



Paul Anka

Group 3: Erica Hebl, Myrrh-Anna
Kienitz, Tien Nyugen, Conor
Leigh, Eva Mueller

Early Life

- Born on July 30th, 1941 in Ottawa, Canada
- Formed the Bobbysoxers, a vocal group at 13
- At 15, had his first song released, “Blau-Wile Deverest Fontaine”
- Don Costa, for ABC-Paramount Records, signed him on at age 16.

Career

- He drew on his personal life for inspiration for his music, calling them “very autobiographical”
- At age 22, he married Anne de Zogheb, a former model.
- He focused on honing his writing skills, so that if his singing career got overshadowed, he had something to fall back on.

Later in Life

- He wrote music for a number of other artists and for a movie, *The Longest Day*.
- Paul also starred in many movies and TV shows after the teen idol craze cooled off in the 60s.
- One of the very few first artists in his time to perform in Las Vegas and enter international market (Europe and Asia).

Paul Anka's musical style

- Genre: Soft Rock
- Very pop-oriented
- Sang slow love songs, or ballads
 - Often had a theme of self-pity
- Paul Anka was a crooner
 - Smooth, pleasant voice
 - Very much “in control” of his voice

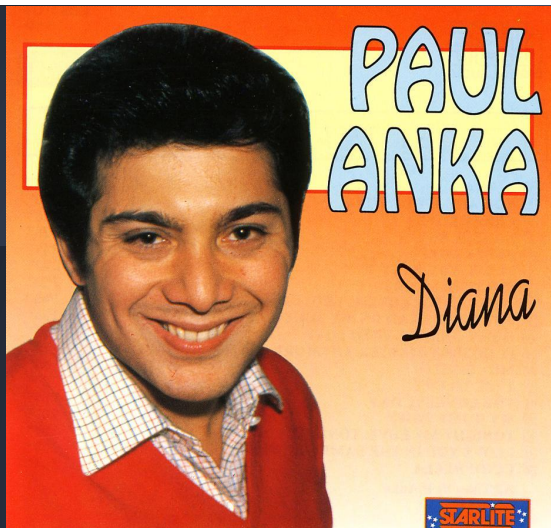


Unique elements of his musical style

- Singing/songwriting ability
 - Excellent control of his voice and wide vocal range
 - Wrote catchy, pleasant lyrics
- Able to effectively communicate teenage feelings into songs
- Deeper voice than many other crooners of the time
 - More adult-like

How does Paul Anka fit into the evolution of Rock and Roll?

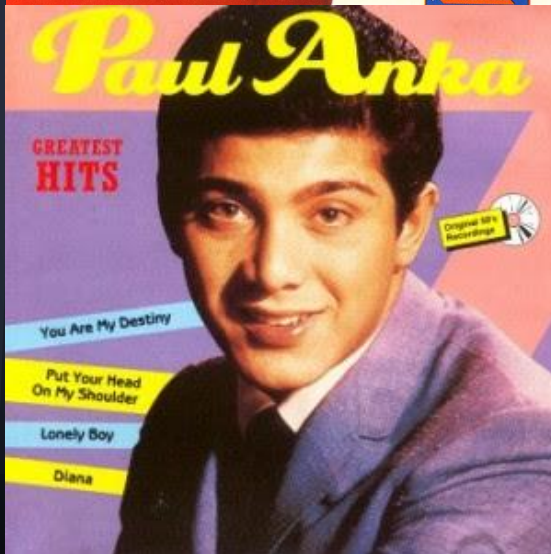
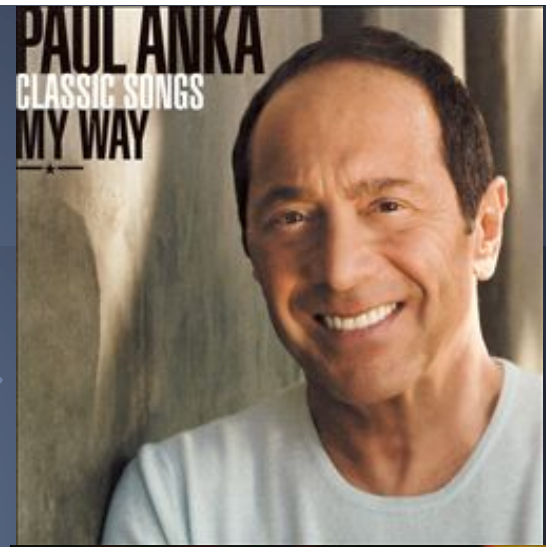
- Paul Anka was a part of the early development of soft rock, a subgenre of rock and roll
 - Anka's mixture of the musical elements of pop ballads and rock and roll made him a major influence to future soft rock artists
 - The soft rock subgenre remains highly popular today as a more pleasant alternative to mainstream rock music



