without You**
 - **Where The Streets Have No Names (1987)**

Heavy Metal

- **First: Black Sabbath**
- **Best known: Kiss**
- **Other Acts**



- **Guns'n;Roses**
- **Megadeath**
- **AC/DC**
- **Judas Priest**



- **Iron Maiden**
- **Twisted Sister**
- **Metalica**
- **Def Leopard**
- **The metal band you can bring home to mom**
- **Received MTV airplay**

Heavy Metal

- Fan base mostly males 10-25
- Little exposure on MTV forced groups to extensive touring
- Not unpopular
 - Guns’N’Roses debut album sold 10 million copies
- Themes of metal
 - Rage, frustration, protest, occult, sexual dominance



Heavy Metal

- **Music so loud listener can feel**
- **Fans sing along**
 - **have to learn lyrics in record jackets**
- **Spectacle stage shows**
 - **often elaborate pagan rituals**
- **Own dance style: head banging**

Van Halen



- **Self titles 1978 album began a new era in metal**
- **Use of new guitar style: tapping**
 - **2nd only to Hendrix in contribution to guitar playing**
 - **Eruption**
 - **Proof of skill**
- **Bridged the gap between seventies metal and the diverse 80s styles**
 - **speed, thrash, death**

Rap

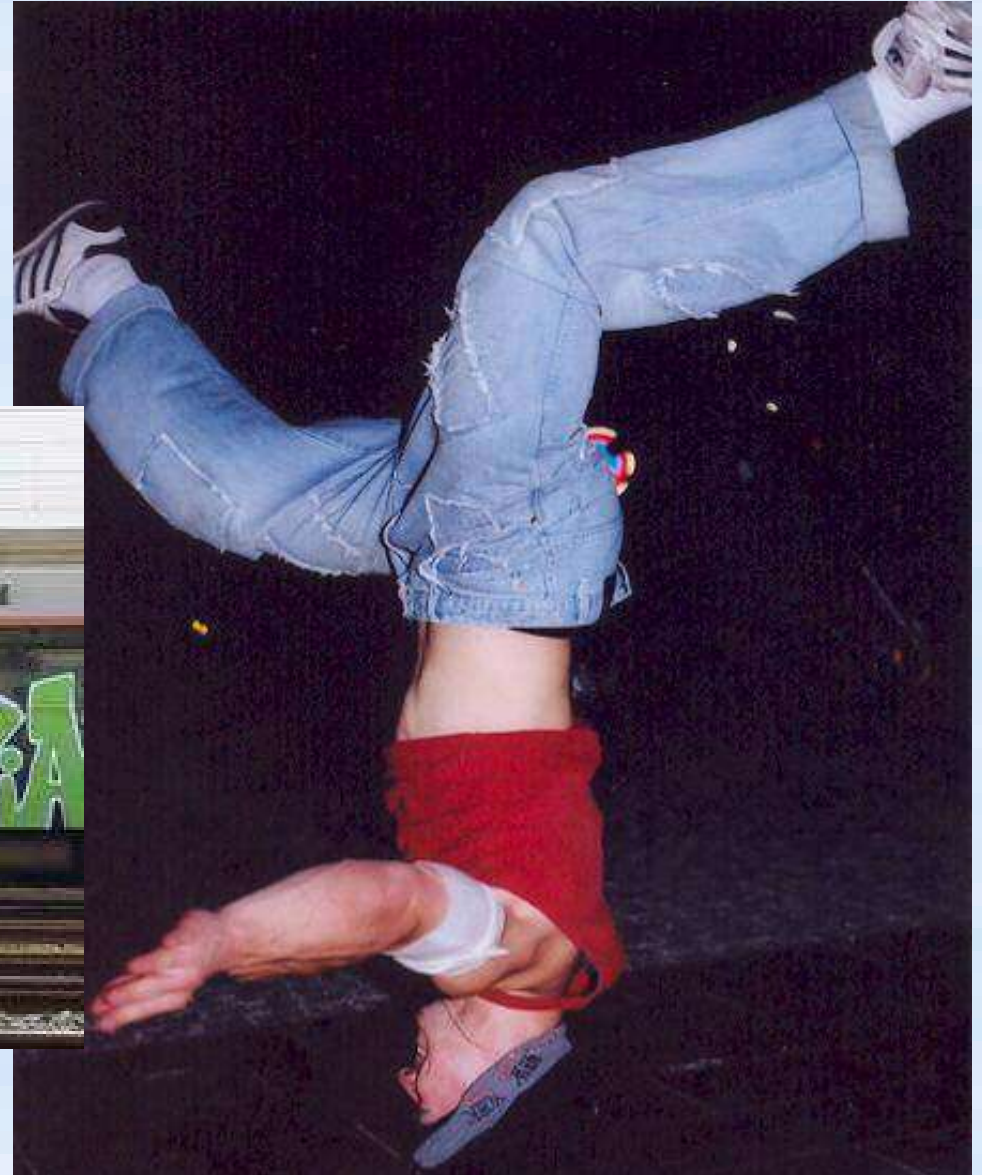
- **Most radically new music of the rock era**
- **Poetry delivered over a musical background**
- **First time the voice is percussive instead of melodic**
- **Creating a musical environment out of all previously created material**
- **DJs begin using turntables as a new instrument**
 - **back-spinning and scratching, etc.**

