


Simon and Garfunkel

A black and white photograph of the duo Simon and Garfunkel. Paul Simon is on the left, looking towards the camera with his hand near his mouth. Art Garfunkel is on the right, looking slightly away from the camera, with his hand resting on Simon's shoulder. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

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We choose the duo of Simon & Garfunkel, made up of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, because of their raw sound, harmonizing vocals, and creative lyrics.

Paul Simon



- Born October 13, 1941 in New Jersey
- Mother: Belle, English teacher
- Father: Louis, teacher & bandleader
- Jewish-American
- Grew up in Queens, NY
- 1972 released first solo album, self titled
- 1985 recorded *Graceland* in South Africa, beginning his experimenting with international music.
- Simon had commercial and critical success as a solo artist
- 12 Grammy awards
- Lifetime Achievement award
- Simon was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001

Art Garfunkel



- Born November 15, 1941 in Forest Hills, NY
- Mother: Rose
- Father: Jack, traveling salesman
- Began playing a wire recorder at age 4 for hours at a time
- Appeared in the films *Catch-22* (1969) & *Carnal Knowledge* (1971), continued acting with critical acclaim
- 1973 released first solo album titled *Angel Clare*
- Also in the 1970s, sang background and duet vocals with J.D. Souther & James Taylor
- 6 Grammy awards

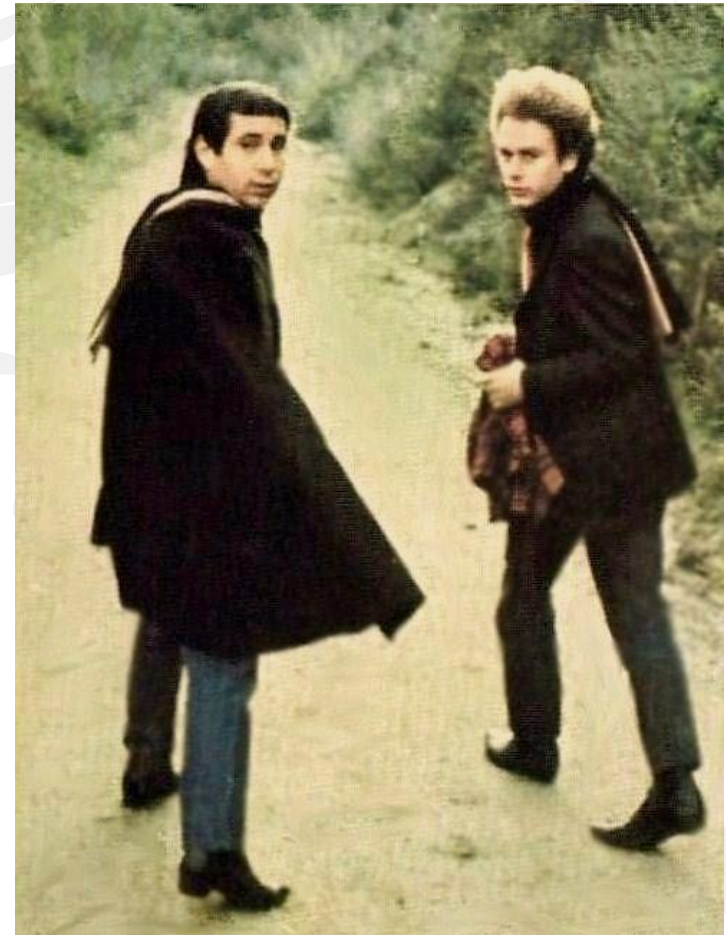
Tom & Jerry



- Paul & Art met at Forest Hills Elementary School, formed a duo called "Tom & Jerry"
- The Everly Brothers were their role models
- 1957 pooled together \$7 to record "Hey Schoolgirl", became a minor success
- Landed them a spot on *American Bandstand* following Jerry Lee Lewis
- Paul & Art went their separate ways for college after they failed to produce a follow-up hit

