

History of Rock And Roll - The Early Years

All American Music comes from the BLUES

Dick Clark- "American Bandstand" showcased acts and the latest dances

All acts lip synced

Cleveland, Ohio 1952

Moondog Coronation Ball - African American teens jammed downtown Cleveland to pay \$1.50 to see "Hucklebuck" Williams in what turned out to a riot. The authorities blow the whistle, storm the arena and shut down the concert because the newspapers called the concert, "music of bum taste, low morality, and down right gutbucket subversions."

The Moondog himself, DJ Alan Freed, was the first white DJ to air *Rhythm and Blues* (considered "race music" by the adult mainstream). He also promoted stage shows giving rise to the term *Rock and Roll* to denote the crossover of various groups. Freed promoted R&B to an integrated audience. First in Cleveland, then later in NYC, he became a national star and hero to millions of teens for playing the music they wanted to hear.

Alan Freed- the first White DJ to air Rock and Roll Music

The first concert promoter to feature Black and White Acts together

Promoted "Winter Rock and Roll Show" (Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and Big Bopper plane crash was from this tour)

Downfall by taking front money to play records on the air- fraud

Died only a few years later

- Bill Haley and the Comets: Rockabilly crossover from Country. *Shake, Rattle, And Roll*, and *Rock Around the Clock*, the latter being part of the first movie soundtrack for the 1955 *The Blackboard Jungle*, a movie about juvenile delinquency.
- Elvis Presley: "covered" Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton's *Hound Dog* originally about a deadbeat man. It mad Elvis a national teen idol. Was controversial as the "White boy who could sing 'Colored'" yet became sought after for the *Milton Berle Show* and *the Ed Sullivan Show*. Parental reactions to these airings varied from amusement to disgust, not only from the music, but from his dancing (gyrating hips) an national TV.
- Carl Perkins : crossover from country to R&R. Wrote *Blue Suede Shoes*.
- Jerry Lee Lewis: strayed farthest from his country roots singing with the fervor of a country preacher and assaulting his piano with *Great Balls of Fire* and *Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On*.
- Everly Brothers: crossover from Country. *Wake Up Little Susie*, *Dream*.
- Buddy Holly; Texan who scored with *Peggy Sue* and *That'll Be The Day*. Died in a plane crash with Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens. That crash was immortalized as the day the music died.

AFRICAN AMERICAN Rockers who retained integrity:

- Antoine "Fats" Domino: *Blueberry Hill*
- "Little Richard" Penniman: "Jump Blues" and R&B, *Tutti Frutti*
- Chuck Berry: first African American to cross over in reverse to Rockabilly style setting standards for R&R showmanship (played guitar behind neck, on his knees, while hopping across the stage on one foot or his classic trademark **Duckwalk**. *Johnny b. Goode*, *Roll Over Beethoven*, *Maybelline*.

Parents had a difficult time accepting Rock and Roll because of its origins in Black Music

1960's Girl Groups

Phil Spector - Record producer

"Wall of Sound"- many instrument in a small recording studio

Ronnie Spector (became his wife) and the Ronettes were his most famous protoges.

Also produced Sonny And Cher (Sonny started out a "gopher")

Righteous Brothers- Blue-Eyed Soul

Surf Music

Dick Dale- "surf guitar music"

Beach Boys- 4- part harmony of the 1940's

The British Invasion

Led by the Beatles (first long haired group)

Impact on other performers was devastating: girl groups

Beach Boys

Elvis

African American Rockers

Any song "covered" by a British Group got favored over original artist

Fashions from England became most popular

An "English Accent" was cool, Americans even faked them.

Jimi Hendrix was not discovered here- travelled to England and came in the "invasion" to be discovered.

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