Hip-Hop Culture

- **a testament to the vitality and resilience of the African-American culture in the ghetto**
- **Media portrayed ghetto life as war-torn wastelands, especially with the 1977 riots**
- **Hip-Hop denoted a way of talking, dressing, gesturing, posturing and lifestyle for many teens and young adults of the ghetto**

Hip-Hop Culture

- 3 main outlets - street arts - spontaneous - defiant
 - Rap
 - Graffiti
 - Breakdancing



80s Rap Stars



- **First rap hit:**
 - **Sugarhill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" (1979)**
- **First turntable virtuoso**
 - **Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five**
 - **"The Adventures of grandmaster Flash and the Wheels of Steel" (1981)**
- **First middle-class rap group (popular with white teens)**
 - **Run D.M.C. - join with Aerosmith**
 - **Walk This Way (1986)**



Public Enemy

Rappers

- Chuck D (Carlton Ridenhour)
- Flavor Flav (William Drayton)

DJ

- Terminator X
(Norman Rogers)

Minister of Information

- Professor Griff
(Richard Griffen)

- Famous songs

- Bring the Noise (1988)
- Fight the Power (1989)



Public Enemy's Message

- **Supports of the Nation of Islam**
 - often began songs with excerpts from **Malcolm X** and **Louis Farrakhan**
- **Self proclaimed “Prophets of Rage”**
- **Blamed Jews for “the majority of wickedness around the globe.”**
 - this comment by **Griff** force the group to disband for a time

Alternative

- Return to the rock sound of the 60s
- Multigenre Fusionns
- Pioneering group: R.E.M.
 - Radio free Europe (1981)
 - The One I Love (1987)
- Influenced by punk and new wave, but not reliant on synthesizers



80s Alternative Groups



- Red Hot Chili Peppers
 - Formed in 1983
 - A white band with funk training
 - Fight Like A Brave
- Primus
 - Tommy the Cat (1989)
- Living Colour
 - Cult of Personality (1988)

Grunge

- The punkiest form of alternative
- Speak to and for the desperation of their generation
- Pearl Jam - Eddie Vedder
 - W.M.A.
 - Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town
- Nirvana - Kurt Cobain
 - Territorial Pissings (1991)
 - Smells Like Teen Spirit