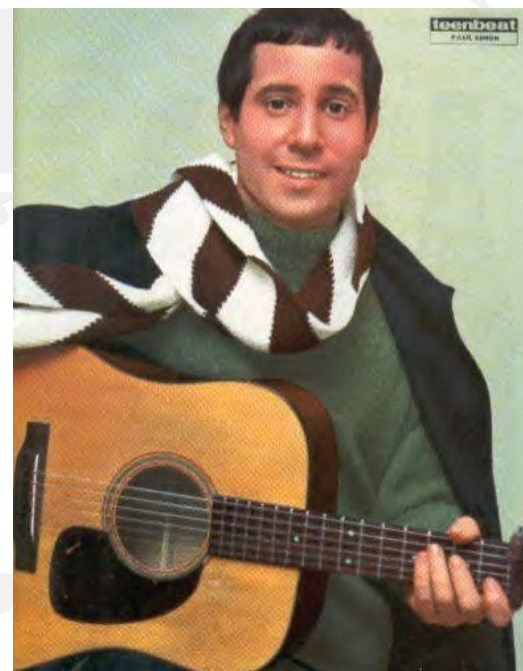
Simon & Garfunkel

- Paul & Art reunited and in 1964 released the album *Wednesday Morning 3AM* to little success; set the tone for their style
- 1966 released *Sounds of Silence*, including a re-edited version of the title track which became an instant hit
- 1967 collaborated to make the soundtrack to *The Graduate*
- 1969 released *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, title song became a cultural anthem
- Other projects include: *Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, & Thyme*. & *Bookends*
- 1970 went their separate ways
- 1981 performed free concert in Central Park, they continue to reunite for performances most recently in 2009



Music Style: Themes and Lyrics

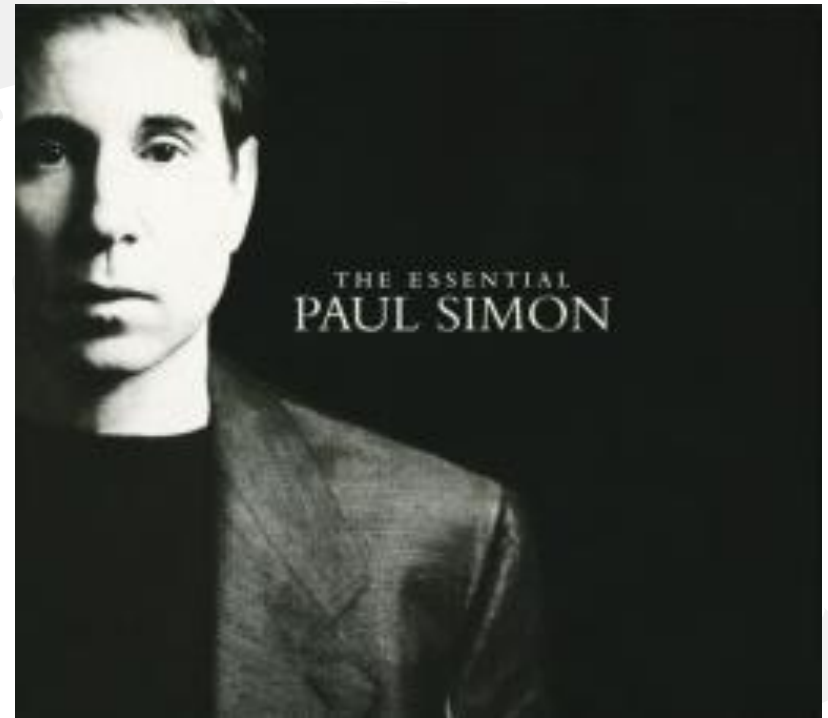
"Paul Simon (right picture) was the Greenwich Movement poet who better than any other **captured the psyche of his generation.**"



"While Bob Dylan(left picture) was the spokesman of the peace marches and the campus sit-ins, Simon represented the average, shy, introverted kid, lonely in his bedroom, distressed by post-puberal sensitivity."

Music Style: Themes and Lyrics

- Paul Simon (songwriter) used music to express **the sensibility of those who were more emotional and introverted.**
- His songs are **tender responses** and seem **fragile** compared to the songs of protest. The **autumnal tone** of Simon & Garfunkel was the opposite of Dylan's angry and prophetic tone.



Music Style - Folk Music



By the early '60s, both Simon and Garfunkel were coming under **the influence of folk music**. Signing to Columbia, they recorded an initially unsuccessful acoustic debut in 1964, *Wednesday Morning 3 AM*, a compilation of covers and originals performed only with an acoustic guitar; unfortunately, they were considered two more imitators of Dylan. It includes the original track of *The Sounds of Silence*.

Music Style - Folk Rock Music



Wilson had complemented the original acoustic sound with an arrangement of electric guitars, bass and drums: thus regenerated, *The Sound Of Silence*, a **folk rock version**, became the most moving single of 1965.

Thanks to their producer, **Tom Wilson (Below)**, one of the few Afro-American producers, the same man who had "**electrified**" Dylan, one of their songs bounced to the top of the charts.



Influenced Music Style



Musically Simon & Garfunkel joined the two white traditions that endured after the war: that of **folk singers** and that of **vocal harmonies**.

- With respect to the **folk tradition**, Simon & Garfunkel were **sweeter** and **more melodic**, closer to the English and Scottish masters.

Influenced Music Style

With respect to the vocal harmonies, the duo displayed a clearer and more austere style, almost neoclassical, influenced by renaissance music and medieval motets. Their most immediate influence was the **Everly Brothers**, but Simon's whispering, almost in falsetto and Art Garfunkel's seraphim harmonizing produced something much more ethereal, even spiritual.



