[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox music festival](/wiki/Template:Infobox_music_festival) The **Woodstock Music & Art Fair**—informally, the **Woodstock Festival** or simply **Woodstock**—was a music festival attracting an audience of over 400,000 people, scheduled over three days on a dairy farm in [New York state](/wiki/New_York_state) from August 15 to 17, 1969, but which ran over four days to August 18, 1969.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Billed as "An [Aquarian](/wiki/Age_of_Aquarius) Exposition: 3 Days of Peace & Music", it was held at [Max Yasgur's](/wiki/Max_Yasgur) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) dairy farm in [the Catskills](/wiki/Catskill_Mountains) near the [hamlet](/wiki/Hamlet_(place)) of [White Lake](/wiki/White_Lake,_New_York) in the town of [Bethel](/wiki/Bethel,_New_York).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Bethel, in [Sullivan County](/wiki/Sullivan_County,_New_York), is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) southwest of the town of [Woodstock, New York](/wiki/Woodstock,_New_York), in adjoining [Ulster County](/wiki/Ulster_County).

During the sometimes rainy weekend, 32 acts performed outdoors before an audience of 400,000 people.[[2]](#cite_note-2) It is widely regarded as a pivotal moment in popular music history, as well as the definitive nexus for the larger [counterculture](/wiki/Counterculture_of_the_1960s) generation.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) listed it as one of the *50 Moments That Changed the History of Rock and Roll*.[[5]](#cite_note-5) The event was captured in the [Academy Award](/wiki/Academy_Award) winning 1970 documentary movie [*Woodstock*](/wiki/Woodstock_(film)), an accompanying [soundtrack album](/wiki/Woodstock:_Music_from_the_Original_Soundtrack_and_More), and [Joni Mitchell's](/wiki/Joni_Mitchell) song "[Woodstock](/wiki/Woodstock_(song))", which commemorated the event and became a major hit for both [Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young](/wiki/Crosby,_Stills,_Nash_&_Young) and [Matthews Southern Comfort](/wiki/Matthews_Southern_Comfort).

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## Planning and preparation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Woodstock was initiated through the efforts of [Michael Lang](/wiki/Michael_Lang_(producer)), [John Roberts](/wiki/John_P._Roberts), [Joel Rosenman](/wiki/Joel_Rosenman), and [Artie Kornfeld](/wiki/Artie_Kornfeld). Roberts and Rosenman financed the project. Lang had some experience as a promoter, having co-organized a small festival on the East Coast the prior year, the [Miami Pop Festival](/wiki/Miami_Pop_Festival_(May_1968)), where an estimated 25,000 people attended the two-day event. Early in 1969, Roberts and Rosenman were New York City entrepreneurs, in the process of building Media Sound, a large audio recording studio complex in Manhattan. Lang and Kornfeld's lawyer, Miles Lourie, who had done legal work on the Media Sound project, suggested that they contact Roberts and Rosenman about financing a similar, but much smaller, studio Kornfeld and Lang hoped to build in [Woodstock](/wiki/Woodstock,_New_York), [New York](/wiki/New_York). Unpersuaded by this Studio-in-the-Woods proposal, Roberts and Rosenman counter-proposed a concert featuring the kind of artists known to frequent the Woodstock area (such as [Bob Dylan](/wiki/Bob_Dylan) and [The Band](/wiki/The_Band)). Kornfeld and Lang agreed to the new plan, and Woodstock Ventures was formed in January 1969.[[6]](#cite_note-6) The company offices were located in an oddly decorated floor of 47 West 57th Street in Manhattan. Burt Cohen, and his design group, Curtain Call Productions, oversaw the psychedelic transformation of the office.<ref name=Perone>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

From the start, there were differences in approach among the four: Roberts was disciplined and knew what was needed for the venture to succeed, while the laid-back Lang saw Woodstock as a new, "relaxed" way of bringing entrepreneurs together.[[7]](#cite_note-7) When Lang was unable to find a site for the concert, Roberts and Rosenman, growing increasingly concerned, took to the road and eventually came up with a venue. Similar differences about financial discipline made Roberts and Rosenman wonder whether to pull the plug or to continue pumping money into the project.[[7]](#cite_note-7) In April 1969, newly minted superstars [Creedence Clearwater Revival](/wiki/Creedence_Clearwater_Revival) became the first act to sign a contract for the event, agreeing to play for $10,000. The promoters had experienced difficulty landing big-name groups prior to Creedence committing to play. Creedence drummer [Doug Clifford](/wiki/Doug_Clifford) later commented, "Once Creedence signed, everyone else jumped in line and all the other big acts came on." Given their 3:00 a.m. start time and omission (at [Template:Sic](/wiki/Template:Sic) frontman [John Fogerty's](/wiki/John_Fogerty) insistence) from the *Woodstock* film, [Template:Sic](/wiki/Template:Sic) members have expressed bitterness over their experiences at the famed festival.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Woodstock was designed as a profit-making venture, aptly titled "Woodstock Ventures". It famously became a "free concert" only after the event drew hundreds of thousands more patrons than the organizers had prepared for. Tickets for the three-day event cost $18 in advance and $24 at the gate (equivalent to $[Template:Formatprice](/wiki/Template:Formatprice) and $[Template:Formatprice](/wiki/Template:Formatprice) in 2014[Template:Inflation-fn](/wiki/Template:Inflation-fn)). Ticket sales were limited to record stores in the greater New York City area, or by mail via a post office box at the [Radio City](/wiki/Radio_City_Music_Hall) Station Post Office located in [Midtown Manhattan](/wiki/Midtown_Manhattan). Around 186,000 advance tickets were sold, and the organizers anticipated approximately 200,000 festival-goers would turn up.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

