Led Zeppelin



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Group 1

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The Beginning

- The Yardbirds disbanded in the summer of 1968
- Jimmy Page was left with the name and a few more concert obligations to play
- Page recruited John Paul Jones, Robert Plant, and John Bonham

Background

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New Yardbirds

Background

- The four members changed their name to the New Yardbirds
- They finished their touring obligations in Scandinavia in October of 1968
- They then returned back to England, their home country, and released their first album together

References

Led Zeppelin

- New Yardbirds changed their name to Led Zeppelin before coming to the United States to tour in early 1969
- They were the opening act for Vanilla Fudge
- In February 1969 they released their first album under their new name entitled: Led Zeppelin
 - o Album reached the Billboard Top 10 list

Music style

Why Led Zeppelin

- Many argue they were as influential for rock and roll in the 70s as the Beatles were in the 60s
- They broke many of the Beatles U.S. tour box office records from the decade prior
- All albums after their second release had gone platinum

Music style

In 1995, Led Zeppelin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Kashmir- A Musical Analysis

- The drums keep a steady duple meter with duple subdivision throughout the piece.
 - during the guitar's rising set of three notes the meter is triple (contrasting what is played on the drum)
- Instrumentation: drum set, electric bass, electric guitar, strings (violins), horns, sitar,
- Texture: homophonic with melody and accompaniment

Music style

A Oh let the sun beat down upon my face, stars to fill my dream a I am a traveler of both time and space, to be where I have been b To sit with elders of the gentle race, this world has seldom seen C d They talk of days for which they sit and wait and all will be revealed -instrumental break-

- Talk and song from tongues of lilting grace, whose sounds caress e my ear
- f But not a word I heard could I relate, the story was quite clear

Music analysis B Oh, oh.

-instrumental break-

C a Oh, I been flying... mama, there ain't no denyin'

b I've been flying, ain't no denyin', no denyin'

-instrumental break-

D a All I see turns to brown, as the sun burns the ground

b And my eyes fill with sand, as I scan this wasted land

E Trying to find, trying to find where I've been.

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A	a	Oh, pilot of the storm who leaves no trace, like thoughts inside
		a dream

- b Heed the path that led me to that place, yellow desert stream
- c My Shangri-La beneath the summer moon, I will return again
- d Sure as the dust that floats high in June, when movin' through Kashmir.

-instrumental break-

- e Oh, father of the four winds, fill my sails, across the sea of years
- f With no provision but an open face, along the straits of fear

B Ohh.

-instrumental break-

- F a When I'm on, when I'm on my way, yeah
 - b When I see, when I see the way, you stay-yeah
 - c Ooh, yeah-yeah, ooh, yeah-yeah, when I'm down...
 - d Ooh, yeah-yeah, ooh, yeah-yeah, well I'm down, so down
 - e Ooh, my baby, oooh, my baby, let me take you there

Music style

f Let me take you there. Let me take you there

Musical Style

- Led Zeppelin experimented with several musical styles
- Their sound began with blues and heavy metal
- It then softened to mystical folk, funk, psychedelic rock, world music, and a combination of all these styles

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They used a guitar style that drew heavily on the blues

Led Zeppelin's tracks were structured around the 12-bar blues on every studio album except for one

Their sound was marked by speed and power, unusual rhythmic patterns, contrasting terraced dynamics, wailing vocals, and the distorted crunch of a guitar

Music style

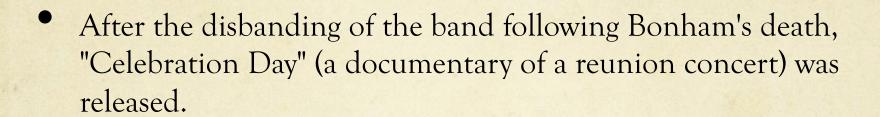
Legacy

Led Zeppelin established the concept of album-oriented rock, refusing to release popular songs from their albums as singles

They established the dominant format for heavy metal, as well as the genre's actual sound

They are the most influential and successful heavy-metal pioneer

Music style



Bonham's son, Jason, took his father's place at the drum set

Background

Influences on Led Zeppelin

It's difficult to pick the main influences on Led Zeppelin, because each member of the band had a diverse background of musical taste, and each member was in turn influenced by different musicians and musical groups. Some important influential artists that helped shape Led Zeppelin's musical style are Muddy Waters and Skip James. The band was deeply rooted in blues style, while incorporating many other genres in their songs as well.

