

1 THE BRITISH INVASION

- U.S. in early 60's: Optimism with Kennedy (Camelot) / ML King, Civil Rights
- "The New Frontier"
- August 1963: Washington: Martin Luther King Jr. – "I have a dream"
- Kennedy assassinated Nov 22, 1963 – Dallas, Texas
- February 1964: The Beatles arrive in New York

1.1 Post War Britain

- Return to DIY culture: massive unemployment, things were very tough after the war
- Skiffle: Groups which played popular music with acoustic instruments

1.2 The Quarrymen

- July 1957: John Lennon / Paul McCartney (vocals and guitar)
- Both of them used to write songs; about 15 years old
- Wrote tons of songs together, started off bad but got better
- February 1958: George Harrison ("lead" guitar)
- August 1960: Pete Best (drums)

1.3 The Beatles

- They used to play in:
 - Hamburg, Germany
 - Liverpool – The Cavern Club
- "Rocker" image
 - British subculture
 - Modelled look on perception of American bikers/motorcycle gangs
- Paul McCartney becomes the lead bass player

1.3.1 Manager: December 1961 – Brian Epstein

- "Undeniable personal charm, something about them," he saw that the Beatles were special, despite their image
- He changes the Beatles from their "rocker image" to a more cutting-edge, cleaner image

- Every record company in Great Britain turned down the Beatles (because everyone thought guitar-based bands were starting to phase out)
- June 1962: Parlophone – Division of EMI
- Producer: George Martin (master in terms of teaching them about the recording studio)
- New drummer: Ringo Starr (Pete was cut fast; Pete and John were fighting)

1.3.2 September 1962: “Love Me Do” – First song of the Beatles

1.3.3 January 1963: “Please Please Me”

- AABA form
- Numerous rehearsed details
- Change in rhythmic density in vocal
- Highest note at the end of the B section
- TPA-style attention to arrangement

1.3.4 November 1963: Royal Variety

- The Beatles get invited, this is where they cement themselves in Britain, televised and seen by millions
- British pop stars tried to get into the American industry, but everyone failed miserably except for the Beatles

1.3.5 February 1964: “The Beatles are coming”

- This slogan was everywhere: billboards, signs, posters, etc.
- “Second British invasion”
- Deb 9th Ed Sullivan Show – 70 million viewers
 - Most important event in western popular music
 - “Life changed when I saw the Beatles”
 - “Golden Age of Rock ‘n’ Roll was back”
- They went down to Washington and played in a sports arena
- Tour lasts for 2 weeks: 2 million albums, \$2.5 million in merchandising
- When they came back, 50,000 to 70,000 teens waiting at the airport
- Hysteria known as “Beatlemania”

1.3.6 April 1964

- 12 songs in the Billboard top 100 pop
- Including positions 1 to 5
- End of the 4th U.S. Tour in 1965: \$65 million
 - 1 notable performance: Shea Stadium
 - Huge stadium, using stadium lights, hard to hear because of the fans screaming, paved the way for stadium performing
- Beatles changed the way live performances were held and the economics of the industry
- Importance – Template for what is to follow. Mersey Beat: Gerry and the Pacemakers, The Searchers, The Swinging Blue Jeans
- July 1965: Their second film – Help

1.3.7 “Yesterday” (from the album, “Help”)

- AABA form
- More complex harmonic and lyric structures
- String quartet (considered serious)
- Only Paul McCartney playing in this, showing the first instance of separation, leading to the eventual separation years later
- They met Bob Dylan, he said the Beatles were just “OK,” which impacted them
- Beatles are evolving, moving away from pop song writing to becoming artists
- August 1965: “Help”
- December 1965: “Rubber Soul”
- August 1966: “Revolver”
- “Rubber Soul” and “Revolver” didn’t have “The Beatles” on the cover (innovation), images were distorted and more interesting
- Writer vs. artist: Writers stick to tradition, while artists try new and creative things

1.3.8 “Tomorrow Never Knows” (from Revolver, composed by John Lennon)

- Song is based on a drone (influence of non-western culture)
 - Lyrics are based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead
 - The Beatles are developing an interest in classical music of India, travelling overseas
 - Drones are an important part of Indian classical music
 - Used an instrument called the tanpura
 - Vocal is “double-tracked” and is run through a “Leslie” (sounds like a phone call) speaker cabinet (“hearing 2 John Lennon’s at once”)
 - Makes use of tape “loops” (avant-garde) and backwards recording
 - First known use of “flanging”
 - 2 different solos played by George Harrison: 1 guitar solo and 1 sitar solo, both played backwards
 - Demonstrates the growing influence of non-western culture and the technology of the recording studio on the work of the Beatles. This song would have been completely unplayable in concert in the 1960’s
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- Starting to get tired of huge concerts since they can never hear the actual music because of the screaming fans
 - The band was losing interest in public performance (1966)
 - An English newspaper ran a series of interviews with the Beatles. John was becoming the intellectual of the group. John was asked, “what we thought was the role of religion in today’s music?” John said, “Jesus was alright and has some good ideas. But now they have become like big businesses. Beatles are bigger than Jesus.”
 - “Bigger than Jesus”: Lots of protests due to the quote
 - Last tour ended on August 29: Candlestick Park in San Francisco
 - Beatles announce they are retiring from public performances and would become a recording-only band

