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FLEETWOOD MAC

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Why Fleetwood Mac

- Fleetwood Mac is one of the most influential and popular bands ever formed. “By 2000, Fleetwood Mac has sold more than 100 million copies of its albums—including 25 million for *Rumors* alone—making it the one of the most popular [and most listened to] rock bands in history”(Official Website Fleetwood Mac, 2011).



Why Fleetwood Mac Continued

- We, as a group, were unaware of the beginnings of FWM.
- We had no idea that they had a different sound from their hits that made them popular.
- It's important to understand the true beginnings of great bands.



Band Beginnings

- Fleetwood Mac, the British-American rock band was formed in 1967 by Peter Green and included his former John Mayall's Bluesbreakers Green band mates, Mick Fleetwood (drummer), and John McVie, as well as "Elmore James enthusiast Jeremy Spencer." (Official Website Fleetwood Mac, 2011)
- Fleetwood Mac got its name by combining the last names of the original members (Fleetwood +Mc).
- Fleetwood Mac debuted at the British Jazz and Blues festival in August 1967, and was an instant hit in Britain because of their mix of blues classics with "Green's blues-style originals."
- However, when Fleetwood Mac toured the United States they were not received with such a warm welcome and their first tour shockingly, "had the group third-billed behind Jethro Tull and Joe Crocker, neither of whom was popular in Britain"(Official Website Fleetwood Mac, 2011).

Band Problems

- During the 1970's, Fleetwood Mac went through some major band changes...
 - In 1969, group started to move away from the all-blues format, which had originally given rise to their popularity.
 - Group members Peter Green and Jeremy Spencer unexpectedly left the band to follow their religious beliefs. Spencer joined the Children of God (religious cult), and both men during the 1970's, released solo albums which were grossly unsuccessful.
 - To combat the departures, “Bob Welch joined [in 1975 he left to form the Power trio Paris], supplementing Kirwan's and Christine McVie's songwriting. Next Kirwan was fired and replaced by Bob Weston and Dave Walker, both of whom soon departed.”(Official Website Fleetwood Mac, 2011)
 - In addition to the band member problems, Fleetwood Mac was unable to tour due to “protracted legal complications”.

A silver lining

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- In 1974, the group relocated to California and was able to finally find its “best selling line-up,” which consisted of the additions of Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks, “who had played together in the Bay Area’s acid rock group Fritz from 1968-1972.”(Walters, 1979)
- In 1976, after internal group drama (the McVie’s divorcing and Nicks and Buckingham breaking-up), the group released their most famous album *Rumors* which would go on to sell over 17 million copies, win album of the year, and contained the hits “Go your own way”, “Dreams”, “Don’t Stop”, and “You Make Loving Fun”.
- After touring venues all around the world, Fleetwood Mac took two years and spent approximately one million dollars to make their next album, *Tusk*, “an ambitious... experimental project that couldn’t match its predecessor’s popularity, although it still turned a modest profit and spun off a couple of hits.” (Walters, 1979)

Fleetwood Mac Biography continued

- In 1980, Fleetwood Mac vocalist Stevie Nicks began work on her first solo album, *Bella Donna*, which hit #1 in the charts and went quadruple platinum.
- In 1982, the band, because of several factors (Nicks' solo ventures and chemical dependency problem, and Fleetwood Mac's bankruptcy), took a hiatus, "not coming back together again until 1985, when it began to work on the album *Tango in the Night*", which produced the hits "Little Lies", "Seven Wonders" and "Everywhere". (Official Website Fleetwood Mac, 2011).
- Lindsey Buckingham left the band later that year and was replaced by Billy Burnette and Rick Vito.

