

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 10: "Blowin' in the Wind": Country, Soul, Urban Folk, and the Rise of Rock, 1960s

Key People

Aretha Franklin (b. 1942): Soul singer known for the overwhelming power and intensity of her vocal delivery who produced an extraordinary and virtually uninterrupted stream of hit records over a five-year period.

Bob Dylan (b. 1941 as Robert Zimmerman): Profoundly influential singer and songwriter known for insightful, ironic lyrics who has produced a distinctive, heterogeneous, and erratic output of albums that, taken together, represent a singular testament to the spirit of pop music invention.

Burt Bacharach (b. 1928): Composer whose music, as opposed to rock, emphasized melodic and harmonic sophistication, and highly original phrasing and rhythms in a Tin Pan Alley style.

Creedence Clearwater Revival: Deliberately old-fashioned rock 'n' roll band who restored to rock music a sense of its roots at precisely the point when the majority of important rock musicians seemed to be pushing the envelope of novel possibilities.

Dione Warwick (b. 1940): Singer in the 1960s whose crooning style was suited to the Tin Pan Alley style songs composed by Burt Bacharach.

The Doors: One of the most controversial rock bands of the 1960s formed in Los Angeles in 1965 by keyboardist Ray Manzarek, singer Jim Morrison, drummer John Densmore, and guitarist Robby Krieger.

Eric Clapton (b. 1945): The most influential of the young British guitarists who emerged during the mid-1960s.

Grace Slick (b. 1939): Biggest celebrity in Jefferson Airplane, who, along with Janis Joplin, was the most important female musician on the San Francisco scene.

James Brown (1933–2006): Pioneering soul artist known for a repetitive, riff-based instrumental style, which elevated rhythm far above harmony as the primary source of interest and provided the foundation on which most of the dance-oriented music of this entire period has been based.

Janis Joplin (1943–1970): The most successful white blues singer of the 1960s and lead singer for Big Brother and the Holding Company, an influential San Francisco-based psychedelic rock band.

Jerry Garcia (1942–1995): Guitarist, singer, and founder of the influential band The Grateful Dead, an ensemble known as the quintessential "live" rock band.

Jimi Hendrix (1942–1970): The most original, inventive, and influential guitarist of the rock era and the most prominent African American rock musician of the late 1960s.

Patsy Cline (1932–1963): Country crossover artist of the late 1950s and 1960s who modeled the Nashville Sound.

Paul Simon (b. 1941): Musical performer who, with his partner Simon Garfunkel, recorded influential folk rock hits in the 1960s.

Ray Charles (1930–2004): Profoundly gifted singer, arranger, pianist, and composer who achieved the most remarkable and unexpected synthesis of country with rhythm & blues elements and recorded Tin Pan Alley standards.

Sam Cooke (1931–1964): One of soul music's pioneers who began his career as a gospel singer. His later works set the stage for expressions of politics in both soul and rock music.