1.3.9 June 1967: “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”

- Album cover included the lyrics to all of the songs, which was unusual, they want you to listen and know what the words are

- Extraordinarily looking cover
- Changes the world

1.3.10 Example: “A Day in the Life”

- Assembled out of sections separately composed
- “Post modern” approach to creating forms, push to emotion
 - Post modernism means you get to make your own rules
 - You can come up with a new idea or borrow an old idea (ex. no AABA or 12-bar)
 - Don’t have to follow any conventions
- Avant-garde techniques with orchestra and piano
- Incorporated chance and probabilities, leaving 1 or 2 big things to the performer, such as order of the words
 - Ex. Given first note and last note, you can do whatever in-between, allowing for freedom and creativity
 - Mics, blankets, and pre-amps in each piano, making the note play for a long time
- The first “concept album” (?)
 - Either a collection of songs linked to a specific concept (ex. freedom, joy, happiness, etc.), or a story (ex. scene from a movie, or a book, etc.)
 - Problems:
 - 1) May not have been the first concept album (ex. Johnny Cash might have been first)
 - 2) Not actually a concept album, was supposed to be about their childhood in Liverpool, but some songs weren’t related, so not fully related
- Shift to the “hippie aesthetic”
 - Marks shift from “Rock ‘n’ Roll” to “Rock”
 - Moving from:
 - Singles to albums (ex. buy whole albums, focus on a favourite artist)
 - Dancing to listening
 - Entertainment to “serious” musicians (ex. Chuck Berry was an entertainer)

- AM radio (singles) to FM radio – AOR (album-oriented rock)
 - AM vs. FM: AM easier but monotonic, FM harder but more than monotonic (can broadcast more)
- Shift from entertainer to artist (allowed to change, able to try new things, be unpredictable)
- 1967: Just before Sgt. Peppers came out, Brian Epstein died of a drug overdose. After this, they started disintegrating
- Spring 1970: Beatles break up after Paul McCartney announced he is leaving the band
- In a period of 6 years and 2 months, Beatles changed the entire music industry

1.4 The British Blues Revival

- London: Interest in blues Chess Tour (Chess Records)
- Fleetwood Mac, Cream, Eric Clapton, Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones
- R&B → Soul (R&B was getting old, wanted something new)
- Muddy Waters → Big in London → revival of blues

1.5 The Rolling Stones

- Leader is Brian Jones
- Debut at the Marquee Club: July 1962
- Andrew Loog Oldham became their manager in April 1963
 - 2 big changes:
 - They looked like the Beatles → changed their image to look more “dangerous”
 - Said to write their own songs to make more money
- 1963: Change of image
- 1963-1964: All singles are covers (Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Willie Dixon)

1.5.1 November 1963: “I Wanna Be Your Man” (Lennon/McCartney)

- “England’s Newest Hitmakers”
 - Mostly blues covers (chosen by Brian Jones)

1.5.2 April 1964: “King’s Bee”

- Blues form → return of blues, not pop
- Cover of song by Slim Harpo (1957)
- Lyrics: Adult relationships
- Accurately captures blues “feel”, “nailing the accent”
- Starting to write their own songs (Brian Jones not fond of it)

1.5.3 February 1965: “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction” (Jagger/Richards)

- First U.S. #1 Pop
- Informal comparison between them and the Beatles:
 - Demonstrates importance of image (your image has a profound impact on your success)
 - Made big decisions (ex. Mick Jagger decided to leave school for the band)
 - “Ugly version of the Beatles”, edgy, risky
- The Beatles/The Rolling Stones
 - Image:
 - The Rolling Stones were the more dangerous group and appealed to the working class
 - The Beatles appealed to the middle-class
 - “Process” vs. “Product”
 - Rolling Stones are about the process and aimed to make sense in the moment while Beatles had a clear goal in mind
 - African American music is process oriented while Tin Pan Alley is product oriented
- As the band became more successful and more “original,” Brian Jones becomes more un-interested. In Spring 1969, Rolling Stones were preparing for a U.S. tour. Brian Jones’ work visa was rejected due to unsettled drug charges
- Brian Jones stepped down and later he was found dead in his swimming pool due to “death by misadventure”