The Nineties

- A time of fragmentation & fusion
 - Hundreds of genres
 - Radio stations change from a mix format to a niche format
 - 80s music station
 - Hip-Hop stations
 - New groups mix different styles
 - Example: Dave Matthews Band
 - Jazz – Rock fusion
 - Allowed fans to video their concerts and freely trade the films
 - Example song: Satellite (from Under the Table and Dreaming)

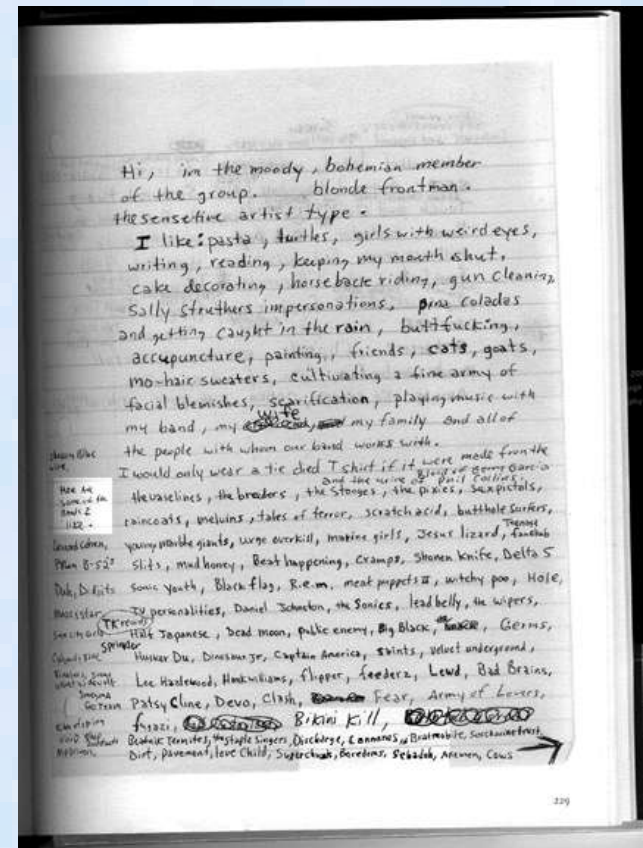


So Many Genres

- Pop
- Folk-Pop
- Hardcore
- Foxcore
- Gangsta Rap
- East Coast Rap
- Industrial
- Electronica
- Gothic Rock
- Stoner Rock
- Psychedelic Rock
- Speed Metal
- Death Metal
- Ska
- Acid Jazz
- Alternative
- Experimental
- Indie
- Grunge
- Techno
- Trance
- Hip-Hop
- Surf Rock
- Etc. etc. etc.

Intellectual Movement

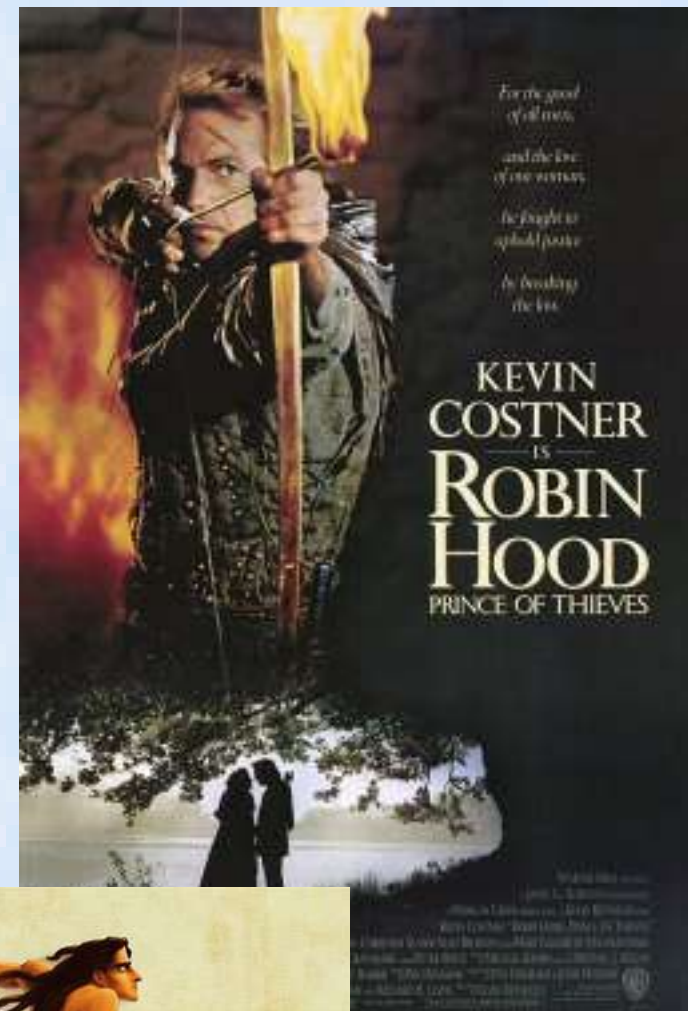
- Rhythm and melody are not enough to make a song
- Lyrics become important
 - Faux philosophical
 - Often deranged
 - Seems deep – even if it's not
- Music as a confessional



