

Rock 'n' Roll of the 1950's and 1960's

Rock 'n' Roll combines elements of Rhythm and Blues and Country and Western Music and emerged in the mid-1950's. Rock 'n' Roll helped establish the typical pop music instrumental combination of Lead and Rhythm Guitars, Bass Guitar and Drum Kit.

Repetition is an important feature of Rock 'n' Roll meaning untrained composers and performers could quickly and easily learn music and then improvise over the basic structure.



<u>Lyrics</u>	<u>Tempo & Metre</u>	<u>Harmony & Tonality</u>	<u>Melody</u>	<u>Dynamics</u>
Simple, repetitive and easily memorable – teenage concerns: love, relationships, cars, school life and holidays.	Fast (<i>Allegro</i>) – ideal for dancing. 165-185 bpm. 4/4 Time Signature.	Major tonality using mainly simple and repetitive Primary Chords – I, IV & V with slow Harmonic Rhythm often in the 12-Bar Blues Structure: I, I, I, I, IV, IV, I, I, V, IV, I, I. Close Harmonies used in the vocals.	Often uses 'blue notes' (flattened 3 rd , 5 th and 7 th against a major chord). "Catchy" Melodies have a narrow vocal range. Vocal and guitar melodies use repeated phrases, riffs and hooks.	Consistent loud volume – <i>Forte (f)</i> often louder in the choruses – <i>Fortissimo (ff)</i> achieved through amplification.
<u>Rhythm</u>	<u>Texture</u>	<u>Articulation</u>	<u>Accompaniment</u>	<u>Form & Structure</u>
Backbeat (accenting 2 nd and 4 th beats of the bar on the snare drum). Often features a Walking Bass Line. Syncopation, Swung Rhythms and Boogie-Woogie rhythms also used.	Homophonic (Melody & Accompaniment) Texture – a solo singer accompanied by instruments. Some textural variety within songs e.g. instruments 'dropping out'.	Harsh, brash and raw sound possessing energy and drive. Accents on the 2 nd and 4 th beats of the bar provide the Backbeat.	Sometimes Call and Response between solo voice and accompaniment (band or backing singers). Lead singers and/or instrumental solos backed by band.	Verse-Chorus Form with a short Introduction (often instrumental but sometimes vocal), solo verses, chorus, instrumental section (improvised solos or shuwwaddy section featuring Scat singing) ending with a Coda/Outro.
<u>Vocal Performance & Technique</u>	<u>Technology</u>		<u>Venue</u>	<u>Artists, Bands & Performers</u>
Mainly male lead singers using high-pitch vocals and Falsetto giving an untrained or shouty tone/timbre with screeches, jeers and cheers. Portamentos and Scat Singing often used.	Amplifiers for Electric Guitars used for the first time. Basic effects such as Reverb and Echo. Clean guitar sounds (not overdriven). Double-track lead and backing vocals for richer sounds. "Raw" sound of recordings.		Dance Halls, Clubs (live), Concert Halls, Juke Boxes, Coffee Bars, Radio and to buy on Record/Vinyl.	Little Richard, Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Bill Haley & The Comets, The Beach Boys, Johnny Cash, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Chubby Checker, The Doors.

Instrumentation – Typical Instruments, Timbres and Sonorities

Early Rock 'n' Roll – lead vocalist accompanied by a small group of acoustic instruments – piano, drum kit, saxophone, trumpet, harmonica, trombone and double bass. The Electric Guitar soon became an essential part of Rock 'n' Roll and Backing Singers/Vocalists were frequently used in Rock 'n' Roll songs.



Rock Anthems of the 1970's and 1980's

By the 1960's, Rock 'n' Roll evolved into a new style of music, known simply as Rock Music. There are many sub-genres of Rock Music:

Hard Rock – loud and aggressive, distorted electric guitars, solo guitar sections, use of power chords

Heavy Metal – harder, louder and more distorted than Hard Rock with longer guitar solos

Glam Rock – theatrical and glitzy, catchy hooks, spangly suits and make up

Progressive Rock – experimental and complicated structures, long instrumentals with effects and mythological lyrics

