

From Ragtime Through Jazz to Rock & Roll

An evolutionary journey through 20th century popular music

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

European music has been continually evolving for over five hundred years. The history of American music is shorter but the impact of its 20th century popular music is indisputable, immeasurable and extends worldwide. American popular music is everywhere!

From its origin in the slave songs of the deep south, 1900s Ragtime and early Jazz evolved via Blues, Boogie-Woogie and Gospel through Big Band, Soul and Country & Western into Rhythm & Blues and Rock & Roll.

Music featured in this presentation will include performers playing their own compositions, such as Scott Joplin's 1917 recording of his 'The Entertainer', Duke Ellington's rendition of his 'It Don't Mean a Thing' and an examination of the contribution of female solo singers such as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald to the male-dominated music industry of the early 20th century.

From its roots in New Orleans, jazz migrated up the Mississippi to Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis and New York where each city developed its own style. We'll hear a 1917 performance of 'Tiger Rag' by The Original Dixieland Jazz Band, Louis Armstrong's Hot Five's 'West End Blues' (1928) and learn how jazz evolved into the less popular 'Modern' Jazz and 'Bebop'.

The 1940s was the era of swing. Big Bands were the rage and everyone danced to the music of Glen Miller, Cab Calloway and others. The 'Million Dollar Quartet' of the 1950s: Carl Perkins (and his 'Blue Suede Shoes'), Johnny Cash ('Cry, Cry, Cry'), Jerry Lee Lewis ('Matchbox') and, of course, Elvis Presley's hits all contributed to the transforming of Rhythm & Blues into Rock & Roll.

Covers – recording of a song by a different artist – will also be discussed, such as Elvis's 1955 hit 'That's All Right' that propelled Presley to stardom but was actually a cover of Arthur 'Big Boy' Crudup's 1946 recording. And no discussion of this era would be complete without mentioning Tin Pan Alley, Broadway songs and Musicals!

If you enjoy popular music, this presentation has something for everyone's musical tastes ☺

DURATION: c1 hour

FEE: \$295.00

EXPENSES: a contribution toward travel costs is appreciated.

Thank you for considering my proposal and please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

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REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

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