### Selection of the venue[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The original venue plan was for the festival to take place in [Woodstock](/wiki/Woodstock,_New_York), [New York](/wiki/New_York), possibly near the proposed recording studio site owned by Alexander Tapooz. After local residents quickly shot down that idea, Lang and Kornfeld thought they had found another possible location in Saugerties, New York. But they had misunderstood, as the landowner's attorney made clear, in a brief meeting with Roberts and Rosenman.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Growing alarmed at the lack of progress, Roberts and Rosenman took over the search for a venue, and discovered the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) Mills Industrial Park ([Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)) in the town of [Wallkill, New York](/wiki/Wallkill,_Orange_County,_New_York), which Woodstock Ventures leased for $10,000 in the Spring of 1969.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Town officials were assured that no more than 50,000 would attend. Town residents immediately opposed the project. In early July, the Town Board passed a law requiring a permit for any gathering over 5,000 people. On July 15, 1969, the Wallkill Zoning Board of Appeals officially banned the concert on the basis that the planned [portable toilets](/wiki/Portable_toilet) would not meet town code.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Reports of the ban, however, turned out to be a publicity bonanza for the festival.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Yasgur_farm_in_1968.jpg)[Max Yasgur's](/wiki/Max_Yasgur) dairy farm in 1968 In his 2007 book [*Taking Woodstock*](/wiki/Taking_Woodstock_(book)), [Elliot Tiber](/wiki/Elliot_Tiber) relates that he offered to host the event on his [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) motel grounds, and had a permit for such an event. He claims to have introduced the promoters to dairy farmer Max Yasgur.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Lang, however, disputes Tiber's account and says that Tiber introduced him to a realtor, who drove him to Yasgur's farm without Tiber. [Sam Yasgur](/wiki/Sam_Yasgur), Max's son, agrees with Lang's account.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Yasgur's land formed a natural bowl sloping down to Filippini Pond on the land's north side. The stage would be set up at the bottom of the hill with Filippini Pond forming a backdrop. The pond would become a popular [skinny dipping](/wiki/Skinny_dipping) destination.

The organizers once again told Bethel authorities they expected no more than 50,000 people.

Despite resident opposition and signs proclaiming, "Buy No Milk. Stop Max's Hippy Music Festival",[[15]](#cite_note-15) Bethel Town Attorney Frederick W. V. Schadt and building inspector Donald Clark approved the permits, but the Bethel Town Board refused to issue them formally. Clark was ordered to post stop-work orders.

### Free concert[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

The late change in venue did not give the festival organizers enough time to prepare. At a meeting three days before the event, organizers felt they had two options: one was to complete the fencing and ticket booths, without which the promoters were almost certain to lose their shirts; the other option involved putting their remaining available resources into building the stage, without which the promoters feared they would have a disappointed and disgruntled audience. When the audience began arriving by the tens of thousands, the next day, on Wednesday before the weekend, the decision had been made for them.[[6]](#cite_note-6) "The fences at Woodstock" became an oxymoron, while the stage at Woodstock gave birth to a legend.

