

Chapter Five

“Days of Future Passed”

Chapter 5 Overview

The Beatles *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967) was a dramatic departure from previous rock music. No longer restricted to teenage dance music, the Sgt. Pepper album ushered in a period of music for listening or "album oriented rock" (AOR) Classic concept albums such as *Days of Future Passed* by the Moody Blues used orchestral settings and Pink Floyd employed electronic experimentation and the elements of the avant garde.

Rock musicals such as *Hair*, (1967) and rock operas such as *Tommy*, (1968) elevated rock music to a much higher artistic level. In general, pieces become longer, more complex and experimental often using electronic music, noise, and non-western musical idioms. The hippie subculture's emphasis on visual and musical diversity encouraged rock to splinter into many sub-styles such as heavy metal, glitter/glam, progressive rock, and theatre rock.

The End of the Hippie Counter-Culture Movement

By 1970, signs that the hippie counterculture was declining became apparent.

1. During a ten month period rock lost three of its legends: Jimi Hendrix, September 18, 1970; Janis Joplin October 4, 1970; and Jim Morrison July 3, 1971 all the result of drug related causes.

2. In 1970 four anti-war protesters were shot to death by National Guardsmen at Kent State University. Most universities were shut down in the resulting nationwide campus protests. Kent State effectively brought to an end the free speech movement at American Universities.

3. The Beatles, in many ways the spokesmen of the counterculture, broke up in 1970. Without the Beatles pervasive presence, other groups emerged to fill the void. These groups extended the boundaries of rock in many new directions and led to a great splintering of rock into hyphenated rock forms such as Southern-Rock, Progressive-Rock, Glam-Rock, etc.

4. In 1972, five burglars broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office building in Washington, D.C. The resulting scandal which ended in the resignation of Richard M. Nixon (Aug 9, 1974) left young Americans skeptical of authority and unsure of its heroes. The media responded with a significant rise in the anti-hero role models.

Social / Cultural attitudes of the early 1970's

1. "Do your own thing" was a catchword of the early 1970's. It acknowledgement a greater acceptance of personal lifestyle choices.

2. There was a focus on the "self" rather than social movements or political action. The passion for social change and political reform became somewhat passé as the early 1970's

3. Freedom of sexual expression and softening of gender roles was an early 1970's trend.

4. The 1970's witnessed a rise of "alternative lifestyles" such as open relationships, "swinging couples", etc.



**The 1960's end on a downer
December 1969: Altamont Festival, San Francisco**



**May 1970: Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
U.S. National Guardsmen fire a tear-gas
barrage into a crowd of demonstrators.**

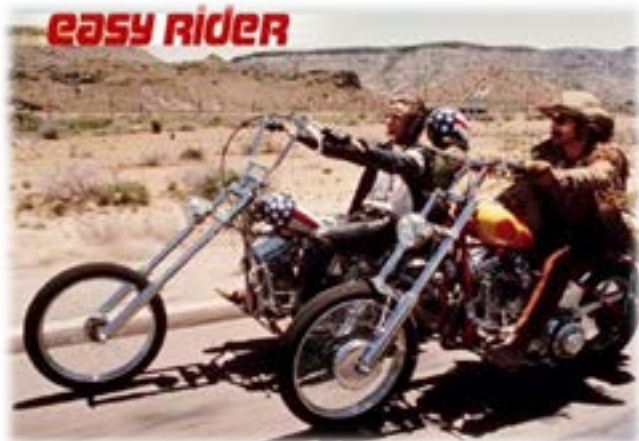


Kent State University, Ohio
 “Four dead in O-H-I-O”

