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Group 3

# Why did we choose Jimi Hendrix?



Jimi Hendrix has influenced a legacy of blues-based psychedelic rockers and has contributed to the popularization of the flamboyant electric guitar style that we still hear today.

His experimentation with improvisation has led him to becoming one of the most influential guitarists in rock history.

# Biography: The basics

- Born on November 27, 1942 (the day after thanksgiving)
- Original name was Johnny Allen Hendrix. It was later changed to James Marshall Hendrix
- Originally from Seattle, Washington
  - At the time, only about 1% of Seattle's population was black
- Had ancestors who were slaves, slave owners, and Cherokee

(Cross, 2005)



# Early life

- Developed an interest in music at a young age.
- Completely self-taught
  - Unable to read music, which forced him to learn by ear
- In 1958, his father bought him his first guitar - a five dollar acoustic from one of his friends.
  - Afterwards, he joined his first band, "The Velvetones," which only lasted for a few months.
- In 1961, Jimi joined the Army
  - Was later discharged, and began to pursue music once again

(Experience Hendrix, 2013)

# The start of Jimi Hendrix's musical career

- After being discharged from the Army, Hendrix worked as a pickup guitarist.
- Chas Chandler (former bassist of The Animals) was impressed and became Hendrix's manager in 1966.
- Chandler flew Hendrix to London to join a new band, which was to be named "The Jimi Hendrix Experience."
  - The band quickly gained popularity in London
    - First single: "Hey Joe"
    - First album: *Are You Experienced*

(Experience Hendrix, 2013)



## Mid-career fame



- First appearance in U.S. was his performance at the Monterey Pop Festival in 1967
  - Hendrix burned his guitar as the climax of the show
- He quickly rose to fame between 1967 and 1968
  - Released the albums *Axis: Bold as Love* and *Electric Ladyland*
  - Toured in America twice during this time
- Tensions among band members and managers rose and eventually The Jimi Hendrix Experience was disbanded.

(Kemp, 2014)

# Late-career

- In 1969, Hendrix performed at the Woodstock Festival
- Hendrix was under pressure by black power groups to form an all black group.
  - Later in 1969 he formed an all-black band called “Band of Gypsys”
    - Produced only one album, titled *Band of Gypsys*
- He later performed with previous band members to produce his last album, *The Cry of Love*, and held his last performance at the Isle of Wight Festival.

(Kemp, 2014)



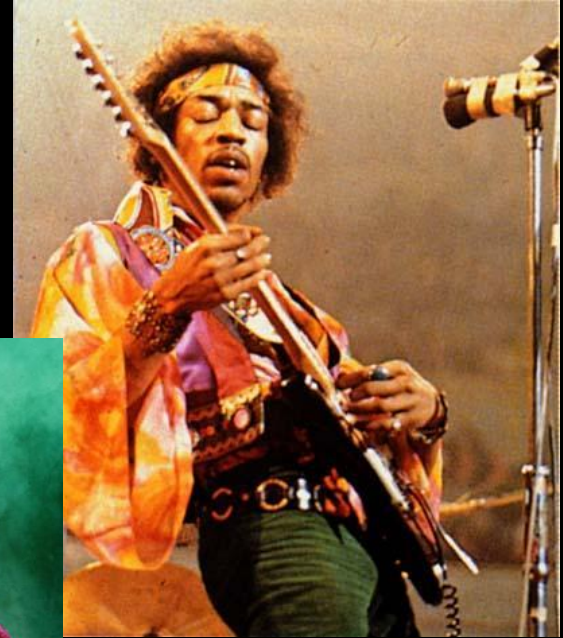
# Death

- Died of a drug overdose in 1970 (at the age of 27) in London
  - Asphyxiated after overdosing on barbiturates
  - Metaphorically died of an “overdose of rock ‘n’ roll”



(Murray, 1989)





# Musical Style



(The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 2014)

- Jimi Hendrix's musical style was deeply rooted in Rhythm & Blues and Jazz.
- He was innovative with sound and was always looking for new ways to improvise and improve his music.
- He performed from 1966 to his final concert which was held on September 6, 1970.