Present Fleetwood Mac

- After Vito and Burnette left the group, Buckingham joined Mick Fleetwood, the McVies, and Nicks to perform “Don’t Stop”, at President Clinton’s inaugural gala in 1993.’
- In 1997, the *Rumors* edition of Fleetwood Mac reunited to record “The Dance”, which was a live document of an MTV concert that showcased the band’s greatest hits. The album coincided with the bands world tour (a first in fifteen years) (Official Website Fleetwood Mac, 2011).
- In 1998, Fleetwood Mac was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

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Influences on Early Members

- Peter Green was influenced by black R&B artists: Muddy Waters, Riley “Blues Boy” King, Ken Colyer, Humphrey Lyttelton, Chris Barber, Cyril Davis and his mentor to be Alexis Korner (Brackett, 2007).
- He played with B.B. King as a guest for King’s Live in London on June 1971 (Adelson, 2008).
- He was also influenced by Cream, Jimi Hendrix and Hank B. Marvin of The Shadows (Adelson, 2008).
- Mick Fleetwood was influenced by imported American Recordings (Brackett)
- Other influences were John Mayall’s Bluebreakers, Everly Brothers, Cliff Richard, and The Shadows (Adelson, 2008)

Influences on Early Members

- John McVie was influenced by bassist Jet Harris from the Shadows.
- Other musical influences were John Mayall, Willie Dixon, Charles Mingus, and Paul McCartney (Freedland, n.d.)
- Jeremy Spencer was influenced by Elmore James and his slide-guitar playing style. (Adelson, 2008)

- Left to right: Mick Fleetwood, Green, Jeremy Spencer, and John McVie.



<http://www.life.com/gallery/39122/image/3276085#index/14>

Influences on Current Members

- Lindsey Buckingham was influenced early in his childhood by folk music, more specifically banjo methods, and also by The Kingston Trio (LyricsFreak, 2010).
- He practiced the Kingston Trio's fingerpicking style and was also influenced by the Beach Boys (LyricsFreak,2010).
- Stevie Nicks was influenced by the harmonies of The Mamas and The Papas (Adelson, 2008).



<http://userserve-ak.last.fm/serve/252/27566805.jpg>

Influence on Led Zeppelin

- Fleetwood Mac had a great influence on Led Zeppelin's songs.
- Robert Godwin suggested that without Fleetwood Mac, Led Zeppelin would not have been able to come up with "Rock & Roll" and the vocal part for "Black Dog" (Garner, 2008).
- Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well" and "Black Dog" by Led Zeppelin have similar call and response between the vocalist and the band. There is also similar themes between both songs (Garner, 2008).
- More musical influence can be seen in "The Lemon Song" (Garner, 2008).



Influences on Other Artist

- Fleetwood Mac vocalist Stevie Nicks has been mimicked by many female artist (J2, 2008) such as Alicia Keys and Gwyneth Paltrow.
- Alicia Keys was inspired by a Fleetwood Mac Concert two months before she released her album *The Element of Freedom* (Gardner, 2008).
- Many up and coming indie artists attempting to do complex harmonies are influenced by FWM (J2, 2008).



http://www.usatoday.com/life/music/news/2009-12-15-aliciakeys15_ST_N.htm

Other Fleetwood Mac Members

- Fleetwood Mac has had various members come and go throughout its history. The bar graph below shows all the members and the years they performed with Fleetwood Mac.

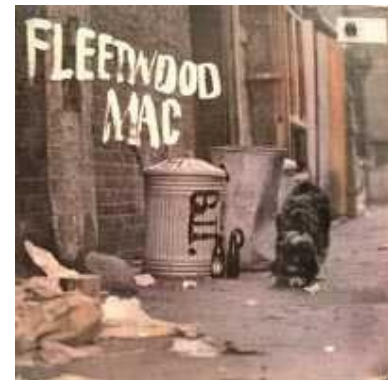


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleetwood_Mac

Finding their place in rock history

The early years

- ❑ Early musical presences during the blues rock stage (1967-1971's Future Games album)
 - ❑ Cream (1966 England)
 - ❑ mix of blues rock, hard rock, psychedelic rock
 - ❑ Canned Heat (1965-present, Los Angeles, CA)
 - ❑ blues rock band
 - ❑ The Doors (1965-1973, Los Angeles, CA)
 - ❑ Blues rock, acid rock, hard rock
 - ❑ The Grateful Dead (1965-Present, San Francisco, CA)
 - ❑ Rock, folk, blues, bluegrass, jazz



(“Discography/Fleetwood Mac”,2011)