Punk Rock – harsh and angry, loud and fast, anarchy and rebellion as themes



<u>Lyrics</u>	<u>Tempo & Metre</u>	<u>Harmony & Tonality</u>	<u>Melody</u>	<u>Dynamics</u>
Wider subject matter than the simpler lyrics of Rock 'n' Roll with themes such as: politics, philosophy, religion and literature with darker, powerful and more serious lyrics. Powerful anthemic choruses designed to be sung loudly by the audience.	Moderate to Medium Fast (<i>Allegro Moderato</i>) 110-120 bpm. 4/4 Time Signature. Strong steady "Rock Beat".	Early Rock uses mainly Primary Chords (I, IV & V) but later Rock uses Auxiliary Chords, Chromatic Chords, Added Sixth Chords, First and Second Inversion Chords and Altered Note Chords. Power Chords (chords which don't contain the 3 rd e.g. C5) are a key feature of Rock Music and Modulations (in the Bridge section) became more common.	Performed by the lead singer with lyrical vocal phrases featuring repeated patterns. The lead Electric Guitar plays Strong Guitar Riffs based on short sections of the main melody.	Due to heavy amplification, Rock Music is designed to be performed very loudly – <i>Fortissimo (ff)</i> .
<u>Rhythm</u>	<u>Texture</u>	<u>Articulation</u>	<u>Accompaniment</u>	<u>Form & Structure</u>
Strong and Driving Rhythms. Incessant Drumming Patterns. Use of a heavy Bass Drum and continuation of use of Backbeat (emphasising the 2 nd and 4 th beats of the bar on the Snare Drum).	Homophonic (Melody and Accompaniment) Texture although thick Polyphonic Textures are often used when singers, guitars and drums play different rhythms at the same time.	Effects added to guitars: Distortion, Echo, Reverb, Overdrive, Delay, Wah-wah and Feedback (the noise made when a mic or guitar are too close to a speaker).	Lead singer accompanied by band that provide the accompanying rhythm, bass line and chords, although there are opportunities for virtuosic instrumental solos.	Verse-Chorus Form. Long Intros. Modulation in the Bridge (extended instrumental solo improvisation). Memorable Chorus. Rock Songs often of longer duration – some 7-8 minutes.
<u>Vocal Performance & Technique</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Artists, Bands & Performers</u>	
Mainly male vocal lead-singer singing with a growly, raspy and husky-style of singing using very high pitch screams singing with Vibrato but not Falsetto.	Amplification technology developed – louder volumes. New sounds and effects: Distortion, Wah-wah, Delay, Overdrive. Multi-track recording created increasingly complex textures.	Louder amplification = increasingly larger audiences in stadiums, sports arenas and pop festivals. Performances feature special effects – light shows and pyrotechnics.	Led Zeppelin, The Who (Hard Rock) Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden (Heavy Metal) David Bowie, Queen, KISS (Glam Rock) Yes, Pink Floyd (Progressive Rock) Sex Pistols, Blondie (Punk Rock)	

Instrumentation – Typical Instruments, Timbres and Sonorities

The basis of a Rock Band is a Lead Singer, Drum Kit and Trio of Guitars: Lead Electric Guitar, Rhythm Guitar and Bass Guitar. The sound of Rock Music centres upon the Electric Guitar. Sometimes a Piano, Hammond Organ, Electric Keyboard/Synthesiser or Strings may be added or other (often strange!) timbres and effects!



Pop Ballads of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's

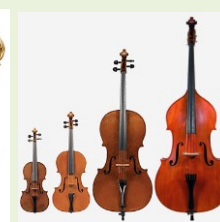
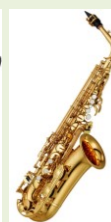
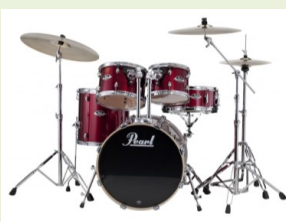
Pop Ballads originated from Folk Music, usually being a story sung to simple musical accompaniment sung by wandering minstrels in the 15th Century. Although Pop Ballads are now often performed on stage to huge audiences, they still manage to maintain the intimacy of a performer telling a moving story through music. Pop Ballads were often written and performed by Singer-Songwriters who often accompany themselves on the guitar or piano.