## The festival[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|Part of the crowd on the first day of the festival.](/wiki/File:Woodstock_redmond_crowd.JPG) The influx of attendees to the rural concert site in Bethel created a massive traffic jam. Fearing chaos as thousands began descending on the community, Bethel did not enforce its codes.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Eventually, announcements on radio stations as far away as [WNEW-FM](/wiki/WNEW-FM) in Manhattan and descriptions of the traffic jams on television news discouraged people from setting off to the festival.[[16]](#cite_note-16) [Arlo Guthrie](/wiki/Arlo_Guthrie) made an announcement that was included in the film saying that the [New York State Thruway](/wiki/New_York_State_Thruway) was closed.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The director of the Woodstock museum discussed below said this never occurred.[[18]](#cite_note-18) To add to the problems and difficulty in dealing with the large crowds, recent rains had caused muddy roads and fields. The facilities were not equipped to provide sanitation or first aid for the number of people attending; hundreds of thousands found themselves in a struggle against bad weather, food shortages, and poor sanitation.[[19]](#cite_note-19) On the morning of Sunday, August 17, New York [Governor](/wiki/Governor_of_New_York) [Nelson Rockefeller](/wiki/Nelson_Rockefeller) called festival organizer [John Roberts](/wiki/John_P._Roberts) and told him he was thinking of ordering 10,000 [New York State National Guard](/wiki/New_York_State_National_Guard) troops to the festival. Roberts was successful in persuading Rockefeller not to do this. [Sullivan County](/wiki/Sullivan_County,_New_York) declared a [state of emergency](/wiki/State_of_emergency).<ref name=Nowandthen/> During the festival, personnel from nearby [Stewart Air Force Base](/wiki/Stewart_Air_Force_Base) assisted in helping to ensure order and airlifting performers in and out of the concert venue.<ref name=Evans>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

[Jimi Hendrix](/wiki/Jimi_Hendrix) was the last act to perform at the festival. Because of the rain delays that Sunday, when Hendrix finally took the stage it was 8:30 Monday morning. The audience, which had peaked at an estimated 400,000 during the festival, was now reduced to about 30,000 by that point; many of them merely waited to catch a glimpse of Hendrix before leaving during his performance.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Hendrix and his new band, Gypsy Sun and Rainbows (introduced as [The Experience](/wiki/The_Jimi_Hendrix_Experience), but corrected by Jimi) [[21]](#cite_note-21) performed a two-hour set. His [psychedelic](/wiki/Psychedelic_music) rendition of the U.S. national anthem, "[The Star-Spangled Banner](/wiki/The_Star-Spangled_Banner)" occurred about [Template:Frac](/wiki/Template:Frac) into their set (after which he segued into "Purple Haze"). The song would become "part of the sixties [Zeitgeist](/wiki/Zeitgeist)" as it was captured forever in the Woodstock film;[[22]](#cite_note-22) Hendrix's image performing this number wearing a blue-beaded white leather jacket with fringe and a red head scarf has since been regarded as a defining moment of the 1960s.[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[23]](#cite_note-23) [Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box)

Although the festival was remarkably peaceful given the number of people and the conditions involved, there were two recorded fatalities: one from what was believed to be a heroin overdose, and another caused in an accident when a tractor ran over an attendee sleeping in a nearby hayfield. There also were two births recorded at the event (one in a car caught in traffic and another in a hospital after an airlift by helicopter) and four miscarriages.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Oral testimony in the film supports the overdose and run-over deaths and at least one birth, along with many logistical headaches.

Yet, in tune with the idealistic hopes of the 1960s, Woodstock satisfied most attendees. There was a sense of social harmony, which, with the quality of music, and the overwhelming mass of people, many sporting [bohemian](/wiki/Bohemianism) dress, behavior, and attitudes helped to make it one of the enduring events of the century.[[25]](#cite_note-25) After the concert, Max Yasgur, who owned the site of the event, saw it as a victory of peace and love. He spoke of how nearly half a million people filled with potential for disaster, riot, looting, and catastrophe spent the three days with music and peace on their minds. He stated, "If we join them, we can turn those adversities that are the problems of America today into a hope for a brighter and more peaceful future..."[[7]](#cite_note-7)

### Sound[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[upright|thumb|The Original Woodstock Poster with the](/wiki/File:Original_woodstock_poster.jpg) [Wallkill, New York](/wiki/Wallkill,_Orange_County,_New_York) location Sound for the concert was engineered by sound engineer [Bill Hanley](/wiki/Bill_Hanley_(sound_engineer)). "It worked very well," he says of the event. "I built special speaker columns on the hills and had 16 loudspeaker arrays in a square platform going up to the hill on [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) towers. We set it up for 150,000 to 200,000 people. Of course, 500,000 showed up."[[26]](#cite_note-26) [ALTEC](/wiki/Altec_Lansing) designed marine plywood cabinets that weighed half a ton apiece and stood [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) tall, almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) deep, and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) wide. Each of these enclosures carried four [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [JBL](/wiki/JBL) D140 loudspeakers. The [tweeters](/wiki/Tweeter) consisted of 4×2-Cell & 2×10-Cell Altec Horns. Behind the stage were three transformers providing 2,000 [amperes](/wiki/Amperes) of current to power the amplification setup.[[27]](#cite_note-27) For many years this system was collectively referred to as *the Woodstock Bins*.[[28]](#cite_note-28)

