#### Week 2:

1. Maybellene - Chuck Berry
   * Upbeat, fast paced, high tempo
   * Feels like music you would dance to
   * A Lot of guitar - some picking
   * Heavy innuendo and double entendres in lyrics (spoke about this in class)
   * Piano?
   * Count as Rhythm and Blues but also Rock and roll?
2. Rock Around the Clock - Bill Haley and the Comets
   * Drums, Piano, sax?
   * Strong guitar solo
   * Upbeat, fast
   * Feels a little like swing
   * Heavy drums around 2:20
   * Falls under Blues music?
3. **W**ill you love me tomorrow - The Shirelles
   * Not as upbeat as previous songs, softer and gentler
   * electric guitar, bass and drums
   * Violens at certain parts
   * Backup singers echoing lead
   * Overall mood of the song feels soft and serene
   * Almost ballad like
   * Fades out at the end
4. **S**urfin’ USA - The Beach Boys
   * Guitar riffs followed by lead vocals, this keeps alternating with backup singers going ‘ooo’
   * Bright guitar throughout, along with a solo
   * Another solo not sure which instrument?
   * Upbeat, happy
   * During the chorus the lead and background vocals overlap, with the backing vocals just repeating one line
5. Good Vibrations - The Beach Boys
   * Much more mellow than the previous song
   * Picks up towards the chorus and then slows down again
   * Much more produced sound
   * Tambourine in the back?
   * Similar backing vocals to the previous song
   * Piano? Not sure what instruments are used
6. "That'll be the Day (That I Die)" - Buddy Holly
   * Main instruments are electric guitar, drums, bass
   * Starts with the chorus
   * Guitar solo
   * Backing vocals get louder during the chorus but are humming during some verses too
   * Medium tempo, not a dance song but not a ballad either.

Beat/Tempo: The speed at which the song is playing

Time Signature:

Rhythm: A musical idea that was being repeated

Melody: Usually what you sing along, can be vocals, lyrics

Harmony: Is all the other notes that accompany the melody

Timbre (Tamber): The quality of sound that's being produced

**Questions**:

Who composed the music? Song name?

What overall instruments were used? How are they being used? Do they work together?

Overall ‘feel’ of the work? Words to describe?

Is there a lot of rhythmic/harmonic activity?

Important Changes?

What stood out to you?

#### Listening Journal Week3:

Sam Cook "A Change is Gonna Come":

An instrumental beginning which makes the song sound almost serene and cinematic as if it was being played at the start of a movie. The violin, cello, trombone and french horn are used to create the aforementioned effect. Sam Cooke’s voice when the vocals kick in starts out strong and melodic. He uses a hopeful tone to sing the socially conscious and emotional lyrics giving the song a powerful feel. The orchestra throughout creates a dramatic feel to the song all while the lyrics make you think. The orchestral arrangement and Sam Cooke’s voice complement each other perfectly and we can see the amount of control he has over his voice. The gospel influences can be heard all throughout the song as the song sounds more spiritual than pop. The genre this song falls into would probably be Soul.

Bob Dylan, "Masters of War"

The song starts off with a heavy (i'm not sure if this is the right word) guitar picking pattern that loops throughout the song, which gives the song a hurried feel. Bob Dylan's voice sounds bitter and powerful while he sings about the government and the military. Dylan’s lyrics can sound harsh and violent at points but he intended for them to be so for the powerful impact they create. It sounds like the only instrument being used throughout the entire song is the same guitar pattern on loop along with the vocals which makes the song sound raw and real while simultaneously allowing the lyrics to be the main focus of the audience. The only time the guitar changes is right at the end of the song, after the last line “And I’m sure that you're dead.”, where instead of continuing with the picking pattern he plays just one chord aggressively and repeatedly which further adds to the anger and overall feel of the song while also drawing focus to the last lyric.

#### Listening Journal Week4:

The Beatles "I Want To Hold Your Hand"

The song has a 4/4 time signature and has a medium up tempo. This song has a generally happy mood. This is being expressed by the artist by using a catchy tune and a quick speed. This sentiment is reinforced by the lyrics. The song starts with a solo guitar riff and the main instruments used are guitars, drums and the bass, following the stereotypical rock n roll format. The song also makes use of a lot of clapping which is something a little different from the usual rock n roll instruments used further adding to the fun upbeat vibe. The form is a simple verse form (ABAB). The same clapping pattern can be heard throughout the verses giving the song a more groovy feel. Towards the end of the second verse the last phrase ‘hold your hand’ is elongated and the note is held for longer while the drums kick in in the back giving a drumroll effect which builds the anticipation for the next few lines that are the hook. They also do something similar at the end of the bridge before starting off with verse 3. Towards the end only the drums can be heard in the back as he emphasizes and stretches the last word to give a dramatic finish.

