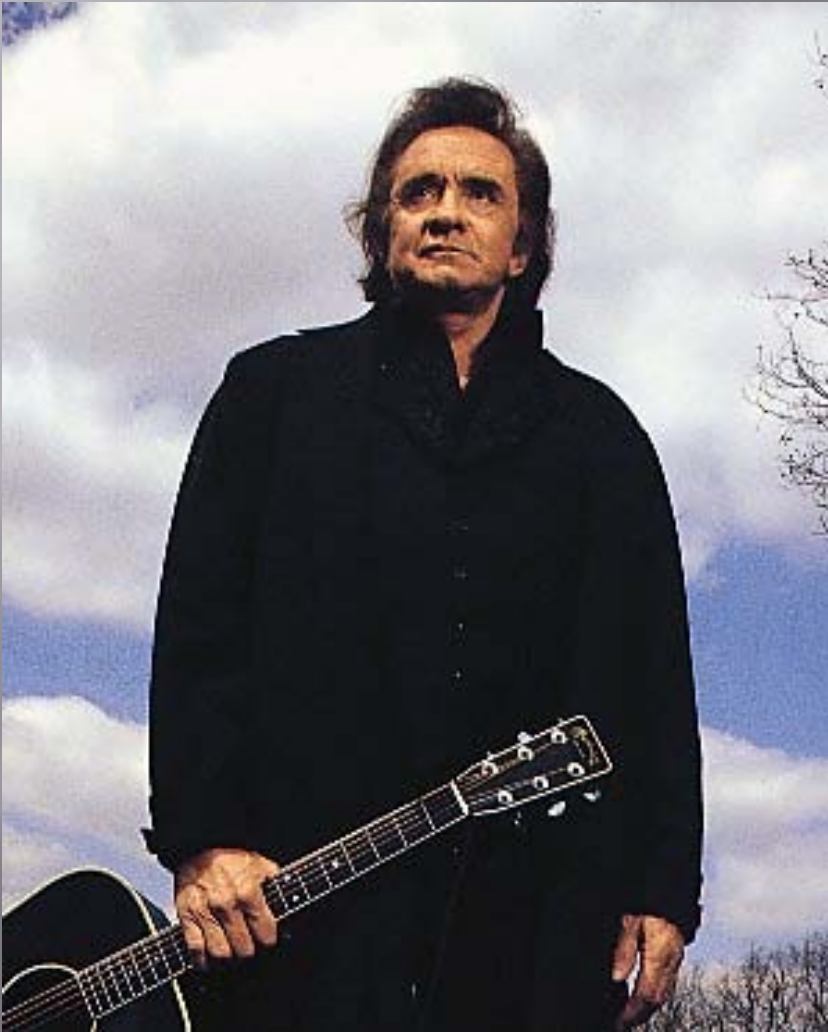


JOHNNY CASH



Presentation by: Sarah Roth, Veronica
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Quick Facts



- ▣ Johnny Cash's career spanned 60 years
- ▣ He dabbled in many different kinds of music
 - Rockabilly
 - Gospel
 - Country

Biography: Early Years/Sun Records

- Born Feb. 26, 1932 in Kingsland, Ark.,
- One of 7 children in the Cash family
- Grew up in the Dyess Colony working alongside family in the cotton fields of their farm. The experiences of farm life especially during the Great Depression influenced many of his musical works
- Grew up with strong and varied musical influences: From the Hymns and folk song influences from his mother to field and railroad work songs. Began writing music at 12
- Briefly worked at auto plant in Pontiac Michigan
- Joined the Air Force 1950 Stationed in Landsberg, Germany. While in Germany he formed his 1st band: Landsberg Barbarians
- After his discharge in 1954 he married Vivian Limberto and moved to Memphis where he worked odd jobs while trying to launch his music career.
- 1954 auditioned for Sun Records twice . Once solo and once with his band The Tennessee Three
- 1955 First single to chart (reached no. 14) was “Cry, Cry, Cry” but his breakout and most successful single was “I Walk the Line” which reached No. 1 on the country chart as well as charting in the top 20 of the pop charts and remained on the music charts for 43 weeks in 1956. Single was his first to sell a million+ copies <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEV58ztuihs>
- Became known as 1/4 of Sun Record’s Million Dollar Quartet which was made up of Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis
- 1956 Performs on the Grand Ole Opry fulfilling a life long dream