### Performing artists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Thirty-two acts performed over the course of the four days:[[29]](#cite_note-29)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Friday, August 15 – Saturday, August 16 | | |
| **Artist** | **Time** | **Notes** |
| [Richie Havens](/wiki/Richie_Havens) | 5:07 pm – 7:00 pm |  |
| [Swami Satchidananda](/wiki/Swami_Satchidananda) | 7:10 pm – 7:20 pm | Gave the opening speech/invocation for the festival.[[30]](#cite_note-30) |
| [Sweetwater](/wiki/Sweetwater_(band)) | 7:30 pm – 8:10 pm |  |
| [Bert Sommer](/wiki/Bert_Sommer) | 8:20 pm – 9:15 pm |  |
| [Tim Hardin](/wiki/Tim_Hardin) | 9:20 pm – 9:45 pm |  |
| [Ravi Shankar](/wiki/Ravi_Shankar) | 10:00 pm – 10:35 pm | Played through the rain. |
| [Melanie](/wiki/Melanie_Safka) | 10:50 pm – 11:20 pm |  |
| [Arlo Guthrie](/wiki/Arlo_Guthrie) | 11:55 pm – 12:25 am |  |
| [Joan Baez](/wiki/Joan_Baez) | 12:55 am – 2:00 am | Was six months pregnant at the time. |

[thumb|upright|Magazine advertisement promoting the Woodstock Music & Art Fair's "Aquarian Exposition," to be held in Wallkill, NY.](/wiki/File:6908-woodstock-ad.jpg)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Saturday, August 16 – Sunday, August 17 | | |
| **Artist** | **Time** | **Notes** |
| [Quill](/wiki/Quill_(band)) | 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm |  |
| [Country Joe McDonald](/wiki/Country_Joe_McDonald) | 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm | Joe later performed together with The Fish. |
| [Santana](/wiki/Santana_(band)) | 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm | Michael Shrieve, the band's drummer, was the youngest musician to play at the festival.[[31]](#cite_note-31) |
| [John Sebastian](/wiki/John_Sebastian) | 3:30 pm – 3:55 pm | Sebastian was not on the bill, but rather was attending the festival, and was recruited to perform while the promoters waited for many of the scheduled performers to arrive. |
| [Keef Hartley Band](/wiki/Keef_Hartley) | 4:45 pm – 5:30 pm |  |
| [The Incredible String Band](/wiki/The_Incredible_String_Band) | 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm |  |
| [Canned Heat](/wiki/Canned_Heat) | 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm |  |
| [Mountain](/wiki/Mountain_(band)) | 9:00 pm – 10:00 pm | This performance was only their third gig as a band[[32]](#cite_note-32) |
| [Grateful Dead](/wiki/Grateful_Dead) | 10:30 pm – 12:05 am | Their set was cut short after the stage amps overloaded during "Turn On Your Love Light". |
| [Creedence Clearwater Revival](/wiki/Creedence_Clearwater_Revival) | 12:30 am – 1:20 am |  |
| [Janis Joplin](/wiki/Janis_Joplin) with The [Kozmic Blues Band](/wiki/Kozmic_Blues_Band)[[33]](#cite_note-33) | 2:00 am – 3:00 am |  |
| [Sly and the Family Stone](/wiki/Sly_and_the_Family_Stone) | 3:30 am – 4:20 am |  |
| [The Who](/wiki/The_Who) | 5:00 am – 6:05 am | Briefly interrupted by [Abbie Hoffman](/wiki/Abbie_Hoffman).[[34]](#cite_note-34) |
| [Jefferson Airplane](/wiki/Jefferson_Airplane) | 8:00 am – 9:40 am | Joined onstage by former [Jeff Beck Group](/wiki/Jeff_Beck_Group) piano player [Nicky Hopkins](/wiki/Nicky_Hopkins). |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday, August 17 – Monday, August 18 | | |
| **Artist** | **Time** | **Notes** |
| [Joe Cocker](/wiki/Joe_Cocker) and [The Grease Band](/wiki/The_Grease_Band) | 2:00 pm – 3:25 pm | Played "With A Little Help From My Friends."[[35]](#cite_note-35) After Joe Cocker's set, a thunderstorm disrupted the events for several hours. |
| [Country Joe and the Fish](/wiki/Country_Joe_and_the_Fish) | 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm | Country Joe McDonald's second performance. |
| [Ten Years After](/wiki/Ten_Years_After) | 8:15 pm – 9:15 pm |  |
| [The Band](/wiki/The_Band) | 10:00 pm – 10:50 pm |  |
| [Johnny Winter](/wiki/Johnny_Winter) | 12:00 am – 1:05 am | Winter's brother, [Edgar Winter](/wiki/Edgar_Winter), is featured on three songs. |
| [Blood, Sweat & Tears](/wiki/Blood,_Sweat_&_Tears) | 1:30 am – 2:30 am |  |
| [Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young](/wiki/Crosby,_Stills,_Nash_&_Young) | 3:00 am – 4:00 am | An acoustic and electric set were played. [Neil Young](/wiki/Neil_Young) skipped most of the acoustic set. |
| [Paul Butterfield Blues Band](/wiki/Paul_Butterfield) | 6:00 am – 6:45 am |  |
| [Sha Na Na](/wiki/Sha_Na_Na) | 7:30 am – 8:00 am |  |
| [Jimi Hendrix](/wiki/Jimi_Hendrix) / Gypsy Sun & Rainbows | 9:00 am – 11:10 am | Performed to a considerably smaller crowd of fewer than 200,000 people.[[36]](#cite_note-36) |