Cobain's Journal

Movie Soundtracks

- During the 90s, many songs gained popularity from their use in a soundtrack
- Early Example: Bryan Adams
 - (Everything I Do) I Do It For You
 - From Robin Hood Prince of Thieves – 1991
- 1992 – Whitney Houston
 - I Will Always Love You
 - From The Bodyguard
- 1999 – Phill Collins
 - The entire soundtrack to Disney's Tarzan



Metal Continued

- Metal bands continue to be popular with their target audiences
 - Metallica & Guns’N’Roses release new albums
 - Jane’s Addiction pushes lyrics into censorship
- Metal fusions (Funk-Metal) lead a new generation of bands
 - Red Hot Chili Peppers
 - Rage Against The Machine
 - Primus
 - Marilyn Manson



Rap Continued

- Rap also diversifies and pushes it's lyrical content
- Robert Matthew Van Winkle – Vanilla Ice
 - Opens the door for other white rappers like Eminem
 - Only had one hit “Ice Ice Baby” – 3 weeks at #1
- The Wu-Tang Clan
 - Helped create an east coast center for rap



Gangsta Rap



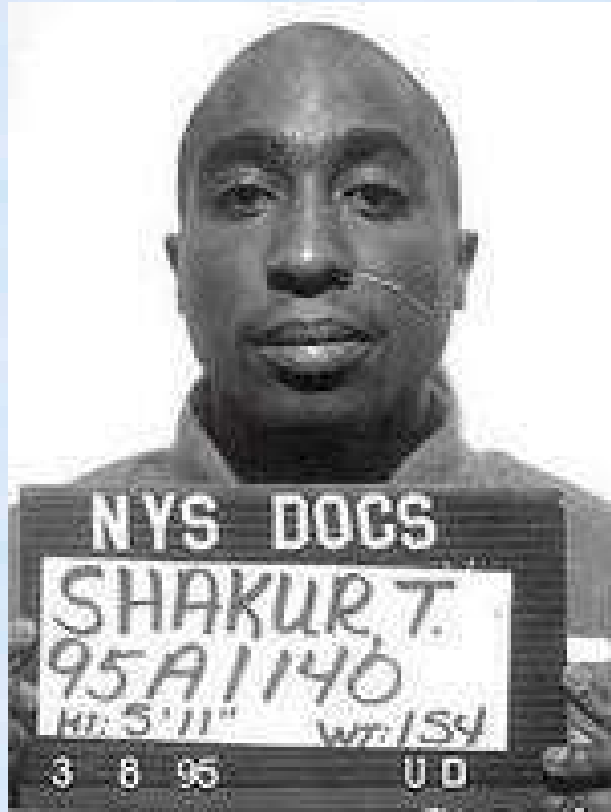
- Pioneered by Ice-T
 - First to use “ho” or “nigga” in a song
 - Openly rapped about inner-city crime life
 - Others were still talking in code
- Brought Mainstream by Snoop Doggy-Dogg
- Best selling artist: Tupac Shakur
 - In Guinness book as best selling hip-hop artist of all time (75 million in sales)