Contributions to Music

- Folk and folk-rock's most successful duo
- Established Paul Simon as one of the pre-eminent songwriters of his generation
- Created the most seamless duo harmonies since the Everly Brothers
- Brought folk-rock into the modern age with epic poetic stances and innovative production
- Created a healing anthem for a turbulent era with the 1970 single "Bridge Over Troubled Water"
- Began Simon's influential incorporation of world music into Western pop

Influences on Simon & Garfunkel



Bob Dylan



The Byrds



The Everly Brother



The Beatles

Music Influences

Influences on Simon and Garfunkel

With careers lasting more than a half-century, Simon and Garfunkel's influences have evolved over time. They have identified the Everly Brothers, Bob Dylan, the Hilltoppers, the Four Aces, the Crewcuts, Little Richard, and Fats Domino as among their earliest influences.

Influenced by Simon and Garfunkel

Simon and Garfunkel have had an enormous influence on popular and folk music. One measure lies in the range of artists that have performed or recorded covers of one song alone, "Bridge over Troubled Water." The list includes Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, The Jackson Five, The Supremes, Andrea Bocelli and Mary Blige, Perry Como, Roy Orbison, Buck Owens, Shirley Bassey, Roberta Flack, Johnny Cash, and Stevie Wonder.

Other Music of the Period

The Beatles

- Emerged in the early 1960's
- Influenced Simon and Garfunkel through their experimental album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"



Other Music of the Period

The Mama's and The Papa's

- Active from 1965-1968
- Influenced Simon and Garfunkel through their folk music
- Both had similar sound and form



Other Music of the Period

Bob Dylan



- Started in 1961
- Wrote powerful protest songs that influenced Simon and Garfunkel
- Was a folk singer

Other Music of the Period

Peter, Paul and Mary

- Started singing in 1962
- Folk singers that influenced Simon and Garfunkel to start in folk music



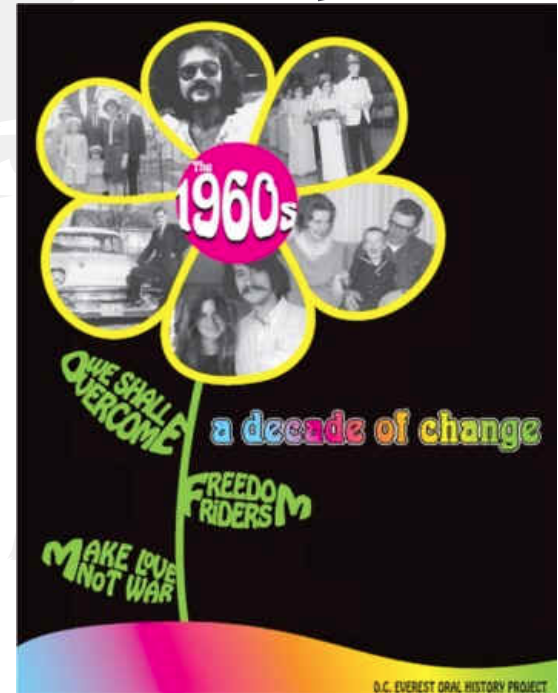
Political Events of the 1960's

- The Vietnam War
- The Cold War
- John F. Kennedy
Presidency
- Civil Rights Act of 1964



Political Events of the 1960's

- National Voting Rights Act
- Social Revolution
- Swinging Sixties
- All these events influenced Simon and Garfunkel to write "Protest Songs", something that they were known for.



Musical Analysis: I am Rock

- **Genre:** Folk Music
- **Instrumentation:** drums, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, high timbre of the keyboard (sounds an octave above).
- **Meter:** quadruple meter, a subtle backbeat can be heard in the drums

Musical Analysis: I am Rock

- **Beat subdivision:** duple, heard in the hi-hat, backbeat
- **Texture:** Homophonic melody and accompaniment, some chordal homophony in the chorus
- **Form:** Strophic

Musical Analysis: I am Rock

Overall: Similar to "The Sounds of Silence", it starts with triplet acoustic guitar lick, and then soft whispered voice flows into the melody. After the first phrase, the percussion and electric guitar emerges into the main accompaniment. In the end, the acoustic guitar reprises and plays the finished riff.

Musical Analysis: I am Rock

Meaning of Lyrics: "I've built walls/A fortress deep and mighty/That none may penetrate/I have no need of friendship/Friendship causes pain." It should be noticed from the above phrases that they gave the voice a character, who is self-conscious and distrustful.

Musical Analysis: I am Rock

Meaning of Lyrics: The narrator views himself as "a rock" and "a island". Ironically, the last phrase, "And a rock feels no pain/And an island never cries", displays the lament and loneliness of narrator, which is the central concern in Simon & Garfunkel's music.

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Slides 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

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Slide 9

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Slide 13

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Slide 15

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