### Artist earnings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

* Jimi Hendrix – $30,000 for two sets plus $2,000 for expenses. Note- There was a cap of $15,000 per artist at Woodstock so a deal was made for Hendrix to play two sets, an acoustic set and a set with his band.[[37]](#cite_note-37)\* Blood, Sweat & Tears – $15,000
* Joan Baez – $10,000
* Creedence Clearwater Revival – $10,000
* The Band – $7,500
* Janis Joplin – $7,500
* Jefferson Airplane – $7,500
* Sly and the Family Stone – $7,000
* Canned Heat – $6,500
* The Who – $6,250 (also reported at $11,200 but [*Variety*](/wiki/Variety_(magazine)) claimed that number was inaccurate)
* Richie Havens – $6,000
* Arlo Guthrie – $5,000
* Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young – $5,000
* Ravi Shankar – $4,500
* Johnny Winter – $3,750
* Ten Years After – $3,250
* Country Joe and the Fish – $2,500
* Grateful Dead – $2,500
* The Incredible String Band – $2,250
* Mountain – $2,000
* Tim Hardin – $2,000
* Joe Cocker – $1,375
* Sweetwater – $1,250
* John B. Sebastian – $1,000
* Melanie – $750
* Santana – $750
* Sha Na Na – $700
* Keef Hartley – $500
* Quill – $375
* Paul Butterfield Blues Band – figures not available
* Bert Sommer – figures not available

Iron Butterfly was to have received $5,000 plus an additional $5,000 for their light show. They never showed.