Legacy

Music Background

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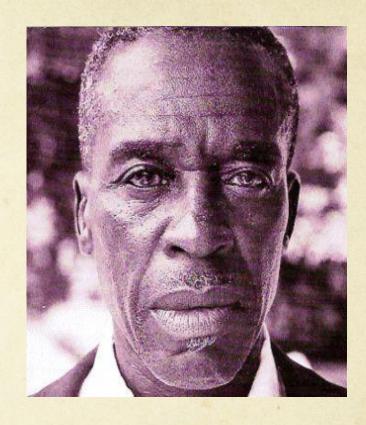
Muddy Waters was a very important post World War II musician. He revived the blues after the harsh conflict and helped preserve the American blues culture. This was extremely influential to Led Zeppelin since their main roots are blues. Without a strong figure such as Muddy Waters to revive the blues, Led Zeppelin may not have been what they were.



Music analysis

Legacy

Skip James was a blues artist who was around long before Muddy Waters' career. His blues music was created before World War II started, but he was later rediscovered in the 1960's. His songs were ahead of their time in the sense that he used falsetto and had his own unique style regardless of the fact that he started playing in the early 1920's. His unique style in turn influenced blues and came back in the 60's, right before Led Zeppelin formed.



Music analysis

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Bands Influenced by Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin had a large influence on many bands following their time, and occurring during their peak performing years as well. It would be difficult to pick the bands that were technically the most affected by Led Zeppelin. A few other famous bands that were affected by Led Zeppelin's influence are The White Stripes, The Smashing Pumpkins, and Nirvana. These are only a few names of bands influenced by Led Zeppelin, but there are many, many more.

Legacy

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The White Stripes formed in 1997, and were comprised of Meg and Jack White. Their main roots were in blues and folk music, which is also what Led Zeppelin's roots were. The White Stripes formed as a garage band and headed the front for other garage bands. Although they broke up in 2005, Jack White continues to perform in projects such as The Raconteurs, The Deadweather, and his own solo career.



Music analysis

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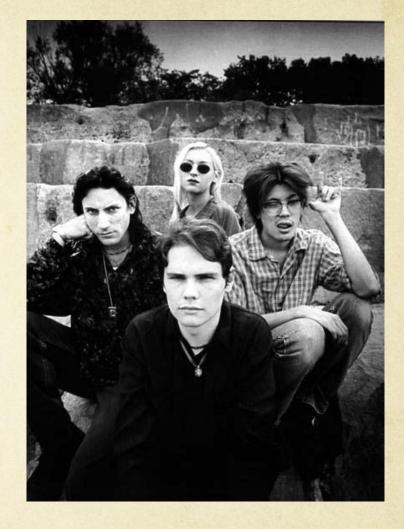
Nirvana was influenced largely by many bands, and Led Zeppelin was one of them. Even in Kurt Cobain's (the main singer of Nirvana) Journals, he lists Led Zeppelin's "No Quarter" live, and at half speed, as really important to him. Nirvana was a revolutionary band in the style of grunge rock in the early 90's and was a short lived band due to Kurt's death in '94, but the Drummer (Dave Grohl) started a new band called the Foo Fighters. This band is still very popular today.



Music analysis

Legacy

The Smashing Pumpkins are an alternative rock band that became successful in the early 1990's in goth rock and heavy metal. Their influence from Led Zeppelin comes mostly from the lyrical style singing about sadness, pain, and real life. The Smashing pumpkins were very successful throughout the 90's, but soon thereafter went on hiatus due to Billy Corgan's (lead guitarist and singer) mental health issues. They more recently came out with a new album called The Celestials in 2012.



Music analysis

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Contemporaries **England**

Black Sabbath Called the "heavy-metal kings of



the 70's." (Warren & Romanski, 2001) Known for their imagery of mysticism and the occult, although Black Sabbath claims it is only for the sake of art, not an actual obsession with the dark arts.

• Judas Priest
One of the first bands to
experiment with instrumentation
that we now associate with
speed and death metal



Background Music analysis

Legacy

America

Alice Cooper

One of America's first "shock"

rockers. Known for extremely gory

theatrics at live shows, as well as aggressive, violent lyrics.



Background

Kiss

Background

Also known for over the top theatrics. everything from solid metal armor to 30 foot flames. They're musical career turned out countless hits and turned a generation of lost kids into an Army



Political and Social Events

- Being British, the members of the band had mixed feelings about American culture.
 - they were spit on
 - had guns drawn on them
 - were heckled by fans
 - felt troubled about the amount of violence they saw (especially the way crowds were treated by police while protesting Vietnam)
 - these events were the inspiration for the lyrics on Led Zeppelin III

Background

- Robert Plant's serious car accident was another event that influenced their musical development
 - o "Achilles Last Stand" was clearly a reference to the accident, as Plant broke his ankle

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