

Rock 'n' Roll

Rock embodies a history of race relations, economic and cultural dominance, and politics

1953

Eddie Fischer "I'm walking behind you"

Nat king Cole "Somewhere Along the Way"

The roots of rock'n'roll lie in gospel, blues, and country and began to emerge through the medium of rhythm and blues (R&B) music or 'race' music in the mid to late 40s.

Migration of African-Americans to the north of the U. S. in search of work (Chicago, Detroit and New York).

Rock'n'Roll, the genre, did not acquire its name until the mid 50s. The term 'Rock' was a common, African - American colloquialism for 'sex,' and "Rocking and rolling" was secular black slang for dancing or sex.

The defining characteristic of rock and roll is the rhythm. It's an 8-to-the-bar boogie rhythm with a heavy "back beat," which means an accent, usually by a snare drum, on the 4th and 8th beats of the boogie rhythm, or if written in 4/4 time, on the 2nd and 4th beats. This rhythm is the heart of rock and roll

BIRTH of ROCK & ROLL

- Rock around the clock
- Sam Phillips- "Rocket 88" 1954
- Many artists, Rhythm & Blues 1949

First rock 'n' Roll Record:

The record most commonly cited as the kick-off for the rock & roll era, Bill Haley & the Comets' recording of "Rock Around the Clock" (52-54)

"Rock Around the Clock" was a modest hit until the song was used as the title track of "The Blackboard Jungle", a movie about juvenile delinquents, 12 months later. Then it reached the No. 1 spot and sold two million copies.

Bill Haley & the Comets' next record was a cover of Joe Turner's "Shake, Rattle and Roll" which also was a top ten hit.

Their next hit was "See You Later Alligator" which sold a million copies within a month.

First rock 'n' Roll Record:

Jackie Brenston & His Rhythm Kings' 1951 recording of "Rocket 88" (featuring Ike Turner on piano),

Recorded at Sam Phillips' recording studio in Memphis

Sun Records (BB King, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, and Elvis Presley)

Rocket 88" was the first hit record for Phillips, who would use the cash to start his own record label, Sun Records, where Philips also produced for Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Junior Parker, and Elvis Presley.

When people asked the question, "What was the first rock 'n' roll record?," Phillips claimed Rocket 88" was.

Since Phillips had become famous for being the man who discovered Elvis Presley, his vote was given credibility among people who were unfamiliar with early R&B, the tradition has stuck.

First rock 'n' Roll Record:

The rhythm of Rocket 88 is a normal shuffle on the high hats, something which was commonplace even in the early 40's.

Big Mama Thornton "Hound Dog" 1952

"The Fat Man" by Fats Domino

Rock 'n' Roll 1955-59

- Rockabilly
- R&B
- Doo-wop

Rhythm and Blues

Wynona Carr "Jump Jack Jump"

Bo Diddley "Who do you Love"

Gospel and church influence

Ray Charles

James Brown

Jackie Wilson "Lonely Teardrops"

Doo Wop

Ballads

Up-tempo numbers

Harmonies

Vocables

Love songs

Novelty tunes

Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers "Why Do Fools Fall In Love"

Fred Parrish and The Satins "In the Still of the Night"

The Coasters "Love Potion Number Nine"

Rockabilly

Sam Phillips' Memphis Recording Services (later Sun Records)

Elvis Presley

Bill Haley

The Sun Sound: echo-chamber vocals, crisp electric guitar leads, and slap-back bass

Rockabilly was a blending of *rock and roll* with country music.

Performed by white musicians

Jerry Lee Lewis "Great balls of Fire"

Sam Phillips and his Memphis record label, Sun Records, honed the sound and captured it on vinyl.

Gene Vincent

Johnny Burnette

Buddy Holly

Sonny Burgess

Roy Orbison

Carl Perkins "Blue Suede Shoes"

Wanda Jackson

Janis Martin

Sparkle Moore "Rock-a-Bop" (1956)

The Charts 55-58

Bill Haley and His Comets "Rock Around the Clock" 1954-5

Bo Diddley "Bo Diddley" 1955

Chuck Berry "Maybelline" 1955

Little Richard "Tutti Frutti" 1955

Carl Perkins "Blue Suede Shoes" 1955

Elvis Presley "Heartbreak Hotel," "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You" 1956

Chuck Berry "Roll Over Beethoven" 1956

Little Richard "Long Tall Sally" 1956

Roy Orbison "Ooby Dooby" 1956

Gene Vincent "Be-Bop-a-Lula" 1956

Elvis Presley "Don't Be Cruel" 1956
Fats Domino "Blueberry Hill" 1956
The Coasters "Young Blood" 1957
Elvis Presley "All Shook Up" 1957
The Everly Brothers "Bye Bye Love" 1957

