

MUS 262 Online Video Commentary

Unit 1

Gospel LR/RR Defined by Little Richard/

As we have learned, rock music draws from Bluegrass, Country, Blues, Boogie Woogie, Texas Swing, Big Band Swing or Jump Blues, and Gospel music. Rock pioneer Little Richard, in his unique way, explains how the energy of gospel singing influenced him and other rhythm and blues artists. He also describes how the boogie woogie bass line in rhythm and blues was sped up and subsequently called rock and roll.

Unit 2

Bill Haley/

Bill Haley was a country artist who incorporated rhythm and blues to become one of the first, if not the first, rock and roll artists. His #1 hit song "Rock Around the Clock" was featured in the movie *Blackboard Jungle*. The song has all of the style characteristics of early rock and roll: a driving backbeat, a boogie bass line, and lyrics about teenage-youth culture.

Joe Turner/Louis Jordan/Muddy Waters/

R&B artists were broadcast on powerful AM radio stations such as Nashville's WLAC in the fifties. Even though the disc jockeys were white, they played music by black artists; what was then called race music. Their broadcast signals were powerful enough to broadcast over several states. White as well as black households were exposed to rhythm and blues artists like T-Bone Walker, blues shouters like Joe Turner, novelty jump blues singer and saxophonist Louis Jordan, and Chicago blues pioneer Muddy Waters.

R&R Dynamite/

Although America's white youth were falling in love with R&B and rock and roll, many of their elders did not like their children being influenced by black music and black culture. Trigger warning: this video contains racially charged language including the use of the "N" word.

Unit 3

Views of Elvis/

Although black music was loved by people of both races, Elvis Presley being a white artist made rock and roll accessible and/or acceptable for white audiences. Sam

Phillips of Sun Records in Memphis discovered Elvis and recognized and cultivated this potential. He worked hard to record music by both white and black artists.

Elvis Controversy, Contribution/

Elvis' contribution to rock and roll was transformative. He brought the music into people's living rooms via television during the 1950s although not without controversy. A polite southern gentleman in every way, mainstream audiences still weren't ready for his onstage persona and gyrating hip movements.

Carl Perkins/

Staying true to the strict rockabilly style of faster tempos, slapping bass, and percussive rhythm guitar, Carl Perkins was known as the king of rockabilly and stayed true to the style throughout his career.

Jerry Lewis/

A rival of Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis was known as "The Killer" because of his sheer energy on stage and his ability to whip audiences into a frenzy.

Unit 4

Fats Domino/

With his laid back demeanor and country influenced vocals, New Orleans artist Fats Domino was an easy transition into R&B for white audiences. His songs were co-written and produced by Dave Bartholomew at J&M Records in New Orleans.

Little Richard/

Iconic and flamboyant, Little Richard was from a small town in the south and was heavily influenced by gospel music as a child. He along with Chuck Berry, Elvis, Fats Domino, and Buddy Holly, was one of the main architect of rock and roll.

White Covers/

Our first extended discussion will be based on the following video. Please find the instructions for the Tutti Frutti discussion in your group's discussion folder. Please remember to reply to all of your teammate's posts once the original posts have been submitted.

Unit 5

Bo Diddley/

Also known as the hambone or clave, the Bo Diddley beat is a distinctive rhythmic pattern found in music from Africa, the Caribbean, and in American music including rock and roll.

Chuck Berry/

Possibly the most influential architect of rock and roll, Chuck Berry broke through the color barrier with his iconic guitar riffs and lyrics about youth culture.

Unit 6

Rick Nelson-Jim Burton/

As rock and roll gained in popularity a new clean cut type of rock star emerged. Ricky Nelson grew up in front of television audiences on the Ozzie and Harriet show. He embodied the new L.A. rockabilly that proved to be accessible to mainstream white audiences.

Buddy Holly/

Buddy Holly was kind of a nerdy looking guy for a rock and roll legend. He used Elvis as his model and established the standard rock band format with his band the Crickets. He accomplished a lot in a very short career. Sadly he died in a plane crash on tour on February 3rd, 1959.

Unit 8

Soul vs. Gospel/

Gospel music was a key ingredient in soul music. In this video Patti Labelle explains the difference between soul and gospel vocal styles.