# Compared to the Music of the Period

## The Beatles



(Herb, 2001)

- They were a huge worldwide phenomenon during this time period.
- They represented the less rebellious side of rock 'n' roll.
- Songs were both upbeat and psychedelic, along with a few slow rock ballads about love.

## Jimi Hendrix

- He received his inspiration of adding psychedelic sounds to his music from the Beatles.
- His songs always seemed to push the rock 'n' roll envelope with his extensive stage shows and his impressive electric guitar skills.



(Light, 2007)

# Compared to the Music of the Period

- Simon and Garfunkel
  - They created music which fit into the soft rock/ folk rock genre.
  - Their music focused of slower rhythms and simple melody lines.
- Jimi Hendrix
  - Jimi Hendrix's songs focused on bringing together both "white hippies and black revolutionaries."
  - His music was anything but simple; it contained complex rhythm schemes and unique texture.



(Murray, 2013)

# His Impact on Rock and Roll

- Jimi Hendrix revolutionized the way musicians played music in the late 1960 and beyond.
  - He created many innovative ways to play his electric guitar.
    - He learned to play behind his back and with his teeth.
    - He learned many complicated melody lines, including impromptu instrumentals.
  - He also defined the theatrical way concerts would be performed.
    - His elaborate stage shows were the hottest ticket in town, even upstaging and outselling The Who.
    - His talented and lengthy solos kept the audiences coming back for more.

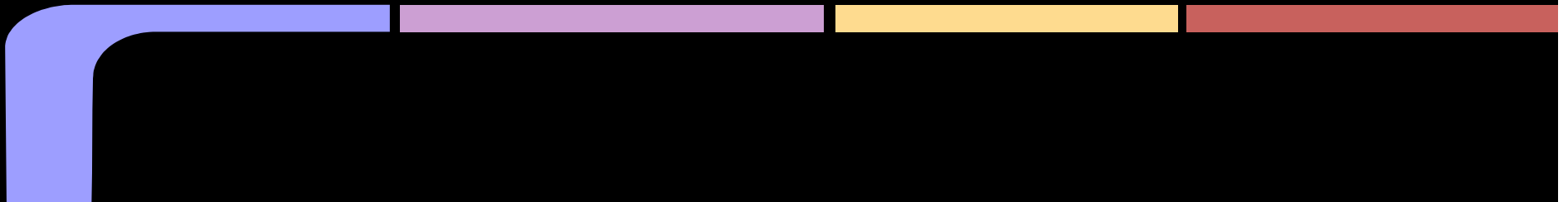


(Murray, 2013)





\*Must be in presentation mode to view



# His Innovations

- Jimi Hendrix's innovative style pushed the rock movement forward.
  - He inspired other artists to learn to play complicated electric guitar lines.
  - He created a new type of experimental music which sparked the beginning of rock 'n' roll music.
    - The use of amps and sound boards to create a new electric reverb and musical effects

(Reyes, 2004)

## Song analysis: “Hey Joe” by Jimi Hendrix



If you are familiar with Jimi Hendrix, you have heard “Purple Haze” or “Hey Joe.” We chose “Hey Joe” because it is a great example of Jimi Hendrix’s sound and musical style of Blues Rock on a cover of a hard rock song. With the addition of phrases and vocals derived from R&B influences, Hendrix’s cover has become the most popular version of “Hey Joe.”

(Hicks, 2000)



# “Hey Joe” Musical Analysis: Instrumentation

Jimi Hendrix plays the electric guitar, and sings lead vocals.

He is accompanied by:

- An electric bass guitar, playing a similar rhythm to Hendrix’s guitar
  - Drums, including kick drum and high hat,
  - And backup vocalists, singing “ohh”s and “ahh”s

The conjunct melody of the song moves smoothly to the next beat and has a small range in its pitch.

## “Hey Joe” Musical Analysis: Meter and Beat Subdivision

The Meter changes between Duple and  
Quadruple  
Beat Subdivision is Duple.

