

ANTHRO 106/ ANTHRO 106G: 2016
Issues and History in Popular Music

Soul-Funk- R 'n' B

- Soul
- Funk
- Black Popular Music
- R 'N' B
- Women
- Urban
- Neo Soul

SOUL

- Diverse
 - 1960s
 - Define the African-American experience
 - Passion, pride, and optimism
 - 1950s and 1960s
 - Distinctive forms
 - Original contributions to world culture.
 - Cultural soundtrack
 - Charts
 - "Nothin' but a feelin'."
-
- One of the most innovative and generative forms of music
 - Evolved from the 1960s Black Power Movement
 - Elevated the consciousness of an African heritage among black Americans.
 - Established new trends and directions for the tradition of urban black popular music.
 - The intense and emotional nature of songs performed by these musicians captured the new spirit, attitudes, values and convictions of blacks that later altered the social, political and economic structures of American society.
-
- Soul music served as a vehicle for self- awareness, protest and social change.
 - Since its earliest form, Black music has operated as a tool to send coded messages
 - Dating back to slavery, oral culture survived in America and was reinforced through speech patterns and musical expressions of the African people.
 - From the work songs and spirituals during slavery to the gospel, soul, and funk of the civil rights movement, Black music offers a new historicist interpretation of the African American experience.
 - It is through Black popular music that the struggles, faith, and joys of a people are expressed.
 - More than entertainers, Black musicians serve as the village griots, the revisionist historians, and the voice of a people.
 - African American music ...offers snapshots of social conditions and historically defining moments ...
 - Lyrics discussed the depressing social and economic conditions of black communities
 - They also offered solutions for improvement and change.

- Maultsby, Portia K. "Soul music: Its sociological and political significance in American popular culture." *The Journal of Popular Culture* 17.2 (1983): 51-60.
- Morant, Kesha M. "Language in Action: Funk Music as the Critical Voice of a Post-Civil Rights Movement Counterculture." *Journal of Black Studies* (2010).

Sam Cooke

- Rhythm & blues, gospel, and pop.
- Emotional, pleading, and jubilant vocals and harmonies.
- Rhythm sections
- Horn arrangements
- Vocal ensemble
- Rhythm and blues and gospel music.
- Saturday-night sinner and the Sunday-morning repentant
- Call-and-response singing, close harmonies, and themes of celebration, loss, and longing
- Secularized gospel tunes

This transition reflected changes occurring in the black community after World War II as more and more black Americans moved from the rural South to the urban North. Early arrivals in the North had created R&B music in the mid-1940s as an expression of the new realities of life in these urban neighborhoods. Later, as more Southern blacks poured into these communities, they brought with them elements of Southern gospel music. Both musical forms coexisted as separate expressions of black life. They soon crossed, however, producing what became soul music.

Ray Charles "What'd I Say"

Ray Charles "I've Got A Woman"

He combined blues elements with gospel

Record labels

- Atlantic Records, New York City
- Motown Records, Detroit
- Stax/Volt Records, Memphis

Atlantic

Atlantic's innovation was to "bring soul uptown" with a polished, professional sound by adding string arrangements and using professional Brill Building songwriters.

Percy Sledge "When A Man Loves A Woman"

Aretha Franklin "Respect"

Aretha Franklin "Chain Of Fools"

Atlantic's biggest success came in 1967 with the singer Aretha Franklin.

Franklin was the embodiment of soul music, combining a strong background in church music with the depth of feeling and style required to take her gospel training to the secular music world.

Motown

- Berry Gordy, Jr. founded Motown Records in 1960 in Detroit, Michigan.
- Songwriting/producing/recording formula that would sell more singles by the end of the 1960s than any other company.
- Assembly line production
- The "Sound of Young America"
- Pushed soul music into the pop realm

- Music resonated in both the black and white communities, and many of their hits topped both the R&B and Pop charts throughout the 1960s

- 🎵 **Temptations** “My girl”
- 🎵 **Martha & the Vandellas** “Heatwave”
- 🎵 **Marvin Gaye** “Lets Get It On”
- 🎵 **Stevie Wonder** “Living for the City”

Stax

- classic period from 1960-1968, defined Southern soul
- Jim Stewart and his sister Estelle Axton founded Satellite Records in 1959, changing the name to Stax by 1961 (Volt Records was a later subsidiary), and began to record local black musicians.
- 🎵 **Booker T. and the MGs** “Green Onions”
- 🎵 **Otis Redding** “Try a little tenderness”
- ❖ The classic soul era ended in the mid-1970s
- ❖ Black music fragmented into styles as disco and funk, which emphasized dance over singing and songwriting
- ❖ The great record labels moved in other directions
- ❖ The connection to gospel music that was a hallmark of soul became less influential in black music
- ❖ Soul evolved into "urban contemporary" music.
- ❖ Atlantic moved more toward rock acts, Motown left for Los Angeles, and Stax/Volt fell apart in financial trouble.
- 🎵 **Isely Brothers** “Who's That lady”

FUNK

1970s

Rhythmically-driven, bass-heavy

Emerged with the civil rights movement

Associated with Black pride

- 🎵 **James Brown** “Cold Sweat”
- 🎵 **Parliament Funkadelic** “Bring the Funk”
- 🎵 **Sly and the Family Stone** “Dance to the Music”
- 🎵 **Earth Wind & Fire** “Let’s Groove”
- 🎵 **Commodores** “Brick House”
- 🎵 **Ohio Players** “Love Rollercoaster”

1980’s Black pop music

- 🎵 **Bobby Brown** “My Prerogative”
- 🎵 **Prince** “Raspberry Beret”
- 🎵 **Michael Jackson** “Beat It”
- 🎵 **Whitney Houston** “Greatest Love Of All”
- 🎵 **Tina Turner** “Private Dancer”

Women in Black pop musics

- ★ **Mariah Carey** “Hero”

- ★ Diana Ross
- ★ Donna Summer
- ★ Natalie Cole
- ★ Patti Labelle
- ★ Aretha Franklin
- ★ Roberta Flack
- ★ Gladys Knight
- ★ Toni Braxton

00's

- ★ Beyonce
- ★ **Alicia Keys** "If I ain't got you"
- ★ **Jennifer Hudson** "And I'm Telling You I'm not going"

Urban Music

- ★ Usher "Yeah"
- ★ John Legend

Neo Soul

- ★ Frank Ocean
- ★ Solange "Don't Touch My Hair"
- ★ Janelle Monae "PYNK"

Reflection Questions

What is urban music?

How does the pop genre R 'n' B offer insights around black history?

How do the U. S. pop charts reflect American race issues?

How are the cultural traditions of soul music carried on in today's pop charts?

How does black power operate in the genre of Funk?

What are the musical and political characteristics of soul music?

What is neo-soul?

Where do the vocals of contemporary R 'n' B stem from?

How does contemporary R 'n' B carry on the cultural traditions of soul music?

- ❖ Childish Gambino "Redbone"
- ❖ N.E.R.D & Rihanna "Lemon"