

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 5: “St. Louis Blues”: Race Records and Hillbilly Music, 1920s and 1930s

Student Study Outline

- I. Targeting Specific New Audiences
 - a. Recorded and disseminated types of music that had previously been ignored
- II. Race Records
 - a. **Mamie Smith** (1883–1946)
 - b. “**race music**”
 - i. **Ralph Peer** (1892–1960)
 - c. African American–owned companies
 - i. Black Swan
- III. Box 5.1 The “Father of the Blues”: W. C. Handy
 - a. **William Christopher Handy** (1873–1958)
- IV. Classic Blues
 - a. **Blues**
 - i. First blues records not the **country blues**
 - ii. Blues songs (sometimes called **classic blues**)
 1. Classic blues songs performed by nightclub singers:
 - a. **Alberta Hunter** (1895–1984)
 - b. **Ethel Waters** (1896–1977)
 - c. **Gertrude “Ma” Rainey** (1886–1939)
 - d. **Bessie Smith** (1894–1937)
- V. Listening Guide: “St. Louis Blues”
 - a. Music and Lyrics by W. C. Handy; published 1914; performed by Bessie Smith, accompanied by Louis Armstrong, cornet, and Fred Longshaw, reed organ; recorded 1925
 - i. **Twelve-bar blues**
 - b. The Recording
 - i. Notation
 1. **Blue notes**
- VI. Understanding Twelve-Bar Blues
 - a. **Bar or measure**
 - i. Beats
 - b. **Twelve-bar blues**
 1. **Tonic**
- VII. The Country Blues
 - a. W. C. Handy—encounter of music at a train station in the Mississippi Delta
 - i. Country blues
- VIII. Charley Patton
 - a. **Charley Patton** (ca. 1881–1934)
- IX. Listening Guide: “Tom Rushen Blues”

- a. Written and performed by Charley Patton; recorded 1929
- X. Blind Lemon Jefferson: The First Country Blues Star
 - a. **Blind Lemon Jefferson** (1897–1929)
- XI. Listening: “That Black Snake Moan”
 - a. Written and performed by Blind Lemon Jefferson; recorded 1926
- XII. Robert Johnson: Standing at the Crossroad
 - a. **Robert Johnson** (1911–1938)
- XIII. Listening Guide: “Cross Road Blues”
 - a. Written and Performed by Robert Johnson; recorded 1936
- XIV. Early Country Music: Hillbilly Records
 - a. **Hillbilly music**
 - i. **Vernon Dalhart** (1883–1948)
- XV. Box 5.2: Solo Women’s Voices in Country Music
 - a. **Patsy Montana** (1908–1996)
 - b. **Coon Creek Girls**, featuring Lily May Ledford
 - c. **Lulu Belle** (1913–1999)
- XVI. Pioneers of Country Music: The Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers
 - a. Country music
 - b. **Carter Family**
 - c. **Jimmie Rodgers** (1897–1933)
- XVII. Listening Guide: The Recordings of Jimmie Rodgers
 - a. “Blue Yodel No. 2,” written and performed by Jimmie Rodgers; recorded 1929
 - b. “Waiting for a Train,” written and performed by Jimmie Rodgers; recorded 1928
 - c. “Dreaming with Tears in My Eyes,” written by Jimmie Rodgers and Waldo L. O’Neal; performed by Jimmie Rodgers; recorded 1933
- XVIII. Listening Guide: Southern Gospel Music, Black and White
 - a. “Gospel Ship,” written by A. P. Carter, performed by the Carter Family; recorded 1935
 - b. “The Sun Didn’t Shine,” written by Roosevelt Fennoy; performed by the Golden Gate Quartet; recorded 1941
- XIX. Popular Music and the Great Depression
 - a. Great Depression (1929–ca. 1939)
 - 1. **Woodrow Wilson “Woody” Guthrie** (1912–1967)

XX. Key Terms

Bar (measure)	Classic blues	Race music
Blue notes	Country blues	Tonic
Blues	Hillbilly music	Twelve-bar blues

XXI. Key People

Alberta Hunter	Ethel Waters	Robert Johnson
Bessie Smith	Gertrude “Ma” Rainey	Vernon Dalhart
Blind Lemon Jefferson	Jimmie Rodgers	William Christopher Handy
Carter Family	Mamie Smith	Handy
Charley Patton	Ralph Peer	Woodrow Wilson

		"Woody" Guthrie
--	--	-----------------