

# History of Rock Music



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# HISTORY OF ROCK MUSIC

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## INFO

This is a study sheet by Linus Metzler about History of Rock Music, which was mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> Kanti at Mr. Nick. There is no claim for completeness. All warranties are disclaimed.



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## STUDY PART

STYLES: EARLY INFLUENCES; ROCK'N'ROLL, BEAT, SOUL, FOLK ROCK

## ROCK'N'ROLL

- Its father is Juck Berry
- Nothing but rhythm and blues combined
- R'n'b could also mean "real black"
- Black music
- Broke down racial barriers
- First frightened white people
- Evolved in the 40ies
- Popular in the 50ies
- Origin of today's rock
- Beat is basically a boogie woogie blues rhythm with a strong backbeat – also together with a snare drum
- Classic r'n'r is played with
  - One or two e-guitar (one lead and one rhythm)
  - E-bass-guitar
  - Drum kit
  - Commonly a keyboard was added
  - Early 50ies: saxophone was the lead instrument
    - Replaced by a guitar in the mid 50ies
  - Early form in the late 40ies: piano took the lead

## HISTORY

- In the 50ies, young people got tired from listening to old pop songs from the 30ies and 40ies
- Black musician began to play the music faster and faster
- The parents back then, weren't happy about it
- Was an expression of the new generation
- Protesting against almost everything of the older generation
- Influenced by
  - Blues
  - Rhythm
  - Gospel
  - Country
  - Western
  - Jazz

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## BEAT

- Important for young people in the sixties onwards
- Usually played by bands with two or three e-guitars, a bass guitar and a drum set
- Most famous are “Beatles” and “Rolling Stones”
  - The Beatles were the good guys
    - Clean music and appearance
    - Mainly played r’n’r
  - The Rolling Stones were the bad guys
    - They and their music were rough and tough
    - Played r’n’b – black origin

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## CHARACTERISTICS

- More than one voice, usually two or three voices together
- Blues form, binary or ternary form
- Three e-guitars
  - Lead
  - Rhythm
  - Bass
- 4/4 time signature

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## HISTORY

- Started in England
- Small groups of young people played the American music
  - Mainly r’n’r
- Wasn’t liked by the adults bc they thought it’s a rebellion
- Long haired players and rather loud and noisy music
- After some time, the US wanted it on their land too

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## FOLK ROCK

- Arose mainly from three elements
  - Folk vocal groups
  - Singer-songwriters
  - Revival of North American R’n’R after the British Invasion
- Roots go back to the early immigrants, who brought their popular music with them
- In towns and bigger cities singer-songwriters took up this material
  - One of them was Bob Dylan
    - When he exchanged his acoustic with a e-guitar, he started the true folk rock movement
- After the British Invasion, the US discovered their own music as a potential for a national sound

- One of the first bandy was the “Beach Boys”
  - Not a folk rock band themselves, but directly influenced folk-rock playing groups
- In the US, folk rock was most popular between the mid-60ies and the mid-70ies
- Denver, NY and Phoenix became folk rock culture centers

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## WAYS OF PLAYING

### FOLK-INFLUENCED POP

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#### PLAYED POP-STLYE

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- More contemporary
- Using typical instruments
- Folk tunes tend to be quite simple
  - The notes move in steps
- All the notes in a folk tune to the key
  - Often based on modes or pentatonic scales
    - Major and minor scales are used too
- Accompaniments are simple chord patterns played on acoustic instruments
- Word about ordinary people’s lives

#### MIXED

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- Mixing traditional folk with music from their country with pop instruments and styles
- Examples
  - The Corrs
    - Use Irish folk instruments
  - The Chieftains
    - Use Irish version of bagpipes and pop instruments
  - Enya
    - Singing Gaelic
    - Mixing
      - Synthesized orchestral sound
      - Traditional chords and harmonies
  - The Pogues
    - Irish folk with punk
    - Described as “thrash folk”

#### TRADITIONAL

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There are some musicians, who play folk traditionally, like Bob Dylan (aka Robert Allen Zimmermann).

#### BLUES: HISTORY, FORM, CHORD PATTERN

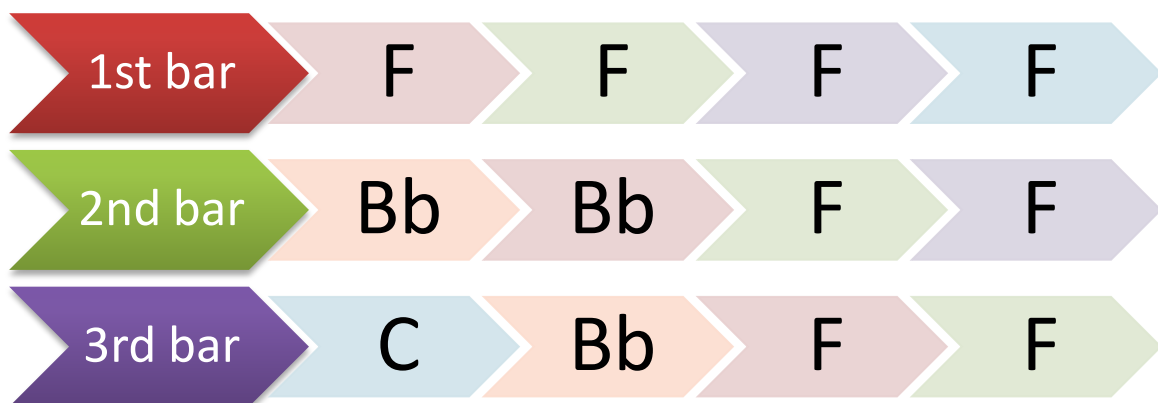
## HISTORY

- Slaves in the 1600's and 1700's
- Work songs of the slaves
- Call-and-response (African) style mixed with chords (European)
- Ex-slaves singing in the 1860's sad and 'blue' songs
- Traditional instruments are (all acoustic)
  - Harmonica
  - Guitar
  - Banjo
  - Violin
  - Piano
  - Double bass
  - Voice
- By the 1920's blues was popular by black and white Americans
- In the 1940's and 1950' are speeded-up version was developed called rhythm'n'blues – R'n'B – which also uses electrical bass and guitar

## FORM &amp; CHORD PATTERN

A blues chorus is normally 12 bars long. The blues uses 3 chords, which are all major and stand on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> step of a major scale.

## EXAMPLE WITH A C MAJOR SCALE



## INSTRUMENTS IN POP AND ROCK AND THEIR TASKS



#### COVER VERSIONS

A cover song (re-recording a song with some changes) can differ from its original in

- Lyrics
- Melody
- Rhythm
- Instruments
- Tempo

But it has to be still recognizable – otherwise it won't be a cover.



## STRUCTURE OF SONGS: PARTS OF A SONG AND THEIR MUSICAL CONTENT

## Intro

- grabs the attention
- setting the mood

## Verse

- same tune
- lyrics change
- tells the story
- often 8 bars long
  - > balanced feel

## Chorus

- different tune
  - catchy
- lyrics and tune don't change
- backing up the message of the story
- often 8 bars long
  - > balanced feel

## Bridge

- new chords
- new lyrics
- new feel
- stop from getting bored
- every pop song has one
- used as a link
- Middle 8
  - form of the bridge

## Instrumental

- let the players show off
- same chords as verse and chorus
- sounds familiar

## Coda / Outro

- different form the verse and chorus
- either a big finish or a fade out