

SOUNDBREAKING #5

Four on the Floor

If a vocal track is the heart of a song, the rhythm track -- **the Beat**-- is its body. This episode charts the progression of the beat from drum and bass to beatbox and beyond. From Little Richard to James Brown to Disco and EDM, we will learn about the ongoing dialogue between the dance floor and the recording studio.

Niles Rodgers (*Famous musician and producer, formed Chic in 1977—Hits: Everybody Dance, Le Freak, Good Times (Most sampled song of all time used on Rapper's Delight, Another One Bites The Dust, Around The World) We are Family, I'm Coming Out.) Produces: Sister Sledge, Diana Ross, David Bowie, INXS, Madonna, B-52's, Lady Gaga, Daft Punk's album RAM— won 3 Grammys for it.*)

---Producer Niles Rodgers talks about the TV show, American Bandstand and how they rated records.
---"It's got a good B_____ and you can D_____ to it" is how highly rated records were described.
That's how he wanted his records to sound.
---Rhythm is at the root of what we love.
---What makes you want to dance?

J_____ B_____

---Said everything sounds like a D_____ to him. He created a symphony of percussion.
---D_____ had a more lasting effect than historians give it credit. E____ rules the planet now.
C_____ driven music is the future. The beat causes a rush of A_____.

Producer Team of Tricky Stewart (1974) and The-Dream (1977)

Songs: Beyonce- *Single Ladies* (2008- won 3 Grammy's), Rhianna- *Umbrella*, Justin Bieber- *One Time* and *Baby*, Mariah Carey- *Touch My Body*, and more...

All The Single Ladies song Breakdown---Started with a C_____ beat inspired by Gospel music. The beat inspired the whole song and The-Dream connected the dots musically.

The Gospel Influence in Rock Music

The Staple Singers (*Members: Pop Staples- father and leader, hailed from the Delta. He grew up with Charlie Patton, Robert Johnson, and Son House. His Children: Mavis(Lead Singer), Pervis, Cleotha, Yvonne. Hits, I'll Take You There (1972), Respect Yourself (1971), Why Am I Treated So Bad (1967), Let's Do It Again (1975)*)

---Based in Chicago

---Sang at MLK rallies and were central to the Civil Rights Movement soundtrack.

---Signed to Stax Records in 1968 and recorded at Muscle Shoals where they found mainstream success.

---Pops died in 2000, Mavis carries on the tradition, having performed in Waco at Brazos Nights in 2017.

The powerful driving beat of Gospel makes its way into rock 'n' roll by way of the frenzied spiritual aspect that made people "catch the spirit" and "go out." But it directly got T_____ into rock 'n' roll by many artists who shared the Gospel energy and fervor.

L_____ R_____

---Gives you the black C_____ and J_____ joint, all in one.

---Took his drummer to a T_____ station and said "Play that behind me!"

--- Cosimo Matasa owned J&M Studios in New Orleans, where they recorded all the hits.
--- Recorded as if playing for a L_____ audience and that was the ferocious starting point of rock 'n roll.
--- Puritanical America watered down this power for white acceptance, Pat B_____ covered Little Richard and O_____ him; some kids weren't allowed to listen to "black" versions and had to make do with "white-washed" versions made by "respectable" singers like PB.
--- The early frenetic energy of Little Richard, Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry would disappear around 1960. The general "white" public was scared of the power of rock 'n' roll and an ugly backlash occurred.

M_____ (Formed 1959)

--- From Detroit, Michigan
--- Berry Gordy, owner, recruits Smokey Robinson.
--- First meeting - "We're not making only B_____ music, we're making music for everybody."
--- Motown tours --- The Southern states required segregated audiences. Over time, black and white would "intermingle", as evidenced by record sales.

Main Elements

--- A controlled G_____ sound
--- Contained a big beat, melodic bass, tambourine and drums, very R_____.

The F_____ Brothers

--- Motown's rhythm section.