The Age of the Anti-Hero

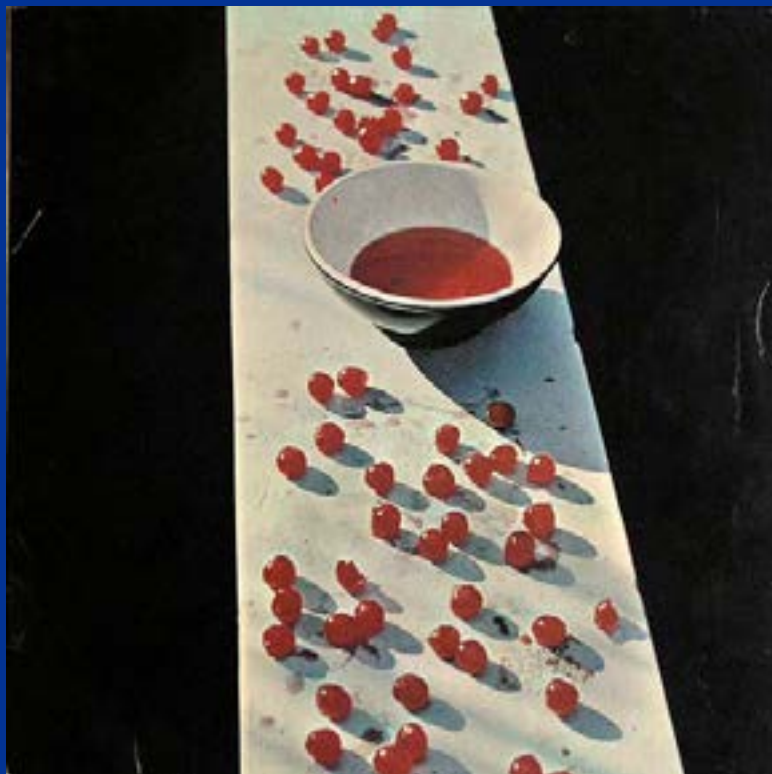
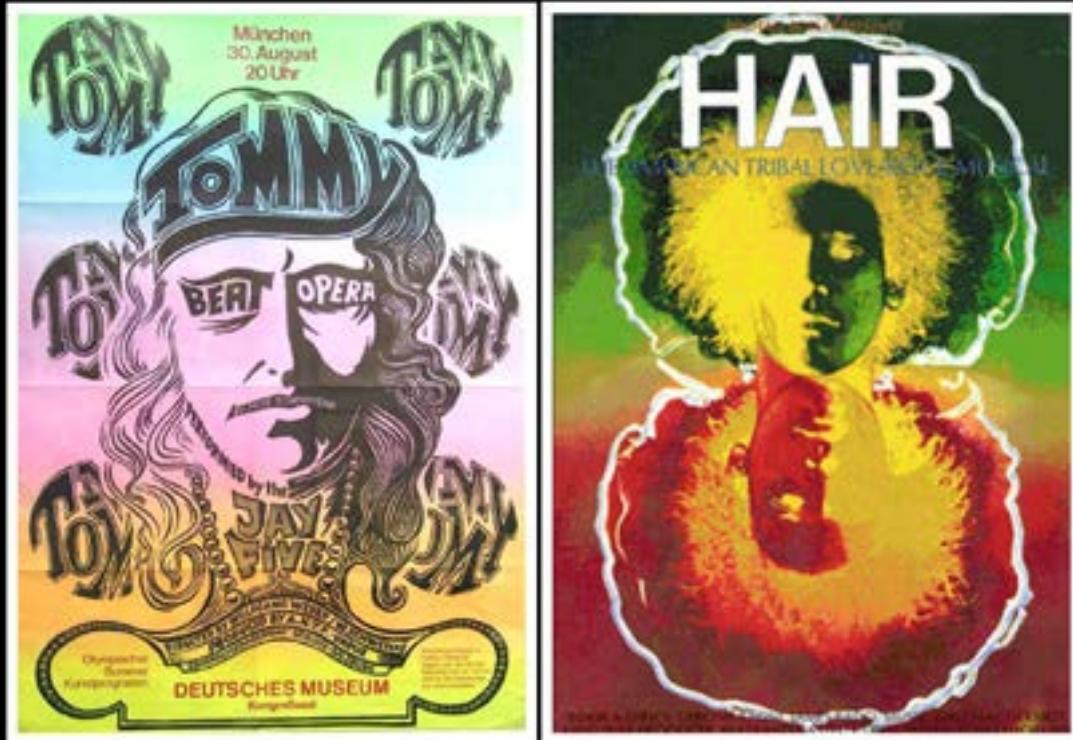


Midnight Cowboy, 1969
 Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight



Easy Rider, 1969
 Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda

The Age of the Rock Musical



Paul McCartney's first Solo Album, 1970: McCartney

Rock Splinters into “Hyphenated” Forms

Glam-Rock
Art-Rock
Progressive-Rock
California Country-Rock
Southern-Rock
Roots-Rock

Heavy Metal
Funk
Disco

Glitter/Glam (Early '70's)

Glitter/Glam held the new aesthetics for the 1970's: Unisex, sexual ambiguity, garish clothes, and glitter make-up. Glitter/glam had a sophisticated, hard-rock sound.



David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust

David Bowie (1947-2016)

Always changing and unpredictable, David Bowie became the primary model for the androgynous rocker of the early 1970's. He was the first major performer to publicly declare himself bi-sexual. Bowie is best known for his chameleon-like stage personas such as The Young American, Ziggy Stardust, and Aladdin Sane. One of the chief architects of musical style in the 1970's, Bowie was always interested in combining diverse elements such as mime and Buddhism into his productions. Also, Bowie made numerous excursions into other art genres such as film and conceptual art.