Ray Charles/

Soul artist Ray Charles brought the church into secular music. Never considered a rock and roll artist, Charles embraced many styles including country, jazz, R&B, gospel, and even patriotic anthems.

Sam Cooke/

Soul singer Sam Cooke had a very smooth voice and a floating quality to his vocal phrasing. This style found its way into rock influencing many singers including Steve Perry of the band Journey.

Jackie Wilson/

Soul singer Jackie Wilson had a very versatile voice able to make register break with his falsetto, and rich vibrato. A former gymnast and boxer, he had a very energetic stage presence and was an agile dancer and an exciting showman.

Unit 9

R&R Turning Point/

Here's Tom Petty's take on the "death of rock and roll" and the turning point in rock music following the death of Buddy Holly, Elvis' induction in the army, Chuck Berry's trouble with the law, and Jerry Lee Lewis' scandalous marriage to his fourteen year old cousin. It's not mentioned in the video but it's also worth mentioning that Little Richard quit rock music and became a preacher. All these events happened in 1959 and set the stage for the commercialization of rock music.

Aldon Music/

Aldon Music was a music publishing company in the Brill Building in New York City. It was the center of songwriting and pop music in the early 1960s.

Niel Sedaka/

Niel Sedaka was the embodiment of the Brill Building sound that used elements of early rock and roll in producing pop hits and creating teen idols.

Payloa/

Payola is a term for the bribery of disc jockeys to play an artist's music on the radio to influence the charts and increase record sales. Although many were involved in this illegal practice, Alan Freed was scapegoated and took the fall for a major payola scandal in the sixties. Interestingly enough, Alan Freed is widely credited for inventing the term "Rock and Roll".

Unit 10

Doo Wop (Leiber and Stoller)/

Songwriting and producing team Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller laid the groundwork for both the Brill Building publishers and producer Phil Spector. They were the first white songwriters to successfully write black music for black artists. Early on they were affiliated with the Drifters and the Coasters.

Unit 12

Spector-Ronettes/

Producer Phil Spector used an army of musicians in the studio to create his wall of sound as a background to his songs. The LA musicians he used were referred to as the wrecking crew because of their ability to churn out hits. The Ronettes were a girl group that had a bad girl image and embodied Spector's wall of sound productions.

Righteous Brothers/

The Righteous Brothers were a soulful male duo that was one of Spector's last successes. They came out around the same time as the rise of the Beatles and the decline of the Ronettes.

Unit 14

Brian's New Path/

Brian Wilson was the genius behind the Beach Boys. He used Phil Spector's wall of sound technique to make great records and compete musically with the Beatles.

Good Vibrations/

In this video Beatles producer George Martin explains the genius and influence of Brian Wilson as a composer and recording artist in the studio.

Unit 15

Early Beatles/

The Beatles were part of the Liverpool sound but quickly set themselves apart as an excellent bar band. Their early music was pop oriented, included cover songs, and featured a driving beat and up tempo dance numbers.

Beatlemania/

The Beatles' meteoric rise to fame changed the game for popular music forever. They were able to change music history through all facets: musical style, fashion and social behavior.

Beatles Come to America/

The Beatles came to America, sold out stadiums, sold millions of records, and dominated the charts. During the early sixties when teen idols ruled the music scene, the Beatles and other British bands resurrected the rock and roll.

Unit 16

Beatles Remember/

By 1965 the Beatles were influenced by Bob Dylan and embraced a more introspective style. Later they began experimenting with psychedelic drugs and different studio techniques. Soon they were unable to tour due to safety reasons and eventually fame was too much for them. The Beatles disbanded in 1970.

Unit 17

The Animals/

The Animals were a classic British invasion blues band. Many of their early recordings emulated American blues artists. Like other British bands, they went on to create big rock hits like the songs Gloria and House of the Rising Sun.

The Kinks/

Next to the Rolling Stones the Kinks were one of the most enduring rock bands to come out of England. Known for their decidedly British satirical lyrics, they influenced both Punk and Heavy Metal bands with their power chord guitar style.

The Rolling Stones/

Known as the bad boys of rock and roll, the Stones set themselves apart from the Beatles by appealing to the rebellious side of the youth of the sixties. Staunch proponents of R&B and blues music the Rolling Stones have established themselves as the greatest rock and roll band of all time.