#### Listening Journal Week 5:

Joni Mitchell's “A Case of You” is one of the leading singles from her fourth album “Blue”. One of the key characteristics of this album was the almost taboo topics Mitchell talked about. This album helped establish her as one of the most remembered singer-songwriters of that generation. The centerpiece of that album is a wonderfully aching and vulnerable song that talks about a relationship that’s ended. The song, that’s been covered by multiple artists one of which is Prince, is beautiful and honest, an example being the lyrics where Mitchell talks about the promises her partner made her that they just aren’t able to fulfill and that she’ll be okay without them even though she could “drink a case of” them. Her strong vocals are only backed up by an acoustic guitar allowing her lyrics and voice to be the center of attention. Starting off with an acoustic guitar solo riff the song almost has a country/folk feel to it. The same guitar riff is looped in the background letting the lyrics shine. The soft melody of the song gives it an almost sad feeling to it adding to the feeling of yearning and love. The song has a 4/4 time signature and a slow tempo.

#### Listening Journal Week 6:

Words & Music released in 1965 contains some of Lou Reed's greatest songs like “I’m Waiting for the Man,” in their earliest versions before he taped them with Velvet Underground. He released this song with The Velvet Underground in 1967. With the song being about Reed meeting up with his heroin dealer on a New York street corner, he tries to make it sound gritty and dangerous. "I'm Waiting for the Man," like many of the band's previous songs, concentrates on the dark side of life in New York City but it only describes the experience rather than condoning or condemning it. Throughout the song the dealer as ‘my man’ which is different from the title in which he's called ‘the man’, this could be to show the personal connection he has with his dealer, even though it’s likely that the relationship was one-sided. The song starts with the gradually and hypnotically looping bluesy lead guitar melody that runs throughout the song, sounding almost like the sound of the train he took to Harlem to meet his dealer. The repetition of the guitar allows for the main focus to be on the storytelling and lyrics. The instruments used are those typical of rock, lead guitar, bass, and drums. The song was one of the biggest that tackled taboo topics like drug abuse, which Reed later confirmed was based on personal experiance. The song also helped lay the groundwork for modern alternative rock.

#### Listening Journal Week 7:

When it was first released in 1971, "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye was a significant and ground-breaking song. Fifty years later, though, it is regrettably still applicable to the world in 2021. The violence and police brutality in America served as inspiration for the song's lyrics. Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Al Cleveland, and Marvin Gaye all contributed to the song's writing, and Gaye produced it. The song signaled Gaye's shift away from his earlier work's Motown Sound and into more introspective stuff. It was the lead single from his What's Going On? album, which was released in May 1971. The song opens with a mock conversation followed by a saxophone line, by musician Eli Fontaine, which adds an almost spiritual feel to the song. An orchestra, bass, guitar, keyboard, and box drums are the instruments used in the song. "What's Going On" reached its highest position at number one on the U.S. Billboard R&B/Soul Singles and number two on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. On "What's Going On," the vocals are incredibly relaxed and careless. Marvin may be heard giving the other vocalists guidance in several of the background passages. The vocals are a little bit pitchy in certain places, but all this works perfectly with the track, so that's what matters.

#### Listening Journal Week 8:

On June 20, 1983, Iron Maiden released "The Trooper," the second single from the band's fourth studio album, Piece of Mind. Its highest position on the US Mainstream Rock charts was #28. It was successful in the UK as well, reaching a peak of #12 on the UK Singles Charts. The song was written by founding member and bassist Steve Harris and is based on the Charge of the Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaclava in 1854, which happened during the Crimean War. further influenced by the same-titled poem by Lord Tennyson. The song really tries to replicate the atmosphere of war as the beginning of "The Trooper" tries to capture the sound of rushing horses during the light brigade charge. The soldier's patriotism is evident in the opening stanza, as he declares his willingness to die in order to save an enemy. "Run you through" refers to the spears and swords mounted atop the rifles to attack advancing foes. The song is heavy metal with a lot of electric guitar shredding, solos, and drums.

#### Listening Journal Week 10:

Nirvana "Smells Like Teen Spirit":

“Smells Like Teen Spirit” is considered one of Nirvana's breakout hits, released in 1991 as part of the album “ Nevermind”. Written by Kurt Cobain the lead vocalist and guitarist of the band. The inspiration for the song comes from his ex-girlfriend spray painting ‘Kurt smells like Teen Spirit’ on a wall, referring to a brand of deodorant. Not knowing this, Cobain thought was a compliment, that she called him an inspirational figure. The song has a high tempo and is fast-paced and energetic. Even though the only instruments used in the song are a couple of guitars, bass, and drums, the sound they make by overlaying is immense. The bass maintains the four-note rhythmic riff throughout, which is initially started by the guitars and then joined by the bass (and drums). In the louder portions, the guitars and drums play the same notes and beat just louder and more powerfully, helping increase the momentum of the song.

The Cranberries "Zombie"

“Zombie” released by The Cranberries was written about the violence in Northern Ireland in the 90s. The song's components—the melody, speed, timbre, and dynamics of the sounds—seem to go along with the song's background and words. The song has a heavy, ominous tone, and its themes—violence and war—are consistent with its constituent parts. The general sounds of the song are created through the utilization of the instruments, including the guitar, bass, and drums, as well as the backing vocals.