

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 12: Outsiders' Music: Progressive Country, Reggae, Salsa, Punk, and Rap, 1970s

Key People

Afrika Bambaataa (b. 1960): Hip-hop artist who released "Planet Rock" in 1982, becoming one of the first celebrities of the genre.

Bob Marley (1945-1981): Leader of the Wailers and a national hero in his native Jamaica who was reggae's most effective international ambassador known for songs of determination, rebellion, and faith, rooted in the Rastafarian belief system.

Charlie Palmieri (1927-1988): Pianist and bandleader who began playing with Tito Puente's mambo band in the late 1940s and had a key role in the Latin music of the 1960s.

David Byrne (b. 1952): Scottish singer and songwriter influenced by minimalism who cofounded the new wave band Talking Heads in 1974.

Eddie Palmieri (b. 1936): Latin pianist strongly shaped by modern jazz of the 1950s and 1960s known for his breakthrough albums *Sentido* (1973) and *Sun of Latin Music* (1974).

George Clinton (b. 1940): Leader of a musical collective that recorded influential funk albums under the name "Parliament" and "Funkadelic."

Grandmaster Flash (b. 1958): Barbados born hip-hop pioneer who refined mixing techniques like backspinning and recorded influential songs like "The Message."

Hector Lavoe (1946-1993): Singer with Willie Colón's band who became an icon of Nuyorican (New York Puerto Rican) immigrant identity during the 1970s.

Iggy Pop (b. 1947): Punk rock singer and leader of the Stooges famous for his outrageous stage performances, which included flinging himself into the crowd, cutting himself with beer bottles, and rubbing himself with raw meat.

Jimmy Cliff (b. 1948): Star of the 1972 film *The Harder They Come*, and the vocalist on the title track of the soundtrack LP.

John Cale (b. 1942): New York-based avant-garde violist and producer who co-founded the Velvet Underground with Lou Reed.

Johnny Rotten (b. 1956): Outrageous lead singer for the 1970s British punk band the Sex Pistols.

Kool Herc (b. 1955): Pioneering hip-hop DJ who first adapted the technique of "mixing" between two turntables to the hip-hop aesthetic.

Lou Reed (b. 1942): New York–based singer and songwriter who co-founded the Velvet Underground with John Cale.

Patti Smith (b. 1946): New York–based poet, journalist, and singer who established CBGBs as beachhead for punk and new wave bands and recorded the critically acclaimed album *Horses*.

Rubén Blades (b. 1948): Singer-songwriter, film actor, and political activist best known for a series of story songs that capture the feel of life in the neighborhood *barrio*.

The Sex Pistols: The most outrageous and famous British punk band of the 1970s who epitomized punk rock’s rebellious energy in songs like “Anarchy for the UK” and “God Save the Queen (It’s a Fascist Regime).”

Sid Vicious (1957-1979): Stage name for John Ritchie, a non-musician friend of John Lydon who replaced bassist Glen Matlock; died of a heroin overdose while released on bail on charges of stabbing his girlfriend to death.

Sly Stone (b. 1944): Leader of the band Sly and the Family Stone known for blending jazz, soul music, San Francisco psychedelia, and the socially engaged lyrics of folk rock.

Townes Van Zandt (1944-1997): Singer-songwriter who became a cult hero of the progressive country movement.

Waylon Jennings (1937-2002): Singer, songwriter, and member of Buddy Holly’s Crickets who later became the centerpiece of a group of country musicians known as the Outlaws.

Willie Colón (b. 1950): One of the most influential figures of early salsa whose distinctive approach added touches of West African, Panamanian, Colombian, and Brazilian music as well as Puerto Rican styles.

Willie Nelson (b. 1933): One of the most influential figures in the progressive country movement who developed a successful career as a professional songwriter in Nashville and later settled in Austin, fusing country music with countercultural sensibilities.