Biography: 1958 -1970's

- First met June Carter backstage at the Grand ole Opry 1956 and toured with the Carter Family in the early 60's. June co wrote "Ring of Fire" in 1963.
- 1958 Left Sun for Columbia records in hopes of having more creative freedom to produce more gospel, country, and folk oriented music and moved to California
- 1958 Performed live at Folsom Prison and San Quentin Prison in 1969. His Prison shows resulted in highly successful live albums. (Played several prison shows starting in the 1950's) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zgja26eNeY>
- Throughout the 60's carefully cultivated outlaw image and released a few concept albums including one focusing on the treatment of Native Americans and another of cover of frontier folk songs
- Rigorous touring schedule, relationship with June Carter, and growing dependence on drugs and alcohol culminated in 1965 arrest for smuggling amphetamines across Mexican border, an serious car crash, an overdose, and finally divorce in 1966
- By 1968 with help of June Carter and a reconnection with the Christian faith had gotten sober (though relapses did occur in the 80's) and married her in march 1968
- Released several duets together, including "Jackson" and two one Grammys
- 1969-1971 hosted *The Johnny Cash Show* on ABC. The Nashville based show include a wide variety of performing guests including Bob Dylan, Merle Haggard, Neil Young, and Louis Armstrong. Also sued the show to raise awareness of social issues such as Native American rights, Vietnam, and Prison reform.
- 1970's began to be known as the Man in Black by performing dressed in all black clothing and long, black coat. His clothing choice according to him was in honor of the downtrodden (poor, prisoners, etc), and victims of social injustice
- 1972 Met with President Richard Nixon at the white House to push for prison reform and to perform.
- 1970's marked a decline in popularity , but also a number of TV specials and TV and movie appearances as well as the publication of his first autobiography Man in Black

Biography: 1980's and Beyond

- 1980 inducted into The Country Music Hall of Fame. Its youngest living inductee
- Mid 80's formed country super group The Highwaymen with Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, and Willie Nelson which scored a #1 country hit with "Highwaymen"
- Continued TV and movie appearances as well but the 80's were a low point in his solo musical career
- Dropped by Columbia Records and signed to Mercury from 1987-1991
- 90's saw a resurgence of his career through appearances on albums contemporary rock artists such as the 1993 track "The Wanderer" on U2's Zooropa album.
- Inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame 1995 (one of only a handful of artists inducted into both the Country and Rock n'Roll hall of fame.
- 1994 signed to producer Rick Rubin's American Recordings a label known mostly for rap and hard rock. Sparked the successful and critically acclaimed American Recordings which were covers of contemporary artist recorded in his living room. The album won A Grammy for Best Contemporary folk Album
- wrote a second autobiography in 1997
- 2000-2003 Released 3 more American albums, these albums won multiple Grammy's, CMT awards, and even an MTV Music award for the music video for his cover of Nin Inch Nails' "Hurt" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YS5tiqfqk3U&feature=related>
- Diagnosed with autonomic neuropathy associated with diabetes which greatly curtailed public appearances.
- Last public performance was July 5, 2003. where he paid tribute to June who had died two months earlier
- Died September, 12, 2003 in Nashville, four months after June.
- Career spanned nearly 6 decades and remains one of the only musicians to have sold 90 million+ records
- Two posthumous records were released : American V which debuted at no.1 on Billboard (2006) and American VI.

Johnny Cash's musical style

- ▣ He began writing his own music by writing story-songs
e.g. Folsom
Prison Blues

FOLSOM PRISON BLUES

(J.R. Cash)

JOHNNY CASH (Sun 232, 1956)

I hear that train a-commin', it's rollin' around the bend
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when
I'm stuck in Folsom prison and time keeps draggin' on
But that train keeps a-rollin' on down to San Antone
When I was just a baby, my mama told me, son
Always be a good boy, don't ever play with guns
But I shot a man in Reno, just to watch him die
When I hear that whistle blowin', I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eatin' in a fancy dining car
They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big cigars
But I know I had it coming, I know I can't be free
But those people keep a-movin' and that's what tortures me

Well if that freed me from this prison
and that railroad train was mine
I bet I'd move it on a little farther down the line
Far from Folsom prison, that's where I want to stay
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away

<http://www.rockabilly.nl/lyrics1/f0006.htm>

Johnny Cash's musical style

- ▣ Cash was known for his deep, distinctive bass-baritone voice.
- ▣ Booming voice



Johnny Cash's musical style

- ▣ Backed by a simple melody line
- ▣ Ubiquitous boom-chicka-boom rail engine rhythm.

A traditional beginning of his concerts

Hello, I'm
Johnny Cash.

Folsom
Prison
Blues



Link:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=v7gV5C5mB7A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7gV5C5mB7A)

Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2000

“truly one of the most influential figures in country music, and transcends both generations and musical genres.”



<http://www.deanmartin.com/photos/detail.aspx?fid=0&phid=127>

Other Artists of the Period (50s)



Elvis Presley

Musical Influences on Johnny Cash



Blackwood Brothers

- ▣ Jimmy Rodgers
- ▣ Carter Family
- ▣ Black blues, black gospel, white gospel groups such as:
 - Blackwood Brothers
 - Chuckwagon Gang
- ▣ Cowboy Singers
 - Gene Autry
 - Bob Wills
- ▣ “Liked the image of the man with the white hat correcting all the wrongs out there.”