Tupac Amaru Shakur

June 16, 1971 – Sept. 13, 1996



- Focus on growing up surround by violence
- Raps about ghetto life and racism
- Was a backup dancer for Digital Underground
- Debut Album: 2Pacalypse Now
- In 1993 he was accused of sexual assault
- The day before the guilty verdict, he was shot 5 times in a Manhattan recording studio
 - This helped spark the East / West rap feud



- After 11 months in prison he was released due to an appeal financed by the owner of Death Row Records
 - **All subsequent Tupac albums were handled by Death Row**
- On Sept. 7, 1996 after attending a Tyson fight at the MGM-Grand in Las Vegas, Tupac was shot four times in a drive-by shooting
- He died on Sept. 13 at the Las Vegas University Medical Center of heart and respiratory failure

Tupac's Remains

- After his death Tupac's body was cremated
- Ashes were
 - Spread in the Pacific
 - Spread in LA
 - Spread in North Carolina (family land)
 - Smoked with marijuana by the Outlawz
 - Kept to be spread in Soweto, South Africa
 - Planned to take place on June 16, 2007



Latin

- The 90s saw a rise in the popularity of Latino Music

– Selena Quintanilla-Perez (1971-1995)

- Queen of Tejano music
- Murdered by the president of her fan club

– Shakira Isabel Mebarek Ripoll

- Half Columbian, half Lebanese
- Known for her dance style, a version of belly-dancing

– Ricky Martin (Enrique Martin Morales)

- First to have a UK #1 – Livin' La Vida Loca



Another British Invasion - 1996

- The Spice Girls
 - Scary
 - Ginger
 - Sporty
 - Baby
 - Posh



- One of the most financially successful girl groups ever

International Female Singer Songwriters



← Alanis Morissette – Canadian-American

• Sinnead O’Conner – Ireland

Enya – Ireland



← Bjork – Iceland

Celine Dion – Canadian



Urban Soul

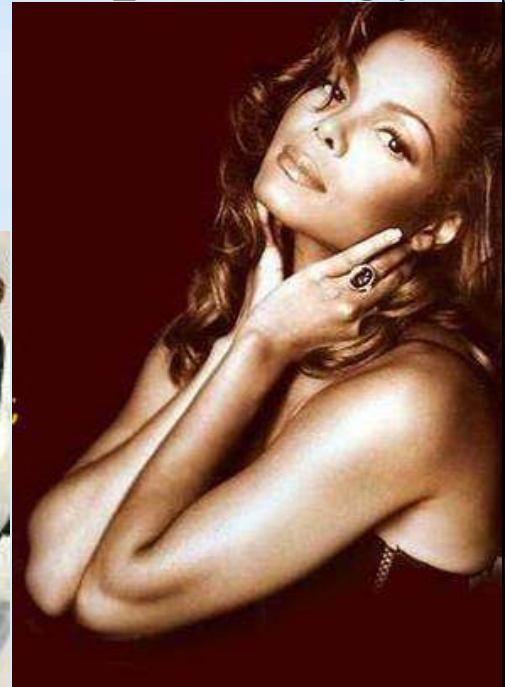
- A fusion of the soul tradition with hip-hop energy
- Janet Jackson
 - The youngest of the Jacksons



Whitney Houston

- BoyzIIMen

- Wanya Morris, Michael McCary, Shawn Stockman, Nathan Morris



Alicia Keys (Alicia J. Augello-Cook)