Chord progression of VI III VII IV I  
In the key of D : C G D A E

# “Hey Joe” Musical Analysis: Texture

1. Intro, 0:00-0:06 monophonic electric guitar intro
2. Verse 1 and 2, 0:07- 1:40 Homophonic, Melody and Accompaniment. Jimi Hendrix sings the vocal melody, accompanied by his guitar, bass, drums, and backup vocals.
1. Instrumental break, 1:41-2:14 Homophonic, Melody and Accompaniment. Guitar solo melody, with accompanying drums, bass, and backup vocals.
2. Verse 3, 2:15-3:25 Homophonic, Melody and Accompaniment. Jimi Hendrix sings the vocal melody, accompanied by his guitar, bass, drums, and backup vocals.

## “Hey Joe” Musical Analysis: Form

- Strophic form
  - repeating verse structure
- Dominant macrostructure of AABAB
  - A=Verse, B=Instrumental.
- Dominant Microstructure is aabb
  - Verse 1 and 2 are aabb, and verse 3 is aabc

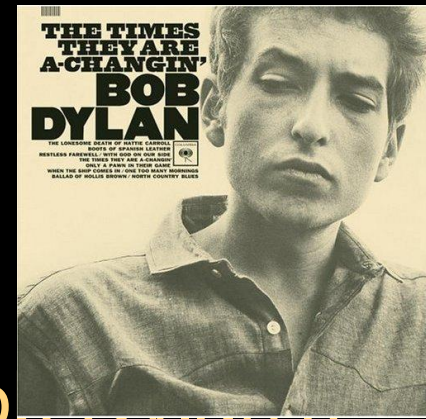
# Musical Influences

- During his teen years, he listened to a lot of blues artists
  - These included Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Howlin' Wolf, and Lightnin' Hopkins
- Big fan of Elvis Presley, Little Richard, and Chuck Berry
- Taught himself how to play by imitating such artists on records or the radio
  - The first song he taught himself all the way through was "Tall Cool One" by The Wailers

(Unterberger, 2009) (Experience Hendrix)

# Influences Continued

- Curtis Mayfield's influence is audible in his guitar playing



- His songwriting resembles Bob Dylan
  - He used to repeatedly play his records

(Unterberger, 2009)

# Jimi Hendrix's Influence

- Influenced Ernie Isley of the Isley Brothers
- Many hip hop artists have cited his influence
  - These include Beastie Boys, Run-D.M.C., Digital Underground, and A Tribe Called Quest



(Unterberger, 2009) (Owen and Reynolds, 1991)



# Fame and contribution

Although Jimi's career span was only 4 years, he achieved great things and created a legacy

- 1967
  - Pop musician of the Year by Melody Maker
- 1968
  - Artist of the Year by Billboard
  - Performer of the Year by Rolling Stone
- 1969
  - World Top Musician by Disc and Music Echo
- 1992
  - Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- 2005
  - UK Music Hall of Fame
- 3 albums, *Are You Experienced*, *Axis: Bold as Love*, and *Electric Ladyland* ranked in the 100 greatest albums of all time. ( by Rolling Stone)
- Named the greatest guitarist and one of sixth greatest artist of all time. (by Rolling Stone)



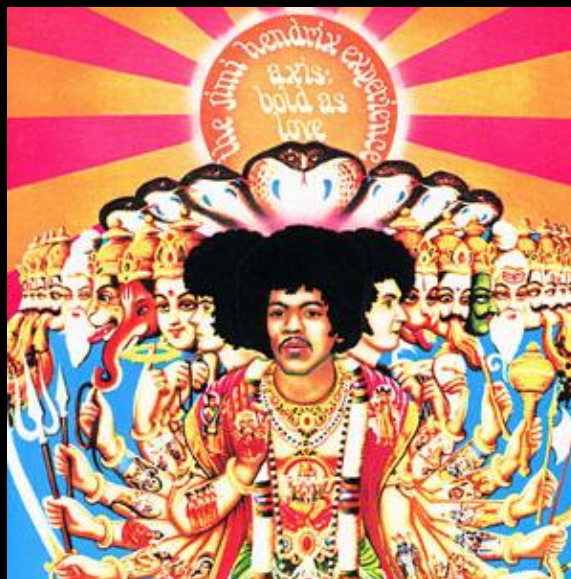
(Experience Hendrix, 2013)