Speaking out against censoring



Ozzy
Osbourne

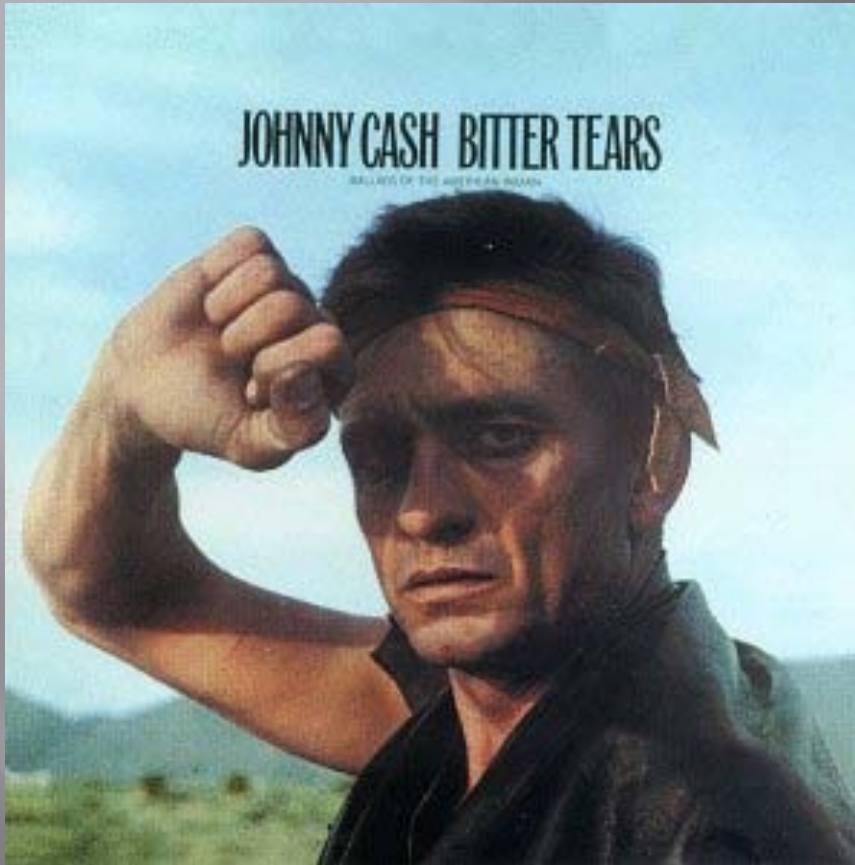
- ▣ In the mid-1980s he began to be interested in heavy metal music
 - Metallica
 - Iron Maiden
 - Ozzy Osbourne
- ▣ Johnny Cash spoke out against various attempts to censor rock music lyrics

Speaking Out Against Censoring Rock Lyrics

“If a parent hasn’t been close enough to his kids to let them make their own decisions, then it’s too late by the time they’re ready to rock ‘n roll.”

- Johnny Cash, 1987

Other Issues Addressed in His Music



Johnny Cash Bitter Tears Album
with other people

“The Man In Black”

- ▣ Wore black for “the poor, the prisoner, those without Jesus, those held back, the sick and reckless, and the dead”
- ▣ Johnny Cash empathized with and lamented the poor treatment of prisoners.
- ▣ Made two live albums (recorded at prisons)
 - Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison (1968)
 - Johnny Cash at San Quentin (1969)

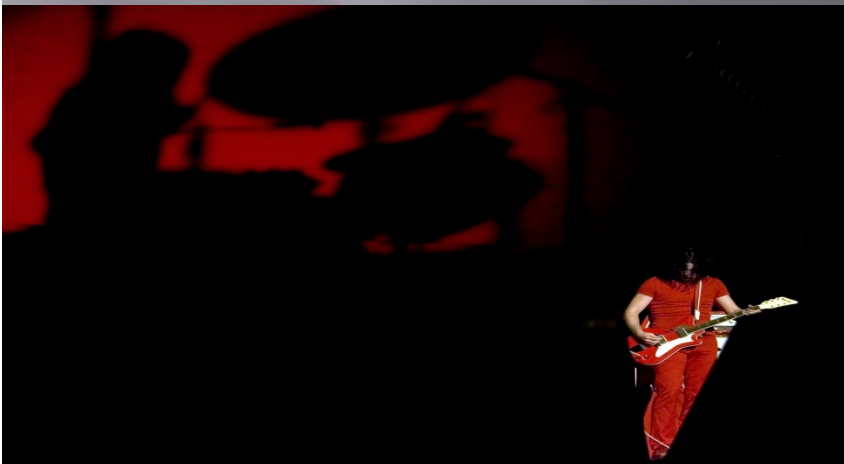
Artists Influenced By Johnny Cash

- Bob Dylan
- Dwight Yoakam
- Bruce Springsteen
- Sheryl Crow
- Tom Waits



Bands influenced by Johnny Cash

- U2
- The Killers
- Metallica
- White Stripes



“His influence spread over many generations of different people...I loved him as a singer and writer.”

---Mick Jagger The Rolling Stones



Johnny Cash in Popular Culture

- Walk the Line
 - ❖ *2005 Academy Award-winning biopic starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon*
- Nine Inch Nails' "Hurt"
 - ❖ *A new generation of new music fans*



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