James J_____

--- Recognized as one of the founding fathers of electric bass. He taught Stevie Wonder!
--- They recycled many of the same tempos and grooves repeatedly. Amazing writing!
--- Drums and bass are the B_____ of the sound. The drummer was Benny Benjamin.
--- Motown steered away from controversy, but J_____ B_____ embraced it by writing songs about black empowerment, *Say it Loud (I'm Black and I'm Proud.)*

J_____ B_____

--- Created an organic sound that went back to the roots of African Rhythm. "He brought it from the R_____ to the F_____".

--- Live at the A_____ (First live album of rock n roll era)

--- First to use the concept of two drummers on stage. Only one played at a time, but the seed was planted for other future rock bands and they would use 2 drummers playing at the same time.
--- He changed mid 60's dance music. His style was bluesy and churchy, but slowly morphs away from that.
--- Over the next four years, the band comes up with interludes (music between songs) so he can do his featured dance numbers (Mashed Potatoes and Hully Gully). This becomes groundbreaking.
--- In 1965, he records "Papa's got a Brand New Bag".
--- He wanted to make a record where all instruments sounded like D_____; they would all play different patterns that combined to fit together like a glove....a symphony of P_____.
--- Brown invents F____ his voice acts as part human beatbox, singer, and blood-curdling screamer.
--- Very influential to up-and-comers who steal the instrumentation and musical concepts. While Motown was pop, JB was funk that influenced Sly Stone, Stevie Wonder, George Clinton, and Prince.

G_____ D_____ (From San Francisco formed in 1965)

(Known as the first Jam Band---combined elements of rock, country, bluegrass, blues, gospel, and psychedelic rock, famous for instrumental jams and live performances. "Deadhead" is the name given to their fans.

--- They steal the idea of two D_____ who would play in various creative ways.

---The Dead is a touring act who set out to create a vibe and build a community of fans. They didn't get much radio airplay and they didn't have hit records. They had great success nonetheless.

---Every culture has its own D _____ and culture, like The Beatles, Led Zep, or Santana.

S _____ (Also from San Francisco formed in 1966)

---Woodstock performance of "Soul Sacrifice" notes the arrival of Latin P _____ into the rock setting. Santana electrifies Latin music, combining it with blues and rock.

---His story is one of good timing. His family moved to San Francisco just before the explosion of youth culture in the 60's jazz clubs, blues clubs and conga parties that featured Latin jazz musicians.

---Santana becomes a laboratory of experimentation using electric blues and Latin P _____.

---Influenced by listening to a Latin radio station and drum circles around San Francisco.

---B ____ G _____ (famous promoter) plays Willie Bobo's "Evil Ways", a Latin boogaloo; Santana speeds it up and energizes it with rock.

---Big break is playing W _____ (Aug. 1969)

---Takes L____ way before show time and is told he has to go on early!

---His guitar looks like a snake that he can't play. Ironically, it's his most legendary performance.

D _____

(As rock progressed with different styles and technology, dance music makes a resurgence. Not since the dance craze of the 60's with the Twist, Mashed Potatoes, and the Swim had America danced (except for Country.)

---D _____ seems to capture the free, sexual spirit of the 70's. It started small around 1974 and by 1977 it captured the country's fancy.

---D _____ S _____ ("Love to Love You, Baby") is the Queen of Disco. The Bee Gee's are its King.

---Nile Rodgers notes that he was amazed at the continuous play of songs at a disco that seemed to captivate the crowd and make a disparate crowd feel as one. "I wanted to be a part of that crowd." Rodgers writes *Everybody Dance* and *Le Freak*.

---The B _____ integrated communities by bringing together all types: black, white, Latino, gay, straight

---Disco remained underground until...

S _____ N _____ F _____ Film and Soundtrack (1977)

---Made the B____ G____'s The Kings of Disco.

---They loved Otis Redding and the blues, which started in the 50's and came to fruition during the 60's and 70's. They had many hits before SNF that weren't dance related.

---Their producer found a way to make a drum loop, which was a short snippet of real drums. They used this like a drum machine and it powered many of their hits. They found another S _____. The film became a blockbuster hit, compelling America to get up and dance. It was the biggest selling soundtrack in history, until *The Bodyguard* movie soundtrack displaced it in 1992.

