

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 11: The 1970s: Rock Music, Disco, and the Popular Mainstream

Student Study Outline

- I. The “Me” Decade
 - a. Tom Wolfe’s label
 - b. Music industry reached new heights of consolidation
- II. Singer-Songwriters: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor
 - a. **Carole King** (b. 1942): career illustrates the central prominence of singer-songwriters in this period
 - i. *Tapestry* (1971): album whose success made King a major recording star
 - b. **Joni Mitchell** (b. 1943): began career as songwriter, started recording on her own in 1968
 - i. *Blue* (1971): best-known album; cycle of songs about complexity of love
 - c. **James Taylor** (b. 1948): perhaps the most successful long-running career of the 1970s era singer-songwriters
 - i. *Sweet Baby James* (1970): hugely successful album with many hit singles, including number three hit “Fire and Rain.”
- III. Country Music and the Pop Mainstream
 - a. Country-pop crossover accomplished by a new generation of musicians:
 - i. **Glen Campbell** (b. 1936)
 - ii. **Charlie Rich** (b. 1932)
 - iii. **Olivia Newton-John** (b. 1948)
 - iv. **Dolly Parton** (b. 1946)
 - v. **John Denver** (1943–1997)
- IV. Box 11.1: Hardcore Country: Merle Haggard and the Bakersfield Sound
 - a. **Merle Haggard** (b. 1937)
- V. Country Rock: **The Eagles**
 - a. The Eagles: influential band who epitomized the culture of Southern California
 - i. Ambitious saga “Hotel California” cashed in on this association
- VI. Rock Comes of Age
 - a. **Pop rock** and **soft rock**
 - i. **Elton John** (b.1947): continued trend of long-running “British occupation” of the American pop charts
 1. “Crocodile Rock” and nostalgia
 - b. African American Musicians and Rock
 - i. Generally low interest in black communities; no clear successor to Hendrix
 - ii. **Stevie Wonder** (b. 1950): Singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, arranger, and producer
 1. “Superstition”: demonstrates **overdubbing**
 - c. Early rock festivals: crowning moment of 1960s counterculture

- 1. Rock album
 - i. **David Bowie** (1947–2016)
 - ii. **Joni Mitchell** (b. 1943)
 - iii. **Marvin Gaye** (1939–1984)

VII. Box 11.2: Album Art

- a. LP: container for music but also an art object

VIII. Listening Guide: “Stairway to Heaven” and “Oye Como Va”

- a. “Stairway to Heaven,” music and lyrics by Jimmy Page and Robert Plant; performed by Led Zeppelin (recorded 1971)
- b. “Oye Como Va,” music and lyrics Tito Puente; performed by Santana (recorded 1971)
 - i. **Carlos Santana** (b. 1947)

IX. Southern Rock and Jazz Rock

- a. **Allman Brothers Band**

- 1. **Southern rock**

- b. **Jazz rock**

- i. **Miles Davis** (1926–1991)
- ii. **Chicago**

X. “Night Fever”: The Rise of Disco

- a. **Disco**

XI. Listening Guides: Disco

- a. “Love’s Theme,” **Barry White** (1944–2004) and the Love Unlimited Orchestra
- b. “Love to Love You Baby,” written by Pete Bellotte, Giorgio Moroder, and Donna Summer; performed by Donna Summer (recorded 1975)
 - i. **Donna Summer** (1948–2012)
- c. “Bad Girls,” written by Joseph Esposito, Edward Hokenson, Bruce Sudano, and Donna Summer; performed by Donna Summer (recorded 1979)
- d. “Good Times,” written by Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers; performed by **Chic** (1979)

XII. Key Terms

Disco Jazz rock Overdubbing	Pop rock Soft rock	Southern rock Synthesizers
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XIII. Key People

The Allman Brothers Band Barry White Carlos Santana Carole King Charlie Rich Chic Chicago	David Bowie Dolly Parton Donna Summer The Eagles Elton John Glen Campbell John Denver	Joni Mitchell Marvin Gaye Merle Haggard Miles Davis Olivia Newton-John Stevie Wonder
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