### Declined invitations and missed connections[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

* [Bob Dylan](/wiki/Bob_Dylan), in whose "backyard" the festival was held, was never in serious negotiation. Instead, Dylan signed in mid-July to play the [Isle of Wight Festival of Music](/wiki/Isle_of_Wight_Festival_1969), on August 31. Dylan set sail for England on [Template:RMS](/wiki/Template:RMS) on August 15, the day the Woodstock Festival started. His son was injured by a cabin door and the family disembarked. Dylan, with his wife Sara, flew to England the following week. Dylan had been unhappy about the number of [hippies](/wiki/Hippies) piling up outside his house in the nearby town of Woodstock.[[38]](#cite_note-38)\* [The Jeff Beck Group](/wiki/The_Jeff_Beck_Group): Jeff Beck disbanded the group prior to Woodstock. "I deliberately broke the group up before Woodstock", Beck said. "I didn't want it to be preserved." Interestingly, it was to have been the first time that Beck would perform with [Tim Bogert](/wiki/Tim_Bogert) and [Carmine Appice](/wiki/Carmine_Appice). Also, Beck's piano player [Nicky Hopkins](/wiki/Nicky_Hopkins) performed with [Jefferson Airplane](/wiki/Jefferson_Airplane).[[39]](#cite_note-39)\* [The Doors](/wiki/The_Doors) were considered as a potential performing band but canceled at the last moment. According to guitarist [Robby Krieger](/wiki/Robby_Krieger), they turned it down because they thought it would be a "second class repeat of [Monterey Pop Festival](/wiki/Monterey_Pop_Festival)" and later regretted that decision.[[40]](#cite_note-40)\* [Led Zeppelin](/wiki/Led_Zeppelin) was asked to perform, their manager [Peter Grant](/wiki/Peter_Grant_(music_manager)) stated: "We were asked to do Woodstock and [Atlantic](/wiki/Atlantic_Records) were very keen, and so was our U.S. promoter, Frank Barsalona. I said no because at Woodstock we'd have just been another band on the bill." However, the group did play the first [Atlanta International Pop Festival](/wiki/Atlanta_International_Pop_Festival_(1969)) on July 5, as one of 22 bands at the two-day event. Woodstock weekend, Zeppelin performed south of the festival at the [Asbury Park Convention Hall](/wiki/Asbury_Park_Convention_Hall) in [New Jersey](/wiki/New_Jersey). Their only time out taken was to attend [Elvis Presley's](/wiki/Elvis_Presley) show at the International Hotel in Las Vegas, on August 12.[[41]](#cite_note-41)\* [The Byrds](/wiki/The_Byrds) were invited, but chose not to participate, figuring Woodstock to be no different from any of the other music festivals that summer. There were also concerns about money. As bassist [John York](/wiki/John_York_(musician)) remembers: "We were flying to a gig and [Roger [McGuinn](/wiki/Roger_McGuinn)] came up to us and said that a guy was putting on a festival in upstate New York. But at that point they weren't paying all of the bands. He asked us if we wanted to do it and we said, 'No'. We had no idea what it was going to be. We were burned out and tired of the festival scene. [...] So all of us said, 'No, we want a rest' and missed the best festival of all."[[42]](#cite_note-42)\* [Chicago](/wiki/Chicago_(band)), at the time still known as the Chicago Transit Authority, had initially been signed on to play at Woodstock. However, they had a contract with concert promoter [Bill Graham](/wiki/Bill_Graham_(promoter)), which allowed him to move Chicago's concerts at the [Fillmore West](/wiki/Fillmore_West). He rescheduled some of their dates to August 17, thus forcing the band to back out of the concert. Graham did so to ensure that [Santana](/wiki/Santana_(band)), which he managed at the time, would take their slot at the festival. According to singer and bassist [Peter Cetera](/wiki/Peter_Cetera), "We were sort of peeved at him for pulling that one."[[43]](#cite_note-43)\* [Tommy James and the Shondells](/wiki/Tommy_James_and_the_Shondells) declined an invitation. Lead singer [Tommy James](/wiki/Tommy_James) stated later: "We could have just kicked ourselves. We were in Hawaii, and my secretary called and said, 'Yeah, listen, there's this pig farmer in [upstate New York](/wiki/Upstate_New_York) that wants you to play in his field.' That's how it was put to me. So we passed, and we realized what we'd missed a couple of days later."[[44]](#cite_note-44)\* [The Moody Blues](/wiki/The_Moody_Blues) were included on the original Wallkill poster as performers, but decided to back out after being booked in Paris the same weekend.[[45]](#cite_note-45)\* [Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention](/wiki/The_Mothers_of_Invention), according to the Class of the 20th Century U.S. television special, is quoted as saying "A lot of mud at Woodstock ... We were invited to play there, we turned it down.'[[45]](#cite_note-45)\* [Arthur Lee and Love](/wiki/Love_(band)) declined the invitation, but Mojo Magazine later described inner turmoil within the band which caused their absence at the Woodstock festival.[[45]](#cite_note-45)\* [Free](/wiki/Free_(band)) was asked to perform and declined.[[45]](#cite_note-45)\* [Mind Garage](/wiki/Mind_Garage) declined because they thought the festival would be no huge deal and they had a higher paying gig elsewhere.[[45]](#cite_note-45)\* [Spirit](/wiki/Spirit_(band)) also declined an invitation to play, as they already had shows planned and wanted to play those instead, not knowing how big Woodstock would be.[[46]](#cite_note-46)\* [Joni Mitchell](/wiki/Joni_Mitchell) was originally slated to perform, but canceled at the urging of her manager to avoid missing a scheduled appearance on [*The Dick Cavett Show*](/wiki/The_Dick_Cavett_Show).[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48)\*[Lighthouse](/wiki/Lighthouse_(band)) declined to perform at Woodstock.[[49]](#cite_note-49)\* [Roy Rogers](/wiki/Roy_Rogers) was asked by Lang to close the festival with [*Happy Trails*](/wiki/Happy_Trails_(song)) but he declined.[[50]](#cite_note-50)\* [Procol Harum](/wiki/Procol_Harum) was invited but refused because Woodstock fell at the end of a long tour and also coincided with the due date of guitarist Robin Trower's baby.[[51]](#cite_note-51)\* [Jethro Tull](/wiki/Jethro_Tull_(band)) also declined. According to frontman [Ian Anderson](/wiki/Ian_Anderson), he knew it would be a big event but he did not want to go because he did not like hippies and other concerns including inappropriate nudity.[[52]](#cite_note-52)\* [Iron Butterfly](/wiki/Iron_Butterfly) was booked to appear, and is listed on the Woodstock poster for a Sunday performance, but could not perform because they were stuck at an airport.[[53]](#cite_note-53)\* [Raven](/wiki/Raven_(American_band)) – attorney Miles Laurie, one of Michael Lang's lawyers set up a meeting with [Raven](/wiki/Raven_(American_band)) manager, [Marty Angelo](/wiki/Marty_Angelo) and offered his band a spot on the lineup but only if they signed a contract with Lang to be Raven's record producer and 10% of future earnings. [Raven](/wiki/Raven_(American_band)) turned down his offer based on the fact that the year before the band played at one of Woodstock's "Sound Outs" and the gig didn't go well. Lang assured them that his concert was going to be different. The band respectfully declined.[[54]](#cite_note-54)