Historical Influences

- ❑ War Protests of 1960's had an affect on their songs even though they were from England. Their lyrics were love/faith based in nature (Rikki Rockburs, 1998).
- ❑ Landing on the moon which occurred on July 20th,1969 is referenced in their lyrics (Hans-Peter Engel, 2004)



(Hans-Peter Engel, 2004)



(Democratic Underground, 2001)

Finding their place in rock history

The Pop/Rock transition

- ❑ Musical Presences during the Pop/Rock phase of Fleetwood Mac
 - ❑ Bruce Springsteen (1972-present, New Jersey)
 - ❑ Hard rock, folk rock
 - ❑ Queen (1971-present, London, England)
 - ❑ Mainstream rock and roll
 - ❑ Led Zeppelin (1968-1980, London, England)
 - ❑ Hard rock, heavy metal, folk rock, blues rock
 - ❑ Bob Dylan (1959-present, Minneapolis, MN)
 - ❑ Folk rock
 - ❑ Eagles (1971-1980, Los Angeles, CA)
 - ❑ Country rock, folk rock

The Journey

- ❑ In 2003, Fleetwood Mac released the album *Say You Will*, which is a tribute to their musical passion and longevity. Over the 30 year span of their career, they have reshaped their image to keep themselves relevant.
- ❑ Other artists whose careers have lasted along with Fleetwood Mac's include
 - ❑ Bruce Springsteen
 - ❑ Queen
 - ❑ Bob Dylan



Amazon.com, 1996-2011)

Musical Style of Fleetwood Mac

- ❑ Original band members were part of British blues boom- this was not as popular in the U.S.
- ❑ Gave authentic vintage feel by playing live with amps to a PA system that recorded sound
- ❑ Used the basic 12-bar blues progression, blues scale, & shouting vocals



bobtjeb blues.com

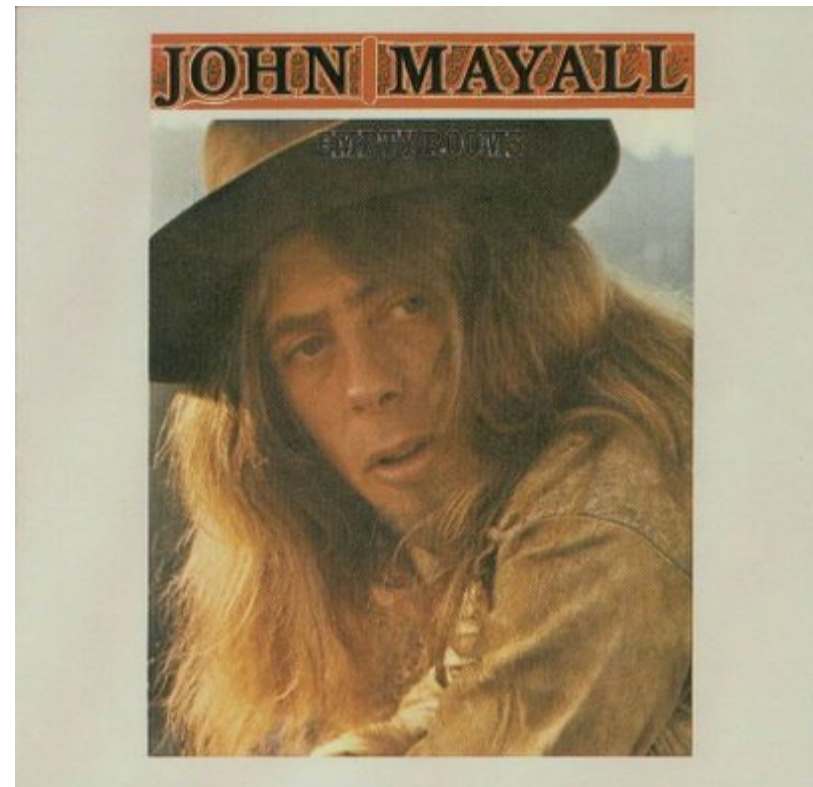
Fleetwood Mac: Evolution of Rock and Roll

- Their blues music helped influence blues-based rock, which can be traced to the Yardbirds and Led Zeppelin.
- After their last all blues album in 1969, they used raucous R&R style.
- Later years saw a softer side with more emphasis on folk rock and even C&W
- Peter Green was the blues component in Fleetwood Mac. When he left, so did the blues feel. This helped usher in a change that allows the band to encompass so many different genres.