His most important albums are *Hunky Dory* (1971), *The Rise And Fall of Ziggy Stardust And Spiders From Mars* (1972), *Aladdin Sane* (1973), *Station To Station* (1976), *Changesonebowie* (1976), *Heroes* (1978), and *Lodger* (1979). Hits include "Space Oddity", "China Girl", "The Jean Genie", "Rebel Rebel", "Fame", "Golden Years", and "Let's Dance".

1970's Progressive Rock

Progressive Rock (Late '60's Through '70's)

The synthesizer, still in its infant commercial stages becomes the dominant instrument for the progressive rockers. Technically elaborate music, progressive rock was influenced by classical music and jazz. The music was often in "suite" format: multiple tempos, themes, textures. The technique of playing intricate passages in unison was quite common.

The long, album oriented tunes demanded a more mature, initiated listener. Rock lyricists rose in importance providing extended material often based on middle-earth (i.e. Tolkien's The Hobbit) imagery.

Common Progressive Rock Style Features

1. Intricate Technique
2. Borrows from other musical styles;
i.e. classical music and jazz
3. Music segmented into sections; *suite format*
4. Odd meters such as 7/8 time
5. Music is designed for *listening* not dancing
6. Long, concert oriented, pieces
7. Artsy lyrics
8. Musical experimentation
9. Rise of importance and use of synthesizers



Pink Floyd

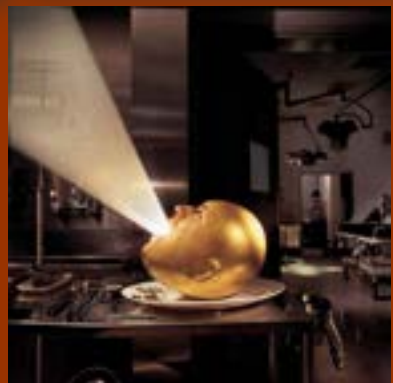
Left to right: Nick Mason, Syd Barrett,
David Gilmour, **Roger Waters**, and Richard Wright

Pink Floyd (1966)

Members: Syd Barrett (d. 2006), vocals, guitar (replaced by David Gilmour in 1968); Roger Waters, bass; Richard Wright (d. 2008), keyboards.

Syd Barrett started Pink Floyd (named after Georgia bluesmen Pink Anderson and Floyd Council) with high school friend Roger Waters. Although Syd was only with the band for a few years, it was Barrett's paranoid / psychological / childlike / Lewis Carroll catchy pop lyrics that set this band apart from others. Barrett had severe psychological problems, in part due to hallucinogens which, at times, left him standing motionless on stage. When David Gilmore replaced Barrett the band began concentrating on live performances and electronic music and instrumental effects. Although many remember Pink Floyd as a British psychedelic band they used electronic music and musique concrete (natural tape recorded sounds) in a similar way as experimental classical music composers such as Paul Schaeffer did. Their most notable album achievements are their disciplined Dark Side Of The Moon (1973) and ambitious two album monument The Wall (1979)

American Progressive Rock Bands



Heavy Metal (1968 through 80's)

Heavy metal draws on material from the mid- 1960's such as Steppenwolf's *Born To Be Wild*, The Who's *My Generation*, and *I Can See For Miles*, and Jimi Hendrix's sculptured noise.

Three late 1960's bands are the direct ancestors to Heavy Metal: The Yardbirds (1963), Cream (1966), and The Jimi Hendrix Experience (1967). Although Black Sabbath may be considered the first heavy metal band, it was, in fact, the New Yardbirds when they changed their name to Led Zeppelin that paved the way to the Metal style.

Early Heavy Metal Style Features



Extreme emotional contrasts: Acoustic ballads often balanced within the same piece with highly energized electric guitar blues.

Screaming, emotionalized vocals and guitar playing are trademarks.

Guitar power chords: simple distorted chords used for rhythmic punctuation.

Repeated bass and guitar riffs.

The harmony is often based on guitar fingerboard relationships rather than traditional chord progressions.

Intended to be listened to at high volume levels

The music strives to overwhelm or overcome the listener.

Extended use of the highs and low and stereo effects such as panning and bouncing are common.

Led Zeppelin (U.K. 1968)

Fronted by guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robert Plant, Led Zeppelin helped crystallize the heavy metal movement. A pivotal group, Led Zeppelin bridges the gap between folk, blues and heavy metal. Led Zeppelin early albums were designed to make use of maximum use of home stereo systems: use of stereo panning, increased sound spectrum, and increased dynamic range.