### Media coverage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Very few reporters from outside the immediate area were on the scene. During the first few days of the festival, national media coverage emphasized the problems. Front page headlines in the [*Daily News*](/wiki/Daily_News_(New_York)) read "Traffic Uptight at Hippiefest" and "Hippies Mired in a Sea of Mud". Coverage became more positive by the end of the festival, in part because the parents of concertgoers called the media and told them, based on their children's phone calls, that their reporting was misleading.<ref name=Nowandthen>[Template:Cite AV media](/wiki/Template:Cite_AV_media)</ref><ref name=BacktotheGarden/>

*The New York Times* covered the prelude to the festival and the move from Wallkill to Bethel.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Barnard Collier, who reported from the event for *The New York Times*, asserts that he was pressured by on-duty editors at the paper to write a misleadingly negative article about the event. According to Collier, this led to acrimonious discussions and his threat to refuse to write the article until the paper's executive editor, [James Reston](/wiki/James_Reston), agreed to let him write the article as he saw fit. The eventual article dealt with issues of traffic jams and minor lawbreaking, but went on to emphasize cooperation, generosity, and the good nature of the festival goers.<ref name=Nowandthen/><ref name=BacktotheGarden>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> When the festival was over, Collier wrote another article about the exodus of fans from the festival site and the lack of violence at the event. The chief medical officer for the event and several local residents were quoted as praising the festival goers.[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[55]](#cite_note-55) [Middletown, New York's](/wiki/Middletown,_Orange_County,_New_York) [*Times Herald-Record*](/wiki/Times_Herald-Record), the only local daily newspaper, editorialized against the law that banned the festival from Wallkill. During the festival a rare Saturday edition was published. The paper had the only phone line running out of the site, and it used a motorcyclist to get stories and pictures from the impassable crowd to the newspaper's office [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) away in Middletown.[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58)

## Releases[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

### Films[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The documentary film *Woodstock*, directed by [Michael Wadleigh](/wiki/Michael_Wadleigh) and edited by [Thelma Schoonmaker](/wiki/Thelma_Schoonmaker) and [Martin Scorsese](/wiki/Martin_Scorsese), was released in 1970. [Artie Kornfeld](/wiki/Artie_Kornfeld) (one of the promoters of the festival) went to [Fred Weintraub](/wiki/Fred_Weintraub), an executive at [Warner Bros.](/wiki/Warner_Bros.), and asked for money to film the festival. Artie had been turned down everywhere else, but against the express wishes of other Warner Bros. executives, Weintraub put his job on the line and gave Kornfeld $100,000 to make the film. *Woodstock* helped to save Warner Bros at a time when the company was on the verge of going out of business. The book [*Easy Riders, Raging Bulls*](/wiki/Easy_Riders,_Raging_Bulls) details the making of the film.

Wadleigh rounded up a crew of about 100 from the New York film scene. With no money to pay the crew, he agreed to a double-or-nothing scheme, in which the crew would receive double pay if the film succeeded and nothing if it bombed. Wadleigh strove to make the film as much about the hippies as the music, listening to their feelings about compelling events contemporaneous with the festival (such as the [Vietnam War](/wiki/Vietnam_War)), as well as the views of the townspeople.[[59]](#cite_note-59) *Woodstock* received the [Academy Award for Documentary Feature](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Documentary_Feature).[[60]](#cite_note-60) The film has been deemed [culturally significant](/wiki/Culturally_significant) by the United States [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress). In 1994, *Woodstock: The Director's Cut* was released and expanded to include Janis Joplin as well as additional performances by Jefferson Airplane, Jimi Hendrix, and Canned Heat not seen in the original version of the film. In 2009, the expanded 40th Anniversary Edition was released on DVD. This release marks the film's first availability on [Blu-ray disc](/wiki/Blu-ray_disc).

Another film on Woodstock named [*Taking Woodstock*](/wiki/Taking_Woodstock) was produced in 2009 by Taiwanese American filmmaker [Ang Lee](/wiki/Ang_Lee).[[61]](#cite_note-61) Lee practically rented out the entire town of New Lebanon, New York, to shoot the film. He was concerned with angering the locals, but they ended up being incredibly welcoming and excited to help with the film.<ref name=Karen>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The movie is based on Elliot Tiber, played by Demetri Martin, and his role in bringing Woodstock to Bethel, New York. The film also stars Jonathan Groff as Michael Lang and Henry Goodman and Imelda Staunton as Jake and Sonia Teichberg.<ref name=Synopsis>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Albums[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