The In-between years 1959-63

Between Buddy Holly and the Beatles (British Invasion)

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- Teen idols
- Brill building
- Girl groups
- Motown
- Surf music
- Novelty
- Folk

1959

- Buddy Holly "That'll be the Day"
- The Big Bopper "Chantilly Lace"
- Ritchie Valens "Come on let's go"
- Elvis in army
- Jerry Lee Lewis in jail
- Little Richard went into the ministry

- One of the worst times in musical history? (industry control, whiteness, 'blandness')

OR

- A diverse and interesting time in rock history featuring more women and minorities, and variety

Between the death of Buddy Holly and the rise of the Beatles — (1959- 1963)

"The greatest threat to rock's survival that the music ever weathered. Wimpy, overwhelmingly bland and safe, their connection to rock & roll was often tenuous, and their commercial ascendancy has even been discussed as a conspiracy by the music business and sundry other moral authorities to rob rock & roll of its vitality".

- Music industry connections with television and film companies
- Use of "payola" – paying DJs
- Record label connections with distribution
- Monopoly
- organized crime

Teen idols

- Roy Orbison
- Gene Pitney
- Bobby Vee
- Del Shannon
- Ricky Nelson "I will follow you"
- Paul Anka "Put your head on my shoulders"

- Dion
- Fabian
- Frankie Avalon
- Annette Funicello
- Connie Stevens
- Shelley Fabares
- Helen Shapiro
- Connie Francis “Lipstick on your collar”

Brill building

Mainstream American popular songwriting, Professional composers and publishers

Tin Pan Alley

Rock & roll was initially a reaction against the professional, sentimental, and sterile conventions of pre-rock American pop,

But, Tin Pan Alley's melodic and lyrical hallmarks were incorporated into rock & roll

Raised the music to new levels of sophistication.

Early '60s in a New York block - Brill Building.

Home to leading music industry publishers

Young songwriters who were steeped in rock & roll and rhythm and blues and Tin Pan Alley

Gerry Goffin & Carole King

Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil

Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller

Jeff Barry & Ellie Greenwich

Doc Pomus & Mort Shuman

Bacharach-David:

- Dionne Warwick “Walk On By” 1964

Gerry Goffin & Carole King

- “Locomotion” Little Eva 1962

Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil

- You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling The Righteous Brothers 1964

Phil Spector

- The Crystals “He's a Rebel” 1962
- “Spanish Harlem” written by Jerry Leiber and Phil Spector, and produced by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

Girl groups:

Ronettes “Be My Baby”, , Chiffons, Shangri-Las, Dixie Cups, The Crystals

Motown

Martha & the Vandellas

The Temptations

Diana Ross & the Supremes

Marvin Gaye

Gladys Knight

Mary Wells “My Guy” 1964

Smokey Robinson

Stevie Wonder

Marvin Gaye

Surf music

- The majority of popular recordings were waxed between 1961 and 1965. Yet its influence upon the sound of the rock & roll guitar is incalculable.
- Between the time when the initial explosion of rock & roll died down in the late '50s and the British Invasion, instrumental rock was more responsible for keeping alive the raunchiest and wildest aspects of the music than any other style. It was also responsible for keeping the electric guitar at the forefront of the music, and surf music was certainly the most guitar-oriented style of instrumental rock & roll.
- Southern California guitarist Dick Dale is acknowledged as the father of surf music. In the late '50s, he developed its trademark reverb sound. Whether intentionally or otherwise, the "wet," full echo of surf guitars evoked the rides and waves of surfing, which in the early '60s was still an emerging teenage sport that was little known outside of Southern California and Hawaii.
- The Ventures
- The Trashmen "Surfin Bird" (Garage punk)
- Surfariis "Wipe Out"
- Dick Dale & The Del Tones "Misirlou" 1963
- The Beach Boys "Surfin' USA" 1964 (Vocal Groups)

Novelty Songs

- The Purple People Eater - 1958 #1
- Alley-Oop - 1960 #1
- Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh! - 1963 #9
- They're Coming To Take Me Away, Ha-Haaa! – 1966 #3
- Monster Mash– 1962 #1
- Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavor -1961 #5

Teen Coffin Songs

"Teen Angel"

"Tell Laura I love Her"

<http://apraamcos.co.nz/news/2015/aprap/what-the-genre-teenage-coffin-songs/>

Other key artists of the in-between years:

- Roy Orbison "Pretty Woman" 1964
- Johnny Cash "I walk the line" 1964
- Elvis "Bossa Nova Baby" 1963
- Ray Charles "Night Time" 1959