

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 13: The 1980s: Digital Technology, MTV, and the Popular Mainstream

Key People

**Annie Lennox** (b. 1954): Scottish singer of the Eurythmics.

**Bruce Springsteen** (b. 1949): Powerfully influential American recording artist whose albums included *Born in the U.S.A.* and whose songs reflect his working-class origins and sympathies.

**Dave Stewart** (b. 1952): English keyboardist and technical whiz best known for his work with the Eurythmics.

**Eurythmics**: Successful synth-pop duo popular in the 1980s consisting of Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, whose oeuvre includes songs like “Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This).”

**Kenny Rogers** (b. 1938): Texas-born country-pop crossover artist whose commercially successful songs include “Lady.”

**Lionel Richie** (b. 1949): African American singer and songwriter whose career overarched conventional genre boundaries; former member of vocal R&B group the Commodores.

**Madonna** (b. 1958): Enormously popular entertainer and purposefully controversial figure known for dance-oriented, synth-driven pop songs of the late twentieth and early twenty-first century who has sold in excess of 50 million albums.

**Michael Jackson** (1958–2009): Child star and singer with the family band The Jackson Five who later recorded enormously successful solo albums like *Thriller*, shattering previously rigid boundaries and divisions in the music industry.

**Paul Simon** (b. 1941): One-half of the folk rock duo Simon and Garfunkel who later recorded influential “world-beat” albums *Graceland* and *Rhythm of the Saints*.

**Peter Gabriel** (b. 1950): Former member of the British art-rock ensemble “Genesis” who later recorded a series of self-titled solo albums as well as the commercially successful *So*.

**Prince** (1958–2016): Extremely talented and prolific Minneapolis-based songwriter, producer, singer, and multi-instrumentalist known for funky, sexually provocative music influenced by a wide variety of genres.

**Tina Turner** (b. 1939): Singer having early success with then-husband Ike Turner as a member of the Ike and Tina Turner Review in the 1960s who later scored hit songs like

“What’s Love Got to Do With It” as a solo artist in the 1980s.

**Van Halen:** Pop-metal band from the 1980s, featuring virtuosic guitar (and eventually synthesizer) performances by Eddie Van Halen; famous for songs like “Panama” and “Jump.”