Two soundtrack albums were released. The first, [*Woodstock: Music from the Original Soundtrack and More*](/wiki/Woodstock:_Music_from_the_Original_Soundtrack_and_More), was a 3-LP (later 2-CD) album containing a sampling of one or two songs by most of the acts who performed. A year later, [*Woodstock 2*](/wiki/Woodstock_2) was released as a 2-LP album. Both albums included recordings of stage announcements (e.g., "[We're told] that the brown acid is not specifically too good", "Hey, if you think really hard, maybe we can stop this rain") and crowd noises (i.e., the rain chant) between songs. In 1994, a third album, [*Woodstock Diary*](/wiki/Woodstock_Diary) was released. Tracks from all three albums, as well as numerous additional, previously unreleased performances from the festival but not the stage announcements and crowd noises, were reissued by Atlantic as a 4-CD [box set](/wiki/Box_set) titled [*Woodstock: Three Days of Peace and Music*](/wiki/Woodstock:_Three_Days_of_Peace_and_Music).

An album titled [*Jimi Hendrix: Woodstock*](/wiki/Woodstock_(Jimi_Hendrix_album)) also was released in 1994, featuring only selected recordings of Jimi Hendrix at the festival. A longer double-disc set, [*Live at Woodstock*](/wiki/Live_at_Woodstock) (1999) features nearly every song of Hendrix's performance, omitting just two pieces that were sung by his rhythm guitarist.

In 2009, [Joe Cocker](/wiki/Joe_Cocker) released a live album of his entire Woodstock set. The album contained eleven tracks, ten of which were previously unreleased.

In 2009, complete performances from Woodstock by Santana, Janis Joplin, Sly & the Family Stone, Jefferson Airplane, and Johnny Winter were released separately by [Legacy](/wiki/Legacy_Recordings)/[SME Records](/wiki/Sony_Music_Entertainment), and were also collected in a box set titled [*The Woodstock Experience*](/wiki/The_Woodstock_Experience). Also, in 2009, [Rhino](/wiki/Rhino_Records)/[Atlantic Records](/wiki/Atlantic_Records) issued a 6-CD box set titled [*Woodstock: 40 Years On: Back to Yasgur's Farm*](/wiki/Woodstock:_40_Years_On:_Back_to_Yasgur's_Farm), which included further musical performances as well as stage announcements and other ancillary material.[[62]](#cite_note-62)

## Aftermath[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|right|Peace and Music Woodstock monument with plaques by sculptor Wayne C. Saward](/wiki/File:Woodstockpla.jpg)[[63]](#cite_note-63) and erected in 1984 on the festival site. (Note that [John Sebastian's](/wiki/John_Sebastian) surname is misspelled as "Sabastian")[[64]](#cite_note-64) Max Yasgur refused to rent out his farm for a 1970 revival of the festival, saying, "As far as I know, I'm going back to running a dairy farm." Yasgur died in 1973.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Bethel voters tossed out their supervisor in an election held in November 1969 because of his role in bringing the festival to the town. New York State and the town of Bethel passed mass gathering laws designed to prevent any more festivals from occurring.

In 1984, at the original festival site, land owners Louis Nicky and June Gelish put up a monument marker with plaques called "Peace and Music" by a local sculptor from nearby [Bloomingburg](/wiki/Bloomingburg,_New_York), Wayne C. Saward (1957–2009).[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[66]](#cite_note-66) Attempts were made to prevent people from visiting the site, its owners spread chicken manure, and during one anniversary, tractors and state police cars formed roadblocks. Twenty thousand people gathered at the site in 1989 during an impromptu 20th anniversary celebration. In 1997 a community group put up a welcoming sign for visitors. Unlike Bethel, the town of Woodstock made several efforts to cash in on its notoriety. Bethel's stance changed in recent years, and the town now embraces the festival. Efforts have begun to forge a link between Bethel and Woodstock.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Approximately 80 lawsuits were filed against Woodstock Ventures, primarily by farmers in the area. The movie financed settlements and paid off the $1.4 million of debt Woodstock Ventures had incurred from the festival.<ref name=Nowandthen/>

## Legacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

### Woodstock site today[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb||right|Max Yasgur's Farm in 1999](/wiki/File:Max_Yasgurs_Farm_2.JPG) In 1984, a plaque was placed at the original site commemorating the festival.[[68]](#cite_note-68) The field and the stage area remain preserved in their rural setting and the fields of the Yasgur farm are still visited by people of all generations.[[69]](#cite_note-69) In 1996, the site of the concert and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) surrounding was purchased by cable television pioneer [Alan Gerry](/wiki/Alan_Gerry) for the purpose of creating the [Bethel Woods Center for the Arts](/wiki/Bethel_Woods_Center_for_the_Arts).[[70]](#cite_note-70) The Center opened on July 1, 2006, with a performance by the [New York Philharmonic](/wiki/New_York_Philharmonic).[[71]](#cite_note-71) On August 13, 2006, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young performed before 16,000 fans at the new Center—37 years after their historic performance at Woodstock.[[72]](#cite_note-72)