

Chapter 1

The Prehistory of Rock 'n' Roll

1. Popular music before the rise of rock 'n' roll
 - a. Sheet music
 - i. Printed notation of popular songs
 - ii. Designed for amateur pianists
 - iii. Payments to songwriters were made in the form of royalties
 - b. Tin Pan Alley
 - i. Streamlined music production process
 - ii. Relied heavily on AABA form
 - c. Broadcasting and recording
 - i. Radio
 1. Top 40 radio developed in early 1950s by Todd Storz in Omaha, Nebraska
 2. Licensing companies ASCAP and BMI competed in the marketplace
 - ii. Television
 1. Fuses forms and functions of radio, record player, and cinema
 - iii. Recordings
 1. Growth in sales supported booming economy
2. The southern roots of rock 'n' roll
 - a. Record companies
 - i. Major labels were large companies with substantial resources
 1. Examples: RCA, Victor, Columbia, Decca, Capitol Records
 - ii. Independent labels were smaller and specialized in a single genre
 - b. Radio
 - i. Helped popularize R&B and country
3. Pre-rock 'n' roll rhythm & blues
 - a. Jump band music
 - i. First commercially successful form of R&B
 - ii. Flourished just after World War II
 1. Exemplified by Louis Jordan and the Tympany Five
 - b. Chicago blues
 - i. Created by transplanted southerners living on the South of Chicago
 - ii. Rooted in the Delta Blues tradition
 - iii. Exemplified by artists like Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon
 - c. Vocal harmony groups (a.k.a. doo-wop)

- i. Grounded in the music of the black church
 - ii. Exemplified by Clyde McPhatter and the Dominoes
 - d. Female R&B performers
 - i. Big Mama Thornton
 - 1. Began her career in the back vaudeville theater
 - 2. Recorded the original version of Lieber and Stoller's "Hound Dog"
 - 3. Had a deep, raspy voice
- 4. Country and western music
 - a. Spread by radio programs like WSM's *Grand Ole Opry*
 - b. "mainstreaming" of country music linked to migration and social mobility
 - c. Honky-tonk
 - i. Country style named after the term for a working-class bar
 - ii. Harder-edged style
- 5. Three big hits of the pre-rock 'n' roll era
 - a. "Goodnight, Irene"
 - b. "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie"
 - c. "Love and Marriage"