

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 7: “Choo Choo Ch’Boogie”: The Postwar Era, 1946–1954

Student Study Outline

- I. Decade Leading Up to Emergence of Rock’ n’ Roll
- II. Hit Records of the late 1940s and Early 1950s
 - a. Romantic songs
 - b. Catchy, light-hearted novelty songs
 - c. Roots of musical conservatism
- III. Economics of the music industry
 - a. **Top 40 radio programming**
 1. **Payola**
 - b. Late 1940s/early 1950s profitable for the music business
- IV. Popular Music and Technology in the Postwar Era
 - a. Magnetic tape recording
 - b. New disc technologies
 - c. Turntables set up to accommodate all three existing formats
 - d. Radio broadcasting
 - e. Television
- V. The Rise of the Big Singers
 - a. **Frank (Francis Albert) Sinatra** (1915–1998)
 - b. **Nat “King” Cole** (1917–1965)
- VI. Listening Guide: “Nancy (With the Laughing Face)”

Music and lyrics by Jimmy Van Heusen and Phil Silvers; performed by Frank Sinatra with the Axel Stordahl Orchestra; recorded 1945

 - a. **Tempo rubato**
- VII. Listening Guide: “Nature Boy”
 - a. Written by Eden Ahbez; performed by Nat “King” Cole, accompanied by Frank DeVol’s Orchestra; recorded 1948
- VIII. Box 7.1 The Broadway Musical After World War II
 - a. *Oklahoma!*
- IX. Urban Folk Music: The Weavers
 - a. “urban folk”
 - b. The Weavers
 - i. **Pete Seeger** (b. 1919–2014)
- X. The Mambo Craze (1949–1955)
 - a. Mambo
- XI. Listening Guide: “Mambo No. 5”
 - a. Written by Perez Prado; performed by Perez Prado and His Orchestra, recorded 1949
- XII. Listening Guide: “Mambo Italiano”

- a. Written by Bob Merrill; arranged by Mitch Miller; performed by Rosemary Clooney; recorded 1954
 - b. **Rosemary Clooney** (1928–2002)
- XIII. Southern Music in the Postwar Era
- XIV. Rhythm and Blues
 - a. **R&B (rhythm & blues)**
 - i. **Covering** or **cover version**
- XV. Listening Guide: “Choo Choo Ch’Boogie”
 - a. Music and lyrics by Milt Gabler, Denver Darling, and Vaughan Horton; performed by Louis Jordan’s Tympany Five; recorded 1946
 - b. **Louis Jordan** (1908–1975)
 - i. **Milt Gabler** (1911–2001)
- XVI. Listening Guide: “Black Night”
 - a. Written by Jessie Robinson; performed by Charles Brown and His Band; released 1951
 - 1. **Leroy Carr** (1905–1935)
 - 2. **Scrapper Blackwell** (1903–1962)
 - ii. **Cecil Grant** (1913–1951)
 - iii. **Charles Brown** (1922–1999)
- XVII. Listening Guide: “Hoochie Coochie Man”
 - a. Written by Willie Dixon; performed by Muddy Waters; released 1954
 - b. **Chicago electric blues**
 - c. **Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield)** (1915–1983)
 - d. **Willie Dixon** (1915–1992)
- XVIII. Vocal Harmony Groups
 - a. Vocal harmony groups
 - i. **Clyde McPhatter** (1932–1972)
- XIX. Listening Guide: R&B Women: Ruth Brown and Big Mama Thornton
 - a. “Mama, He Treats Your Daughter Mean,” written by Johnny Wallace, Herbert J. Lance, and Charles Singleton; performed by Ruth Brown; released 1953
 - i. **Ruth Brown** (1928–2006)
 - b. “Hound Dog,” written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stroller; performed by Big Mama Thornton; released 1953
 - i. **Big Mama Thornton** (1926–1984)
- XX. Box 7.2: The Prince of Wails: Johnnie Ra
 - a. **Johnnie Ray** (1927–1990)
 - i. **Melisma**
- XXI. Country and Western Music
 - i. *Grand Ole Opry*
 - b. **Patti Page** (1927–2013)
 - c. Rise of Country Crooners
 - i. **Eddy Arnold** (1918–2008)
- XXII. Listening Guide: Bluegrass: Bill Monroe’s “It’s Mighty Dark to Travel”

- a. Written by Bill Monroe; performed by Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys; recorded 1947
- b. **Bill Monroe** (1911–1997)

XXIII. Listening Guide: Two Honky-Tonk Hits

- a. “The Wild Side of Life,” written by William Warren and Arlie Carter; performed by Hank Thompson and His Brazos Valley Boys; recorded 1951
 - i. **Honky-tonk music**
 - 1. **Ernest Tubb** (1914–1984)
 - ii. **Hank Thompson** (1925–2007)
- b. “It Wasn’t God Who Made Honky-Tonk Angels,” written by J.D. Miller; performed by Kitty Wells; recorded 1952
 - i. **Kitty Wells** (1918–2012)

XXIV. Listening Guide: Hank Williams

- a. “I’m So Lonesome I Could Cry,” written and performed by Hank Williams; recorded 1949
 - i. **Hank Williams** (1923–1953)
- b. “Hey, Good Lookin’,” written and performed by Hank Williams; recorded 1951

XXV. Key Terms

Bluegrass music	Distortion	Payloa
Blues crooner	Feedback	Rhythm and blues (R&B)
Chicago electric blues	Honky-tonk blues	Tempo rubato
Country and western	Jump blues	Top 40 radio programming
Covering	Magnetic tape recording	Vocal harmony groups
Cover version	Melisma	

XXVI. Key People

“Big Mama” Thornton	Frank (Francis Albert) Sinatra	Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield)
Bill Monroe	Hank Thompson	Nat “King” Cole
Cecil Grant	Hank Williams	Patti Page
Charles Brown	Johnnie Ray	Pete Seeger
Clyde McPhatter	Kitty Wells	Rosemary Clooney
Damaso Perez Pablo	Leroy Carr	Ruth Brown
Eddy Arnold	Louis Jordon	Scrapper Blackwell
Ernest Tubb	Milt Gabler	Willie Dixon