- Brought a new level of sophistication to the genre



The MMC Effect



- In 1989 the Disney Channel created a show called The All New Mickey Mouse Club or simply, the MMC
- It ran from April 24, 1989 – March 7, 1996
- Like the original it featured young actors in a variety show format
- This vehicle launched the careers of some of the most successful pop stars of the decade

Bubble Gum Pop

- A movement that caters to pre-teens and teenagers
- Boy Bands
 - N Sync - Justin Timberlake*
 - Backstreet Boys
- Pop Princesses
 - Britney Spears*
 - Christina Aguilera*
 - Mandy Moore
- - a member of the MMC



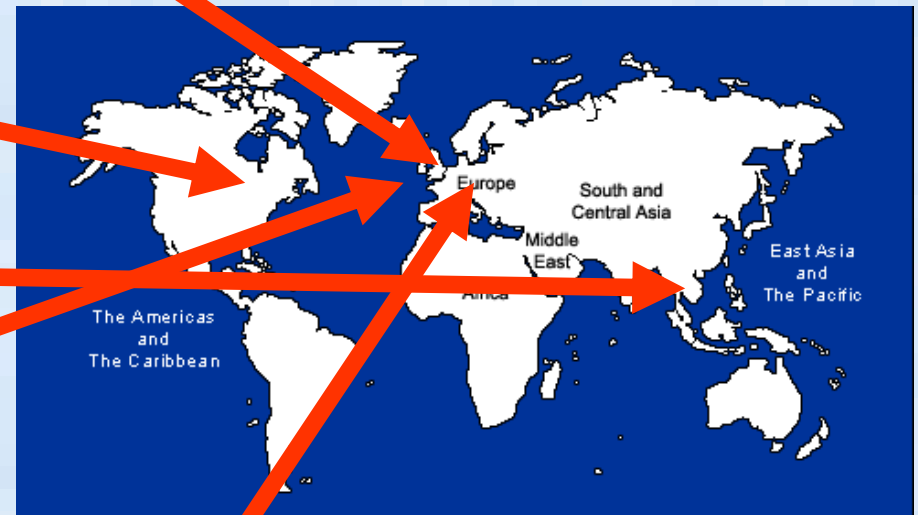
Millennial Cultural Considerations

- Censorship
- Piracy
- Digital Distribution
- Still racially divided
 - Not the audience, the performers
 - “White” music focuses on the mind
 - Makes you think
 - “Black” music focuses on the body
 - Makes you move



The Labels

- As of 1999 – there were only 5 major studios that controlled 95% of all sales
- Vivendi – France
 - Seagram, Polygram, Universal
- Warner – USA
 - Elektra, Sire, Atlantic
- Sony – Japan
 - Columbia, Epic
- EMI – Britain
 - Virgin, Capital, Chrysalis
- BMG – Germany
 - Jive, Private, American, Windham Hill



Piracy



- The availability of CD burners has created a massive pirate market for CDs
 - A CD must sell within two weeks if it is
 - going to make a profit over the pirates
- Piracy
 - The wholesale duplication of a produced CD with the intent to sell it as if it were authentic
- Bootleg
 - Releasing of CDs or tracks that were not meant to be released (e.g. demos, live concerts, pre-releases)
- File Sharing – P2P
 - Best known example: Napster
 - Acquiring a digital copy of a song without paying and without permission



HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE ON THE COMPUTER?

A WHILE.

I'M ILLEGALLY DOWN-LOADING AND BURNING 50,000 COPIES OF JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE'S NEW SOLO CD.

YOU REALIZE THE MORE YOU DO THIS SORT OF THING, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT RECORD COMPANIES WILL STOP MAKING THESE ALBUMS ALTOGETHER?

THAT'S MY HOPE.

DON'T LET YOUR SISTER FIND OUT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BURNING CDS.

I'M PROTESTING THE RECORDING INDUSTRY'S GESTAPO-LIKE POLICING OF THE WAY WE USE MUSIC.

