

# Rock 'n' roll 1950s- early 60s

- ▶ A type of pop music originating in the 1950s
- ▶ It is a blend of *rhythm and blues* and *country and western*.
- ▶ Often based upon the twelve-bar blues with the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> beats in each bar heavily accented

## Key attributes:

- Typically vocals, 2 guitar, bass, drums
- Sometimes harmonic and brass
- Often 12 bar blues chord structure
- Fast tempo
- **Energetic** delivery of vocals (screaming and shouting)

## Key Technology:

- Live recordings direct to tape
- No multi mic set ups on drums – often one overhead mic
  - Overdriven valve amplifiers for electric guitars
  - Early multi track recording
- Voices sometimes overdubbed to increase clarity and minimise spill
- *Slapback* delay (*analogue, single repeat*) used to thicken vocals and guitar

## Key innovators:

- Bill Haley
- Little Richard
- Chuck Berry
- Elvis Presley
- Jerry Lee Lewis
- Cliff Richard

# Rock 'n' roll Listening

Bill Haley and the Comets– *Rock around the clock*

Little Richard– *Tutti frutti*

Chuck Berry– *Roll over Beethoven*

Jerry lee Lewis– *Great Balls of Fire*

Elvis Presley – *All shook up* (1957)

# Rap

Rhyming lyrics that are spoken and performed to a beat. It is popular in hip-hop music.

Eminem - Without Me

Eminem - Lose Yourself

# Hip Hop

A style of music formed in 1980s New York consisting of stylized rhythmic music that **commonly accompanies rapping**. Pioneered in New York City in the early 1970s, it was not until 1979 that the first Hip Hop song (even though still heavily influenced by disco sounds) was recorded and released – “Rapper’s Delight” by the Sugarhill Gang. Perhaps the most important song in Hip Hop history was “The Message” with its commentaries on life and society, and it had a huge influence on many conscious Hip Hop artists who came later.

## Key attributes:

- Repeated rhythm patterns
- Riffs
- Call and response chants
- Use of beat boxing
- Rapping
- Predominantly male vocals
- Synthesizers

## Key Technology:

- Use of loops and sampling
- DJ scratching techniques
  - Use of drum machine
- two or more record decks to play instrumental grooves – often drum and bass breaks – while mixing in other patterns or short hits from other records

# Hip Hop Listening

- Sugarhill Gang– *Rappers Delight* (1979)
- Eminem– *My name is*(1999)
- Beastie Boys– *Fight for your right to party*(1987)

# Celtic Rock

A style of music that mixes Celtic folk music and rock together. This has been achieved by

- The blending of traditional music styles/ dances, (particularly *jigs* and *reels*) with rock instrumentation; by the addition of traditional Celtic instruments, (e.g. *clarsach*, *tin whistle*, *Irish/ Highland bagpipes*, *fiddle*) to conventional rock formats
- The use of lyrics in Celtic languages.
- The use of traditional rhythms in otherwise conventional rock music.

e.g. Highlander Celtic Rock Band - *Bung Knee Jigs*

## Key attributes:

- Mixture of traditional/ acoustic and amplified instruments
- Rock rhythm section
- Trad song/ music with rock accompaniment

- Red Hot Chilli Pipers - *We Will Rock You & Eye of the Tiger*

# Scottish

- Any music featuring instruments or dances relating to Scotland
- E.g. accordion, fiddle, bagpipes, clarsach, bodhran
- Reel, Jig, March, Waltz, Scottish dance band, folk group

# 60s pop

In the 1960s, Pop music in the USA and UK gradually became controlled by new young vocal-groups, taking their power from a combo of the performer's charisma and great songwriters. Artists include: *The Beatles*, *The Beach Boys*, *Bob Dylan* and *Diana Ross*.

## Key innovator:

- The Beatles
- The Beach Boys
  - Bob Dylan
  - The Hollies
- Rolling Stones
  - The Who

## Key Technology:

- Hammond organ
- Use of multi track recording/ overdubbing
  - Experimental studio sounds
- Moog synthesiser (*Abbey Road – Beatles*)

• Beatles– *Here comes the sun* (1970)

Rolling Stones– *It's all over now* (1964)

• Beatles– *Sgt Pepper's LHCB* (1967)  
(experiments with flanger, wah wah and lots of overdubbing in the album)

The Who – *My Generation*  
(1965)

## Synth pop mid1970s and 80s

Genre of popular music that first became prominent in the **1980s** in which the **synthesiser** is the dominant instrument.

### Key musical attributes:

- Riffs
- Melodic hooks
- Sustained synth chords

### Key Technology:

- Drum machines
- Use of synthesiser - synth pads
  - Use of reverb

### Key innovator:

- Kraftwerk (German band)
  - Duran Duran
  - Eurythmics

- Kraftwerk– *Autobahn*(1975)
- A-ha – *Take on me*(1984)
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- Eurythmics– *Sweet Dreams*(1983)
- Duran Duran– *Girls on film* (1981)

# Electronica/ dance music

## mid1980s to present day

**Electronically produced sounds** digitally recorded and arranged to form a musical composition. In the mid 1980s, the Chicago house party scene used disused warehouses for all night dance events. Electronica is used extensively for nightclubs (e.g. Ibiza clubs), raves and festivals. DJs will regularly produce a selection of EDM tracks that flow seamlessly from one to another. Usually **Electronica/ Dance Music** pieces have a **fast tempo**. **Loops** and **sampling** are used

### Key attributes:

- Fast tempo
- Repeated patterns
  - Riffs
- Melodic hooks
- Sustained synth chords

### Key innovator:

Early Chicago/ Detroit DJs-

- Frankie Knuckles
- Derrick May

### Key Technology:

- Drum machine
- Use of sampling and computer based sequencers
  - Repeated loops
- Significant use of delay and reverb and other effects
  - Use of synthesisers

• MARRS– *Pump up the volume*(1987) David Guetta – *Titanium* (2011)

• KLF– *Doctorin' the Tardis*(1988) Calvin Harris – *Ready for the weekend* (2009)

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