Representation of "Teen Heartthrob"
from the early years to his golden
years

← July 2, 1957

Aug 28, 2007 →



← Collection of hits
from the 50's

June 7, 2005 →



Influenced by

- Most of Paul's music focused on Soft Rock, Pop, and Jazz.
 - His musical style was influenced by the time he participated in a local church choir as a child.
- Paul Anka utilized his surroundings and personal experiences as inspiration in writing songs.

Influences

- Paul Anka left home at 15 to go to New York to audition for ABC producer Don Costa.
- He auditioned with his original song “Diana”
- “Diana” is a song about wanting to love an older woman.
- This older woman was his younger sister’s babysitter who was four years older than him.
- This woman inspired lyrics like “I’m so young and you’re so old” and “I don’t care just what they say... I love you with all my heart.”

Influences

- During his musical career, Paul Anka began to date Annette Funicello.
- Disney was upset with how close the couple was becoming and insisted they split.
- While the couple was together Paul Anka wrote “Puppy Love” and “Put Your Head on My Shoulder.”
- These songs represented the love they shared and how the couple could withstand any pressures their respective employers placed on them.

Influences

- In 1963, Paul Anka married a wonderful woman named Anne de Zogheb.
- The two of them had four daughters together.
- These life events inspired the writing of his hit “(You’re) Having My Baby.”
- The song celebrates his family but not many people agreed with this message and found it sexist.

Musicians who influenced Anka

- **Dean Martin**

Dean Martin was the king of cool, and had a sense of humor when he performed on stage. Martin's smooth voice had him headlining in Las Vegas, where Anka would perform starting in the 1960s.

- **Frank Sinatra**

Anka idolized Sinatra as he had the opportunity to observe him in all different settings including socializing, back stage, and performing. Anka referred to him as "An incredible interpreter of American standards," in his ability to be both a Good Boy and a Bad Boy.

Musicians who influenced Anka

- Tony Bennett,

Bennett's rich voice started off singing commercial pop songs. He was cautioned not to imitate Sinatra, and first gained popularity singing Pop tunes but also sang renditions of country songs. His renditions of country songs maintained the country sound, bringing more attention from the general audience.

- Bill Haley,

With the start of Rock 'n' Roll with a "Rock Around the Clock" cover started to cross over the lines separating R&B, C&W, and Pop music. The Good Boy, straightedge appeal that Haley had fit closer to the young Anka as he sang about innocent topics.

Musicians who influenced Anka

- **Matt Monro**

Matt Monro, a singer from England, had a voice that carried him around the globe. Originally recording covers of American songs, he caught the ear of Dean Martin and they became friends. His Sinatra-sounding voice made him a good fit for Martin's comical songs he wished to record.

- **The Coasters.**

The Coasters became a crossover hit, from R&B to Rock 'n' Roll. They were appealing with comical songs. Anka started performing when he was young and his songs started out as Pop music theme-wise, innocent songs about young love and other non-threatening topics.

Influenced

- Paul's jazz style influenced Michael Bublé who added a modern twist to his music.
 - The two often perform duets, especially in Paul's latest album "My Way".
- He wrote many hit songs for other artists, including "This is it" with Michael Jackson.

Conclusion

- Overall, Paul Anka used a mixture of pop elements of the era (such as slow tempos, lyrics about love, and clean cut vocals) and rock and roll elements of the era (such as the use of drums, saxophone, and a back beat) to create his own form of “soft rock”
- Anka fits into the evolution of rock within the “soft rock” subgenre that was developed by artists such as Pat Boone, Frankie Avalon, and Paul Anka himself in the 1950s, and the subgenre still continues to remain popular today.

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