<u>Lyrics</u>	<u>Tempo & Metre</u>	<u>Harmony & Tonality</u>	<u>Melody</u>	<u>Dynamics</u>
Tell stories often with a sentimental romantic theme telling some kind of love story, often with a romantic “twist” right at the end to keep people listening.	Slow and Moderate Tempo (<i>Moderato, Andante, Adagio, Lento</i>) to emphasise the meaning of the words. 70-100 bpm. 4/4 Time Signature. Ritardandos and Tempo Rubato used.	Chord Progressions (guitar and/or piano) such as I, V, VI, IV. Slow Harmonic Rhythm. Often use Chord Inversions, Repeating Block Chords, Broken Chords or Arpeggios. Modulation in final chorus. Chords II, III and IV used more.	Mainly Diatonic melody sung by the lead singer. Duos/Trios also common and often sing in Close Harmony.	Start off quite soft – <i>Mezzo Piano (mp)</i> – usually increasing towards the chorus with a Crescendo often ending in a louder, fully-scored final Chorus.
<u>Rhythm</u>	<u>Texture</u>	<u>Articulation</u>	<u>Accompaniment</u>	<u>Form & Structure</u>
Accompanying drum patterns on the Snare Drum often feature Syncopated Rhythms accenting the 2 nd and 4 th beats of the bar.	Homophonic (Melody & Accompaniment) Texture – a solo singer accompanied by simple instruments or large band. Texture often builds towards the end becoming thicker for a big final ‘climax’ in the last Chorus.	The main vocal melody, performed by the lead singer and the accompanying chords are normally performed Legato – smoothly throughout.	The Accompaniment of a Pop Ballad always supports the Lead Singer! The story is the most important part and the lead vocals should be clear and unhidden. Backing vocalists and accompanying instruments support	Verse-Chorus Form. Verses in Strophic Form. Bridge/Middle 8 (8, 16, 24 or 32 bars) often features new material before a Modulation in the final Chorus. Parts of the Verse or Chorus can be repeated for emphasis or effect.
<u>Vocal Performance & Technique</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Artists, Bands & Performers</u>	
Expressive and Emotional Vocal Performance is key to a Pop Ballad: A Cappella, Vibrato, Falsetto, Melisma, Portamento, Riffing, Ritardandos, Tempo Rubato, Large Vocal Ranges, Long Held Notes.	Heavy Reverb on the vocals often used to create a warm sound.	Pop Concert, Radio, TV, CD, MP3 Download Internet Sites, YouTube.	Billy Joel, Lionel Richie, Chris de Burgh, Celine Dion, Mariah Carey, Elton John, Bette Midler, Take That, The Carpenters, Sting, Extreme, Seal, Robbie Williams, Lionel Richie, George Michael, Eric Clapton.	

Instrumentation – Typical Instruments, Timbres and Sonorities

No “set list” of instruments which accompany Pop Ballads but often featured are: Guitars (Acoustic, Electric and Bass), Drum Kit, Vocals (Lead and Backing Singers – often called BVOX), Piano, Electric Piano, Saxophone and Strings – either live orchestral or synthesised “Lush String Pads” using Music Technology.



Solo Artists from the 1990's to the Present Day

Solo Artists often change their music from album to album. They perform in a wide range of venues for small and large audiences and their styles of music include: Rock, Rap, Indie, Electronic Music, Dance Music and Conventional Pop Music. Each singer has been influenced with their own individual sound and character, depending on the kind of message and image they want to express. Typically a performance may feature a gradual build-up or increase in terms of instrumentation, texture and dynamics as the song progresses.



<u>Vocal Performance & Technique</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Artists, Bands & Performers</u>
In addition to AutoTune, other vocal effects such as Panning and Filters (e.g. 'telephone' or 'phasing' by changing the EQ of a sound to distort it in some way) are applied during production.	Digital Technology becoming more sophisticated with a wide range of Digital Effects (Reverb, Echo, Delay and Distortion still used). Recording Techniques allowing producers much greater control over their music. AutoTune – a device or facility for tuning something, especially a computer program which enables the correction of an out-of-tune vocal performance. Sampling – sections or loops taken from other recordings Drum Loops – electronically creates using technology and then repeating it. Advanced Recording Software and Computer Sequencers (ProTools GarageBand, Logic). Overdubbing resulting in more complex and thick musical textures. Highly polished production using computers.	Can range from medium to large sized arenas. Touring now a main income stream for artists instead of simply to promote a new album. Music videos are now as important as the music itself meaning solo artists could achieve different outcomes from each album/track and therefore “reinvent” themselves and their music.	George Michael, Beyoncé, Sam Smith, Kylie Minogue, Robbie Williams, Eminem, Taylor Swift, Adele, Calvin Harris, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, KT Tunstall, Amy Winehouse, Bruno Mars, Justin Bieber.

Instrumentation – Typical Instruments, Timbres and Sonorities

Ranges from traditional “Pop Instrumentation” such as Voice, Drums, Electric Bass and Guitar, Keyboards alongside Electronic Instruments such as Samplers and Synthesisers

