



# Music Virtual Learning

## Music Appreciation/Intro to Rock n Roll History

May 5, 2020



Lesson: May 5, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: Students will be introduced to musical genres that existed prior to 1950 and contributed to the Rock n Roll era.**

# Bell Work:

1. What do you think of when you think of Rock n Roll?
2. What musical aspects come to mind?
3. What instruments do you think you will hear?



# The Roots of R&R

There were 5 genres of music prior to 1950 that helped give birth to Rock and Roll.

- Folk
- Country Western
- Blues
- Jazz
- Pop



Let's take a look at each one of these genres so we can get an idea of their characteristics and what they contributed to Rock n Roll.

# Folk Music

There were two types of folk traditions in the U.S., Anglo American (white) and Afro American (Black).

## Characteristics

- Passed down orally-Not written down/no music
- Told stories
- Used as a way to communicate
- Rhythm of the words dictated the rhythm of the melody (text driven)
- Eventually used in causes and protests (1960's and beyond)
- Instruments-voice, guitar, dulcimer, banjo, hand-claps, spoons etc.
- Song forms- simple, ballad, work song, field holler, spiritual



# Folk Music Examples/Artists

Anglo Folk Song-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUDtFdnn9oQ>

Afro-American Folk Spiritual- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDCiqWcV7NY>

Anglo American Artists- Bob Dylan, Pete Seager, Peter, Paul, and Mary, Woody Guthrie

Afro American Artists- Bessie Smith, “Ma” Rainey, Blind Willie Johnson, Huddie Leadbetter, “Leadbelly.”

Choose one Anglo and one Afro American artist that interests you and listen to a song they performed.

# Country Western Characteristics

- About everyday life- trucks, drinkin, bad jobs, bad bosses, broken hearts, dogs etc.
- Nasal and twangy vocal style
- Simple and straightforward rhythms, much like folk music.
- Instruments- guitars, mandolines, pedal steel guitar, fiddle, and simple percussion
- Anglo-American Form



# Country Western Examples/Artists

Hank Williams

Johnny Cash-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKZRp515SmY>

Loretta Lynn

Pasty Cline-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKZRp515SmY>

Chet Atkins

Choose one more artist and listen to a song they performed.



# Blues Characteristics

- Developed out of Afro-American folk tradition
- Classic American musical form
- 3 phrases w/ 4 bars in each phrase
- Set chord progression (I, IV, and V chords)-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnW7XOFDsYk->  
Just watch the first 30 seconds of this video to hear the chord progression.
- Lyrics follow a set pattern
- Major contributor to rock and roll development
- Earthy, raspy vocal style
- Specific “blues” form
- Blue notes – guitar and voice “bending the notes”
- Regular instrument breaks – call and response pattern with vocals



# Rhythm and Blues (R&B)

- Faster version of the blues
- Did not always follow strict blues form
- Hard to distinguish from early rock and roll
- Percussion (drum set)
- Bass
- Sometimes brass and saxes
- Directly influenced Rock n Roll



# R&B Artists

Muddy Waters-[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0\\_eRVroLqs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0_eRVroLqs)

BB King-[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwCGR\\_giWZk&list=PLWCJOLJ9si2I3CbC7xLJKI2IqV2ML5hgU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwCGR_giWZk&list=PLWCJOLJ9si2I3CbC7xLJKI2IqV2ML5hgU)



# Jazz Characteristics

- Born in America-distinctly American music
- Rhythms from west Africa
- Harmonic structures from European traditions
- Both Afro and Anglo-American folk traditions
- Syncopation – accenting a normally weak beat
- Improvisation – make up the part as you perform
- Scat singing – vocal improvisation
- Nonsense syllables
- Wide variety of timbres
- Brass – trumpet, trombone
- Woodwind – saxes (all sizes)
- Rhythm section –piano, bass, drums



# Cities known for Jazz

- New Orleans – generally regarded as the birthplace of jazz
- Chicago
- New York
- Kansas City



# Jazz Styles and Performers

- Scott Joplin – ragtime- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPmruHc4S9Q>
- Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong – dixieland, scat-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyLjbMBpGDA>
- Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller – big band swing-  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDQpZT3GhDg>
- Charlie Parker – bop
- Miles Davis – cool
- Ella Fitzgerald – vocal, scat

Choose another performer and experience either bop, cool or vocal Jazz.

# Pop Characteristics

- Developed out of Anglo American traditions
- Easy listening
- Smooth vocal styling
- Often accompanied by large instrumental groups (e.g. big bands, orchestras)
- Often contained jazz shadings in vocals but without rough edges
- Performer was more important than the song - crooners



# Types of Pop Songs/Artists

- Ballads
- Love songs
- Show tunes from Broadway musicals

## Artists

- Frank Sinatra-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEcqHA7dbwM>
- Nat King Cole-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTkBvJeWZYM>
- Tony Bennett
- Johnny Mathis
- Lena Horne- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCvqTRHGlrq>





# Lesson Reflection

1. There are two folk traditions that influenced music, anglo and afro.
2. There are five types of music that existed prior to 1950 that influenced Rock n Roll. Folk, Country Western, Blues, Jazz and Pop.
3. The most prevalent characteristics of each genre found in Rock n Roll are:
  - Straight forward rhythms and melodies that are text driven (folk/country)
  - Songs about everyday life (country)
  - Syncopation and Improvisation (blues and jazz)
  - Instruments- drums, guitars and bass guitars (blues and jazz)
  - I,IV, V chord progression (blues)
  - Unique vocal styles and use of scat singing or nonsense syllables (jazz)
  - Performer was more important than the song (pop)

# Practice

1. Of the 5 genres of music that existed prior to Rock n Roll, which one was your favorite and why?
2. Can you recall the two folk traditions that influenced music prior to 1950?
3. Name a composer from each genre we discussed today.
4. Name one characteristic from each genre we discussed today.

Let's Practice!

Thank you! Rock On!