LISTEN UP, RIAA! MY SISTER PAID FOR THESE BACKSYNC BOYS CDS, AND I'LL BURN THEM IF I WANT TO!

I THINK THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT COPYING.

LET ME PLAY DUMB JUST THIS ONCE.

Anti-Piracy

- The major labels start suing companies and individuals in an attempt to curb piracy
- 2003 RIAA sues 261 individuals found file sharing. The penalty is \$150,000 per offense
- 2005 Sony embed a computer file on 52 albums to be automatically installed on any computer that plays the CD. The program then keeps any Sony track from being ripped or copied.



Charli Johnson was sued by RIAA



This woman was sued for songs her grandchildren downloaded on her computer

Censorship – Parental Advisory

- Oct., 1984 – The PTA sends a letter to 30 labels and the RIAA asking them to label albums containing “explicit lyrics or content”
 - Sexuality, Violence, Substance Abuse
- May, 1985 – 4 wives of Washington Politicians form the Parent Music Resource Center (PMRC) lead by Tipper Gore
 - Offended by Prince’s “Darling Nikki” & Madonna’s “Dress You Up”
- The PMRC recommends a voluntary rating system like the one used for films, RIAA refuses



Filthy Fifteen

- The PMRC releases it's "filthy fifteen" listing their top worst songs
 - Prince, Madonna, Judas Priest, Motley Crue, AC/DC, Def Leopard, Black Sabbath, Cyndi Lauper...
- Leading retailers (Sears, Wal-mart, etc.) start to pull "offensive" albums off their shelves



Censorship & Decency

- Aug., 1985 – 19 record companies agree to use “Parental Guidance: Explicit Lyrics” stickers.
 - AKA Tipper Stickers
- Sept. 19, 1985 the Senate Commerce Committee begins its hearing on “Porn Rock”
 - Looking at lyrics and album covers
 - Met with the PMRC, Frank Zappa, John Denver & Dee Snider (of Twisted Sister), the PTA, and industry experts

The Sticker



- Nov. 1, 1985 – before the hearing can end, the RIAA agrees to put Parental Advisory Stickers at their own discretion
 - Generic – doesn't indicate category
 - E.g. Violence, Sexuality, Occult, Drugs, etc.
- Independent record companies do not have to use the sticker
- As Rap and Metal become even more “explicit” the sticker seems to have lost its influence
 - Sales may actually increase on stickered albums

American Idol

- October 5, 2001 – the British contest “Pop Idol” begins
- June 2002 – “American Idol: Search for a Superstar” airs as a replacement program
 - Kelly Clarkson wins the inaugural season
 - Her single “A Moment Like This” charts at #52 then rockets to #1 breaking the Beatle’s record for fastest rising album
- Simon Cowell becomes a star for his acid-tongued personality



Idol Mania



- January 2003 the 2nd season starts at the best position in Prime Time with highly coveted commercial spots
- Despite controversy, the show continues to be a success
- Winners get an automatic record contract, but many finalists end up with contracts of their own

Boom of Mediocrity

- CDs are so cheap to produce that a record no longer needs to sell well to be financially viable
 - As a result artists are less interested in perfection
 - As a result listeners stop listening for musical nuance and begin superficial listening (hearing)
 - As a result, the artists are justified in not spending time to make their music good

Music for a New Millenium

- New interest in World Music
 - African, Indian, Asian, Latin
- Digital Distribution
 - New models are changing the way music is legally sold
 - I-Pods & I-Tunes sell millions of singles
 - If you only want 1 song, why buy the whole album
 - Forces artists to refocus on the single instead of the sale



Just Like My Ancestors

- “Classical musical discovered that mass acceptance diminishes as complexity increases early in [the 1900s]. So did jazz around mid-century.” - Campbell
- Rock has always been about rebellion - even rebellion against itself
- Has rock pushed the limits so much, that there is nowhere left to go?