

Welcome to Week 5

- This is the last module for Unit 1.
- Unit 1 test is included in this module.

Krautrock

- "Krautrock" originally was a derogatory term for rock music made in Germany.
- In West Germany, ppl were
 - ① stressed about being occupied by Western Powers
 - ② concerned that war could break out w/ East Germany
 - ③ concerned about rise of Soviet terrorist orgs.
 - ④ different culturally than other rock hubs (England and USA)

- Because of these features, rock took on unique form in 1970s Germany
- Krautrock informed by free jazz and contemporary classical music (e.g. Stockhausen).
- Music was non-dogmatic (i.e. there weren't strict rules about what defined rock music), led to use of synthesizers.

Iggy Pop

- Iggy and Bowie meet in summer of 1976 to record Iggy record.
- Record has low-quality, unprofessional sound because they used a lot of test/experimental/unpolished recordings. Did this in reaction to polished corporate rock music recordings.

- Indictment and deconstruction of corporate rock.
- Start of Bowie's "Berlin period".
- Recording began w/ clean slate, could go in any direction.
Improvised.
- Lackadaisical performances were intentional / pre-meditated.

Brian Eno

- Artsy rock musician from UK.
- Interested in contemporary classical music.
- Affiliated w/ composer Cornelius Cardew, both wanted to smash down oppressive power structures (e.g. British imperialism)

- Saw hierarchy of musical harmony as oppressive power structure, had to be destroyed
- Invented **ambient music**
 - There's no sense that listener should focus attention on piece
 - weren't wanting listener to achieve heightened awareness.
 - music was "just there", not supposed to make you think.
- Brian Eno was part of band "**Roxy Music**"
- Bowie was really into band's music
- Bowie wanted to do the opposite of what corporate rock was doing.
(He perceived Eno to be achieving just that).
- Corporate rock was (according to Bowie)
 - ① Artistically corrupt
 - ② Ripping him off financially
- Bowie invites Eno to come collaborate in France

Low

- In fall 1976, Bowie started recording new album "Low"
- Layered sounds, created soundscapes
- Bowie worked w/ Eno
- Started w/ instruments, added vocals last
- Moved to Berlin w/ Iggy
- In Berlin, Bowie felt free to make experimental music, empowered to kick drug habit, and anonymous (no one knew who he was there).
- Heavily influenced by Krautrock, used lots of synths. Used vocals more sparingly, vocals were low-key.
- Vocals had big effect on new wave

- Record company was not pleased w/ fact that vocals were only used on half of record.
- Some think that the lack of lyrics is an indication that Bowie was trying to earn less royalties and, by extension, less royalties for record company. (He wanted to negatively impact them financially).
- Bowie also may have deliberately made an "artsy" record so that it wouldn't have been a commercial hit.
- He doesn't promote album.
- He joins Iggy's band as keyboard player.
- The dense layering of sounds on "Low" is very influential on 80's pop

Lust For Life

- Iggy Pop record made w/ Bowie
- Raw rock sound
- Improvised lyrics added unpredictability and "weirdness"
- The single "Lust for Life" on the Lust for Life album appeared in "Trainspotting" movie in somewhat altered form (i.e. producers obscure the opening where Iggy is not singing but rather thinking about what lyrics to sing). The original version of the song gives you more a sense of the spontaneity of the recording process.
- Sounds very "alive"
- Didn't edit it, completed in 8 days

1996
Scottish film

Heroes

- Bowie felt like music was found partly in the mistakes
- Bowie works w/ Tony Visconti (producer) and Brian Eno (idea guy).
- He wants album to have some similarities w/ Iggy album (e.g. starting from scratch, improvised lyrics), but more polished and restrained
- Album is tribute to song by Neu! Same pounding, repetitive guitar but evened out into constant background.
- Album was very popular, influenced new wave and post punk in 80's
- Bowie is innovating more musically in "Heroes"; before, his innovation was more in showmanship and image.

- Ziggy / Aladdin Sane: revisits old rock
- Young Americans: unique spin on Philly soul
- Heroes: something more original

Paying It Forward

- Sound is gradually filled into the spaces between guitar strums in these songs:
 - Velvet Underground (1967)
 - Neu! (1975)
 - Bowie (1977)
 - Joy Division (1980)

Lodger

- Bowie tours "Heroes"
- Took break in fall 1978 to record new album
- Bowie is starting to run out of creative steam. He uses Eno's card game to get the creative juices flowing, wants to add this to record, band doesn't like it.
- People think of "Lodger" as a **decline in creativity**, end of Berlin period, and transition to another creative period of Bowie's career.