Southern Rock (Early through Mid '70's)

Blues based rock boogie music, the style often uses two lead guitarz and two drummers. Long instrumental jams are common. Country or "down home" lyrics are frequently used.

The Allman Brothers

The Allman Brothers were the best southern boogie band of the early 1970's. The tragic motorcycle death of Duane Allman in 1971 devastated the group. Ironically, Allman Brothers bassist Berry Oakley also died the following year of a motorcycle accident.

A great live band using two lead guitars and two drummers, the band became the model for many southern hard rock bands of the 1970's. Live At Fillmore East is one of the finest live albums in the Rock genre.

The Eagles (1971)

Original Members: Glenn Frey (d. 2016), vocals, guitar; Don Henley, drums, vocals; Randy Meisner, vocals, bass; Bernie Leadon, guitar, vocals

The Eagles were a formidable band from the beginning. Frey and Henley were from Linda Ronstadt's backup band; Meisner was from Poco and Leadon was from the Flying Burrito Brothers. A true international mega-group, the band scored high critical acclaim and tremendous worldwide popularity.

Some of their biggest hits were *"Take It Easy"*, *"Best Of My Love"*, *"One Of These Nights"*, *"Lyin' Eyes"*, *"Take It To The Limit"*, *"New Kid In Town"*, *"Hotel California"*, *"Heartache Tonight"*, and *"The Long Run"*.

Bruce Springsteen (1949-)

Roots Rock often uses slice-of-life lyrics that reflect a loss of innocence.



Bruce Springsteen (1949-)

Bruce Springsteen's Born To Run album (1975) rescued rock from the excesses of 1970's progressive art rock and undermined the pervasive industry forces that saw its fruits in stadium rock and disco. It a time of rock excesses he remained faithful to basic rock themes: street-wise defiance, questioning the status quo, concern for the here and now, and direct communication with his audience.

Even better live than on record, Springsteen inherited the Bob Dylan tradition of the 1960's, Most notable albums are Born To Run (1975), Nebraska (1982), Born In The U.S.A (1984), and Tunnel Of Love (1987)

Disco (1976-1979)

Disco started in gay clubs of New York later was taken into the mainstream of Pop culture by the film Saturday Night Fever. In many ways, disco represented a last decadent fling before the ultimate decline of the '60s sexual revolution. "Anonymous dance partner" attitudes (on and off the dance floor) and a sexual freedom came to an abrupt end with the herpes epidemic and ultimately the HIV epidemic.

Although disco records sold very well, there were few lasting hits or stars. The music was primarily formula based, with a heavy beat on all four beats of the measure. The style was unpopular among musicians and rockers alike who felt the music was too slick and repetitive. Also, disc jockeys replaced live bands in many clubs

Why did musicians dislike disco?

Financial:

Clubs and restaurants replaced bands with DJs

Major rockers such as the Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart, and Persy Sledge felt compelled to do disco-oriented songs to stay relevant

Major record companies such as Columbia and Warner Bros. fueled disco into an \$8 billion business.

Artistic:

Rigid rhythm

Limited beat range and expression

Lack of instrumental improvisation and virtuosity

Confined to dance music

Most disco albums cut songs were 8-10 minutes:

Too long to sustain musical excitement

Formulaic - *Anything* could be converted to disco

Antithesis of values musicians held

Lyrics were mindless and superficial

Sociological implications

The 1960's Sexual revolution

- Kinsey reports on human sexuality (1948, 1953)
- The advent of oral contraceptives (1960)
- Helen Gurley Brown Sex and the Single Girl (1962)
- 1967 “Summer of Love” advanced the notion of “Free Love”, lifestyle and drug experimentation

Disco came at the tail-on of the 1960's sexual revolution

It represented Western society's last hedonistic, decadent, abandon before the awareness of HIV/Aids (1981) and sexual transmitted diseases

Anything good about disco?

Multi-racial audiences

First pop music to have an openly gay component
Allowed gay and straight to coexist

Disco parties allowed us to escape our work-a-day lives

Gave rise to the prominence of the DJ

Note: Disco was a fad AND a trend:

A fad typically lasts 18 months

A trend as recursive effects over many years



Comiskey Park, Chicago
Disco Sucks Riot of July 12, 1979

Funk (Mid '70's)

Funk is about raw energy: musical, rhythmic and sexual. Although the grandfather of this back-to-basics black dance music is George Clinton, funk's roots extend back to James Brown and hard bop jazz of the 1960's. One of the most distinguishing features of funk is the overlaying of rhythms, a common practice in African music.

Other style characteristics include jazzy horn sections, psychedelic guitar playing and narration. The popularization and simplification of funk rhythms provided the rhythmic basis for disco.