

## Disco

### mid 1970s to mid 80s

a genre of music which was popular from the mid to late 1970s. Its initial audiences were club-goers from the African American, Latino, Italian American, and psychedelic communities in New York City and Philadelphia during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

#### Key innovator:

- Donna Summer
- Gloria Gaynor
- 1977 film Saturday night fever brought disco to a wider audience

#### Key Technology:

- Use of drum machine
- Amplified or electronic instrumentation
  - Use of Rhodes electric piano
- Wah wah and chorus effects on guitars and keyboards
  - Reverb on vocals and horn parts
  - Synthesised backing tracks
  - Electronic hand claps

#### Key musical attributes:

- Groove based drum rhythms,
- fast tempo
- simple repetitive lyrics
- Horn or string section
- Vocal harmonies
- Bass guitar/ synthesizer
- Prominent bass (groove or riff)

Donna Summer – *I feel love* (1977)

# Disco Listening

Gloria Gaynor -*Never say goodbye* (1974)

*I will survive* (1979)

Bee Gees – Stayin' Alive (1977)

Village people – YMCA (1978)

# Punk

mid1970s to early 80s

Punk is a music genre that developed in the USA, UK and Australia in the **mid-1970s**. Punk bands created fast, hard-edged music, typically with short songs, stripped-down instrumentation, and often political, anti-establishment lyrics.

## Key musical attributes:

- Male vocals
- Anti establishment/ political protest lyrics
- Unpolished vocals performed as a shout
  - Unrefined vocal style
  - Simple chord structure

## Key innovator:

- Sex Pistols
- The Clash
- The Jam
- Siouxsie and the Banshees

## Key Technology:

- Distortion on electric guitar but thinner and harsher compared to full tones of heavy rock distortion
- DIY production ethic – simple, unprocessed sound
- No use of spacey, psychedelic delay or flange effects
  - Aggressive, hard rock sound

Sex Pistols– *Anarchy in the UK*(1976)

# Punk Listening

The Clash– *White Riot*(1977)

The Jam– *Going Underground* (1980)

Siouxsie and the Banshees– *Hong Kong Garden*(1978)

# Country

early 20<sup>th</sup> century to present day

Another branch of American popular music developed during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, from the music of the poor white people. It began as folk music and finally became *Country* or *Country and Western*.

## Key innovator:

- **Jimmie Rodgers**
- **Hank Williams**
- **Johnny Cash**

## Key musical attributes:

- Prominent use of acoustic instruments.
- Pedal steel guitar/ slide guitar
- Simple rhythms with strong backbeat emphasis from snare and guitar.
- Vocal harmonies.
- Use of pitch bend on guitar.
- Use of vamp.
- Simple chord structure.
- Narrative vocals
- Use of banjo/ mandolin/harmonica

## Key Technology:

- Electric guitar is often clean and slightly twangy
- Clean, accurate recordings without production techniques added
- Nashville recording industry

# Country Listening

Jimmie Rodgers– *Blue Yodel*(1927)

Hank Williams– *Hey, Good Lookin'* (1951)

Johnny Cash– *I walk the line*(1956)

Pasty Cline– *Crazy*(1961)

# Skiffle

- A type of popular music along with jazz, blues, and folk with roots in the USA. Usually performed using **homemade or improvised instruments** (such as a washboard) as well as conventional (like a guitar). It was popular in the US in first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century and in the UK in the 1950s.

## **Musical attributes:**

- acoustic instruments
- homemade instruments
  - vamp
- a narrative vocal

## *Key technologies*

- often recorded during a live performance
- minimal post production

Knobtown Skiffle Band-

*Knobtown Rag*

The Vipers Skiffle Group- *Don't You Rock Me Daddy-O* ( 1957)

Lonnie Donegan - *Rock Island Line* (1961)

Born This Way - *Lady Gaga Skiffle Cover*

# Musicals

A musical play which has speaking, singing and dancing and is performed on stage

## Musical features:

- prominent vocals in the mix
- use of orchestral instruments with band

## Technological features:

- few effects if any (only reverb)
- use of radio/shot gun mics
- use of overhead/boundary mics
- use of close mic technique for band instruments
- use of direct injection for band
- live recording