Unit 18

Motown Sound/

Motown records can be attributed to one man, Barry Gordy. Gordy had a vast array of black artists and was successful by sticking to his formula of catchy hook phrases, simple rock chord progressions, gospel call and response, doo wop background vocals, and solid instrumental back-up. The studio musicians who played on all of these hit songs were called the Funk Brothers.

Smokey Robinson/

One of the first successful Motown artists was Smokey Robinson. He had a beautiful falsetto voice and ballads were his forte.

Marvin Gaye/

Marvin Gaye was an enigmatic figure and one of Motown's most enduring artists. His music became more introspective in the 70s and early 80s with songs like What's Going On and Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology).

The Four Tops/The Temptations

The Four Tops were a vocal group known for the soulful baritone of Levi Stubbs, who also played the part of the plant in Little Shop of Horrors. The Temptations were the best vocal group in soul music from the sixties. They were the closest to church and Gospel roots.

The Supremes/

The purest expression of the Motown sound, The Supremes with lead singer Diana Ross were one of the most important female groups in rock history.

The Jackson Five/

Michael Jackson became the king of pop but got his start at age 10 with his brothers in the Jackson 5. Little Michael was known for dancing like a mini James Brown.

Unit 19

Wilson Pickett/

Wilson Pickett was Atlantic record's best selling southern soul performer. His song In the Midnight Hour was one of the most successful songs of the soul era.

Otis Redding/

Stax artist Otis Redding was a leading performer of soul ballads. He gained wide popularity after his performance at the Monterey Pop Festival.

Unit 20

Dylan Intro/

Bob Dylan is the most important American contributor to rock music and was the first poet of the mass media. . He combined country, folk, and blues to make folk-rock music.

Bob Dylan/ *Please delete*

Unit 22/

The Byrds/Mr. Tambourine Man

The Byrds were a folk rock group from LA. They used the Beatles' Ticket to Ride as a blueprint to create the first folk-rock hit with a cover of Bob Dylan's Mr. Tambourine Man. A big part of their sound was the use of the 12 string guitar.

Unit 23

Airplane-White Rabbit/

Jefferson Airplane were the most popular of the San Francisco Bands. Their lead singer Grace Slick had a great female rock voice. She was the perfect representation of the love-hate image of the sixties.

Unit 24

Janis and Success/

Janis Joplin sang the blues to transcend pain. Her performances were fresh and sincere. Like Dylan, she represented a culture and generation and broke down barriers for women in the music industry.

Views of Fallen Friends/

Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, and Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones all died at age 27 between the years of 1969 and 1971. They represent artists who quickly rise to fame and die too young. More recent members of the 27 club are Kurt Cobain and Amy Winehouse.

Unit 25

Led Zeppelin/

Led Zeppelin are widely considered to be the first Heavy Metal band. Guitarist Jimmy Page along with Jimi Hendrix expanded the sonic vocabulary of the electric guitar.

Unit 26/

Art Rock-Floyd

Art Rock combines rock with elements of classical music. Some characteristics are references to mythology, frequent mood and tempo changes, and the use of odd meters. Syd Barrett played a major role in the musical direction of Pink Floyd. Their album *The Dark Side of the Moon* is partly inspired by Barrett's deteriorating mental state.

Unit 27

Iggy Pop/

Detroit punk rocker Iggy Pop is known as the Godfather of Punk Music. His early band from Detroit was called the Stooges.

Alice Cooper/The Chicken Story/

Shock rock pioneer Alice Cooper was influenced by comic books and horror movies. One of the most enduring urban legends of rock is the story about Cooper biting the head off of a chicken on stage.

Unit 28

Patti Smith/

Known as the Godmother of Punk, Patti Smith improvised lyrics reflecting life in New York. Her album *Horses* anticipated new wave music by combining classic rock with poetry.

CBGBs-NY Punk Scene/

Punk rock returned rock and roll to the basics. The iconic nightclub CBGBs in New York's bowery was an important venue for punk and new wave bands.

Velvet Underground/

Combining music and art, New York pro-punk band the Velvet Underground with lead singer Lou Reed are known as the key touchstone for punk rock and new wave bands.

Unit 29

Sex Pistols/

British clothing store owner Malcom McLaren brought punk to the UK. He helped form and became the manager of the Sex Pistols.

Bill Grundy Incident/

The Sex Pistols were an anti-British group that represented young bored Brits and rebelled against the staunch upper class.