

Week 6-The British Invasion, Psychedelic Rock, and Sixties Blues

I. The British Invasion

- A. In the early sixties the popular charts were being run by girl groups and the leftovers of the doo wop groups from the 50's and blues artists weren't in as much demand as they had been in recently

- B. Groups in England were starting to form bands very influenced by the blues bands of the 50's such as Muddy Waters, Elmore James, and Howlin Wolf

- C. The blues of America was introduced to England through American Military people that were stationed in England during this time

- D. Two of the most famous of these groups started doing direct covers of the blues bands mentioned above, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles

- E. When these bands came to America they would usually ask to be taken to meet their heroes and would here a dumbfounded response by the press

- F. The Stones recorded at Chess Studios and were surprised to find Muddy Waters painting the studio

G. Due to these groups recording their songs the artists started to find a new popularity

H. Important Artists

1. Rolling Stones
2. The Beatles
3. The Animals
4. The Yardbirds

II. The Blues Revival

A. During this time period there was another important movement referred to as the blues revival

B. During the early sixties there was a large folk music movement and this created a revival in the older forms of blues as well

C. Many scholars were just starting to do major research on the evolution of the blues

D. The British invasion also contributed to the reemergence of many of the older blues artists

III. The Psychedelic Movement

A. By the late sixties the Beatles and Stones, as well as a number of other English and American groups were starting to experiment more musically and created a form of rock called “Psychedelic” or “Acid Rock”

B. The early forms of this music were influenced by blues to a large extent, taking elements of blues such as improvisation and mixing them with the distorted guitar sound that guitar players were now able to do thanks to advances in electronics

C. These newer artists kept a big interest in the blues and many blues artists would share bills with the current rock bands of the times

D. This music has a huge influence on the future of the blues as many white musicians begin to become interested and active in this music scene

E. Some blues artists tried incorporating some of these elements into their music, most rather unsuccessfully however

F. Important Artists

1. Jimi Hendrix
2. Eric Clapton
3. The Grateful Dead
4. Johnny Winter

IV. Blues in the Sixties

A. The blues was obviously very affected by the currents in the sixties

B. Many artists began to have a crossover crowd playing for white audiences and some people believe they would play a little more “relaxed” in front of white audiences

C. The music of the time period was greatly influenced by the psychedelic movement as well as current movements in soul music

D. Elements such as geography start to take on much less of an influential course in the blues, although there was one major movement in Chicago called the West Side sound

E. Many of the artists of the fifties remained important and contemporary in the sixties, as well as many veterans of Chess records whom were sidemen on the recordings start to front their own bands

F. Important artists

1. Buddy Guy and Junior Wells
2. Albert King
3. B.B. King