# ALBUMS



May 12 1967



Jan 15 1968



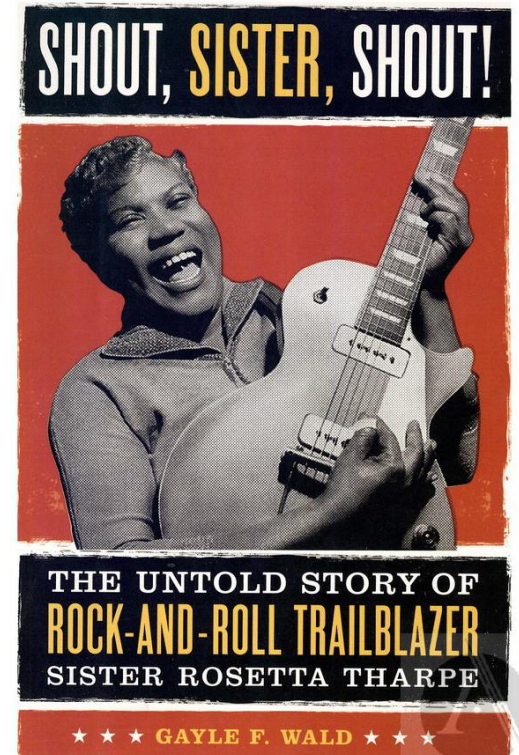
Sep 16 1968

\*click on the picture of each album to listen to them\*

# Other music of the period - Sister Rosetta Tharpe

- African American singer, songwriter, and guitar virtuoso.
- Main genre: Gospel with mixture of jazz and rhythms and blues
- She is the first ever gospel crossover artist and was referred to as “The Original Soul Sister”
- Also called the Godmother of Rock n’ Roll
- Even until today, there is no other American woman who can compare the Tharpe smooth flow of sound.
- Invented the guitar playing technique that later evolved to rock and roll style adopted by Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, and Eric Clapton
- Toured until her death in 1973

(Sister Rosetta Tharpe, 2014)





(Led Zeppelin Biography, 2001)

- Formed in 1968 by former member of Yardbirds, Jimmy Page, went on to form a group called New Yardbirds. Later changed to Led Zeppelin, named after their first and wildly successful album.
- The band consists of Robert Plant, John P Jones, and John Bonham. Like Yardbird band in the past, Led Zeppelin used a guitar style that drew heavily on the blues. Their music style is very much alike with Jimi Hendrix with a bit of distortion, feedback, reverberation, and out-and-out noise in their songs and performances.
- While active from 1968 to 1982 , the band released 9 albums and were considered the most one of the most successful, innovative and influential rock groups in history.
- Inducted as Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1995

(Goodwin, 2011)

# Political & Social Event

- In 1966, Equality of Educational Opportunity was published, forced integration and busing in 1970s.
- The Civil Rights movement in 1960s
  - Assassination Martin Luther King and Malcolm X shook the nation and inspired many artists.
- 1963 - President John F Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas
- US troops sent to Vietnam
  - many protest and rebellion throughout.
  - Artists especially folk



## In Conclusion

Jimi Hendrix applied his appreciation of Jazz, and R&B into his style of Blues Rock and Rock 'n' Roll. His early lyrical style was influenced by Bob Dylan a noted Folk artist, but unlike Folk Music, Hendrix's melodies were complicated using diverse cord combinations.

(Rolling Stone, 2014) (PBS, 2013)

He opened the door for electric guitarists to explore unique sounds and melodies using controlled distortion. Jimi did not view the electric guitar as another musical instrument, but as a source for electronic sound. He was not only a gifted musician but a skilled songwriter, and no other musician at the time could match his outrageous gift.

(Rolling Stone, 2014) (PBS, 2013)

Jimi Hendrix had a short lived music career but is one of the most well known guitarists in rock history. His use of experimental guitar forms and improvisation transformed him into a legend. His ability to learn solely by ear and his unique style of playing have become iconic for his time period.