Disco D_____ Night (1979)

---Chicago's Comiskey Park sponsors a "Disco S _____" event in which they blow up disco records between doubleheader games. The crowd riots, it makes national news, and the disco movement begins its downfall. (*The debate still rages about this event. Some claimed this to be an anti-gay movement while others would say it stemmed from the over-commercialization of Disco.*)

---Sadly, most funk bands are lumped into the disco genre and fall off the radar until Rap comes along.

---The Bee Gee's learn a hard lesson about fickle tastes and the career span length. The Bee Gee's and Rodgers both start producing major albums using their vast knowledge of styles to make new and interesting music.

The Rise of the R_____

---DJ's create 8 minute versions of a 3 minute song. They are called "the 12" Single."

---Make something new out of existing material (also the rap mantra).

---Suddenly, every hit song had a R_____.

M_____

---From Michigan, has a degree in dance.

---Moves to NYC with \$35 in her pocket, worked odd jobs and studied dance, became a club rat and a "scene-ster".

---Dates a DJ and collaborates to make a remix. She likes it and they did more; they co-wrote her first hit H_____. Using the Linn drum m_____ and synths, they made a song from scratch and it becomes a huge hit.

---Most record companies thought dance music was dead since disco came and went, so from the start, she was pushing the limits of dance music.

S_____ E (1957)

(*Her dad, uncle & brothers are percussionists. She has played with: George Duke, Lionel Ritchie, Marvin Gaye, Herbie Hancock, Diana Ross and Prince.*)

---Goes solo after playing on Prince's *Purple Rain* album and adds Latin percussion to her music.

---*Glamorous Life* (1984) also utilizes a D_____ M_____. Her career was on fire in the 80's.

D_____ M_____

---Early models had pre-set rhythms and were not very usable.

---Linn drum M_____ was totally programmable.

---Soul or no soul? Is perfection the goal? What is authentic? Truth is, it gave non-drummers the chance to create records and created specific G_____ of dance.

---It creates more genres of music like T_____.

--- The rise of R_____ music produces a new style of dance music. They were held in alternative places like warehouses and VFW halls and because of age, alcohol and drugs, were made illegal.

M_____ (1965)

---becomes a star as a techno DJ.

---Album "GO" (1991) becomes an English hit.

---"I don't care how music is M_____, it just has to move me."

---Moby quote "If you have art that makes people C_____, then they're going to lean towards it."

---He is a songwriter who isn't writing just for the dance floor, but for listening as well.

---Isn't it ironic that the most popular DJ of the 90's was also a musician? Maybe that's why his music had mass appeal.

EDM (Notice the foreign accents)

---DJ is like a C_____ who puts it all together

--- it's very hard to not make it machine like. You need to add elements that give it the human element.

---It was like the Grateful Dead, the music isn't available in stores or on the radio, you have to be there to experience it.

(*In the last 20 years the EDM scene has seen rapid growth with stars such as: Tiësto, Skrillex, Steve Aoki, David Guetta, Deadmau5. Worldwide Festivals- Tomorrowland, Electric Daisy Carnival, Ultra Music Festival and many others.*)

(As with any music scene there is a drug culture associated with it. The most associated drug is MDMA, known as Ecstasy or Molly.)

The Dance & the Trance

---DJ Paul Kalkbrenner—"Instrumental songs are so full of life because they are actual emotions and vocals can never be true emotions because they are only words. And that's why it's a global movement because it goes beyond all borders of L_____."

---EDM is like Woodstock, Studio 54, or a rock concert and an E_____.

---People also want to hear acoustic sounds and honor those who can play their I_____.

B_____ M_____

---The best all-around musician and E_____ of his generation.

---Mark Ronson- produces Bruno Mars. Song *Locked Out of Heaven*--The D_____ are the building block of the song, much like that of a CHIC song.

---Todays music has to do with rhythmic accuracy....it's monolithic with an emphasis on the O_____.

Why Does Dance Music Work?

---Because the human H_____ beats around 120 bpm---that's the music of the soul.

---Like a flock of birds flying together, groove music is almost T_____ and magical.

---Gotta have the beat.

---Musicians are constantly looking for new rhythms. These rhythms change with each generation and add value to our lives, make you whole and give you happiness.

Good Rhythm = Good Life!