Unique and Innovative Elements

- John Mayall was called the “Father of British Blues”—a major influence to the band
- Fleetwood Mac is well known for changing band members and genres. This “revolving door” allowed for many different musical perspectives and influences.
- Listeners never knew what to expect next, or who they would see in live performances.



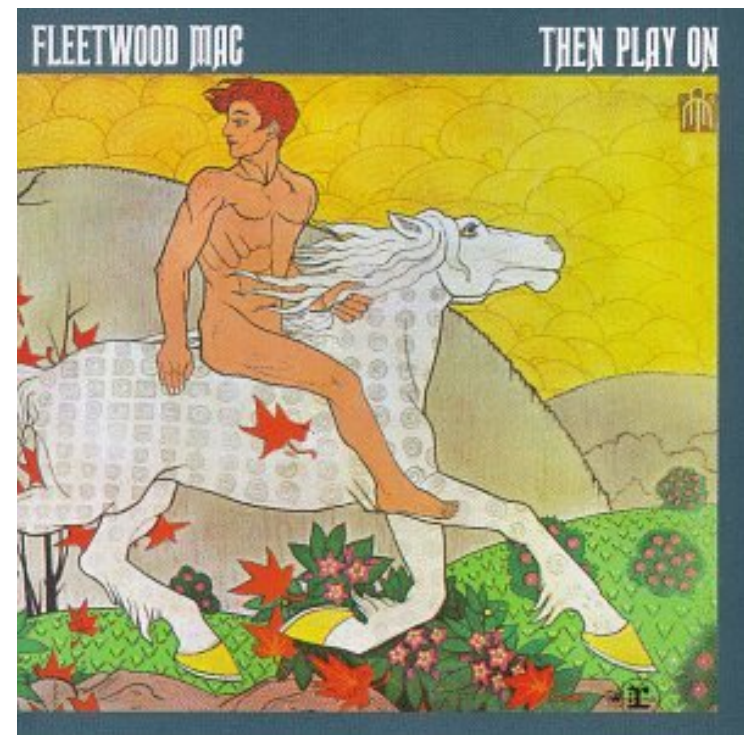
Fleetwood Mac Innovation Con't



- FWM was known as being complete purists when it came to British Blues.
- They lost audience and some respect when they switched to more of a pop/C&W/commercial sound.
- Most listeners today do not even know about the original FWM and wouldn't recognize their songs.

Musical Analysis of “Rattlesnake Shake”

- From the album *Then Play On* released in 1969
- This is the last album featuring Peter Green and heavy blues-rock
- This song contains the members: Peter Green, Danny Kirwan, John McVie, Mick Fleetwood, and Jeremy Spencer.



Analysis

- The song Rattlesnake shake, by Fleetwood Mac is written in quadruple meter, and the sound of the cymbals crashing accents the fourth beat (which stays constant throughout the song).



birdswithbrokenwings2.blogspot.com

Analysis Continued



gemm.com

- The lyrics are a bit indecent and hint at masturbation, this is most clearly seen with the line “But when I get home tonight I guess I got to shake myself” and again with the line “I know this guy his name is Mick now, he don't care when he ain't got no chick...yes, he do the shake and jerks away the blues.”

Analysis Continued



- This song also contains an exceptionally long interlude/instrumental break which, after the third minute, turns into the coda. There is a blues feel with the loud shouting vocals, wailing guitar, and loud volume. There are no backup vocals or harmonies in the song. It has homophonic melody & accompaniment textures with conjunct melodies. The medium tempo stays constant, and the chorus does not repeat as often as it does in their later music. Instead, it repeats at the end of the second and third verse. The listener can feel the R&B influence, but some of their earlier works incorporate that sound even more. Their later works rarely did.

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