(Rolling Stone, 2014) (PBS, 2013)

# Photograph/Video URLs

- Slide 1: <http://choffman36.deviantart.com/art/Jimi-Hendrix-vector-collage-338617867>
- Slide 2: treble clef symbol: [http://aisla.webstarts.com/meet\\_la\\_isla.htm](http://aisla.webstarts.com/meet_la_isla.htm)
- Slide 3: <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/lists/100-greatest-guitarists-20111123/jimi-hendrix-20120705>
- Slide 5: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2239775/Jimi-Hendrixs-favourite-guitar-switched-setting-cheaper-version-sells-250-000.html>
- Slide 6: <http://www.guitarworld.com/album-stream-jimi-hendrix-experience-live-berkeley>
- Slide 7: <http://skoodmusic.com/2013/01/13/jimi-hendrix-around/>
- Slide 8: <http://www.genesis-publications.com/hendrix/>
- Slide 9:
  - Left: <http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/jimi-hendrix-183.php>
  - Middle: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/uk/london/7992020/Jimi-Hendrixs-London.html>
  - Right: <http://the100.ru/en/lovers/jimmy-hendrix.html>
- Slide 10: <http://rebloggy.com/post/jimi-hendrix-the-jimi-hendrix-experience-noel-redding-mitch-mitchell/65406892724>
- Slide 11:
  - Left: <http://www.thebeatles.com/news/beatles-are-itunes-radio>
  - Right: [http://The\\_Jimi\\_Hendrix\\_Experience#mediaviewer/File:Jimi\\_hendrix\\_experience\\_1968.JPG](http://The_Jimi_Hendrix_Experience#mediaviewer/File:Jimi_hendrix_experience_1968.JPG)
- Slide 12:
  - Top: <http://proseworks.blogspot.com/2012/12/paul-simon-is-not-really-rock.htm>
  - Bottom: <http://www.jacarandafm.com/post/jimi-hendrix-tribute/>
- Slide 13:
  - Left: <http://www.theguardian.com/music/2010/aug/08/jimi-hendrix-40th-anniversary-death>
  - Right: <http://www.groovydad.co.uk/?paged=2>
- Slide 14: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExSNjdGtTBc>
- Slide 16: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpkDdl\\_ZGg30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpkDdl_ZGg30)



# Photograph/Video URLs Cont.

- Slide 22:
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  - Right: <http://emilydarlinginla.blogspot.com/2011/11/bob-dylan-album-covers.html>
- Slide 23:
  - Left: <http://chicksinthehuddle.com/2013/02/06/espn-turns-athletes-into-music-superstars/>
  - Right: <http://www.ladazehollywoodnights.com/legends-pioneers-and-trail-blazers/album-beastie-boys-check-your-head/>
- Slide 24: [http://cdn2-b.examiner.com/sites/default/files/styles/image\\_content\\_width/hash/56/b6/56b635cbb8aff8d3f8fa2eb81d6b0f27.jpg?itok=ereEzsn8](http://cdn2-b.examiner.com/sites/default/files/styles/image_content_width/hash/56/b6/56b635cbb8aff8d3f8fa2eb81d6b0f27.jpg?itok=ereEzsn8)
- Slide 25:
  - album picture
    - 1 and 2 <http://callmeredtelephone.blogspot.com/2011/01/psychedelic-album-cover-art.html>,
    - 3 <http://quoteko.com/jimi-hendrix-electric-ladyland-peru-vinyl-album-record.html>
  - video link:
    - Are you experienced? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK8N6DjJccc>
    - Bold As Love <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQY26kcbDDc>
    - Electric LadyLand <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbS6M5rcemo>
- Slide 26: <http://rockhall.com/media/assets/images/originals/2c9/595/6a626c.jpg>
- Slide 27: <http://www.chachaandspoons.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/zep.jpg>
- Slide 28 (from left to right) [http://jewishcurrents.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/anti-war\\_vietnam\\_war\\_protest\\_rally.jpg](http://jewishcurrents.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/anti-war_vietnam_war_protest_rally.jpg)
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