

Music and Culture of World War II 1940-1950

Music Genres and Artists

Top 20 Greatest Songs 1940-1949 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Gx5DhKN_zY

Pop

Bing Crosby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvjvrtS7PZA>

Frank Sinatra (1st teen idol) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bm8kvUPlq9Q>

Dean Martin

Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw Swing Bands

The entry of the US into World War II brought about a rapid end to big band swing as many musicians were conscripted into the armed forces and travel restrictions made it hard for bands to tour. In 1944, Glenn Miller was killed when his plane crashed into the [English Channel](#) en route to a [USO](#) show in France. His death is widely considered to mark the close of the swing era.



After the war, a combination of factors such as changing demographics and rapid inflation made large bands unprofitable so that popular music in the US came to be dominated instead by traditional pop and crooners, as well as bebop and jump blues.

Jazz

Ella Fitzgerald

Billie Holiday

Dizzie Gillespie

Nat King Cole <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY4jbYNTmKs>

<http://www.biography.com/people/nat-king-cole-9253026#synopsis>

Country



Singing Cowboys: Roy Rogers and Gene Autrey

“Happy Trails” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S73UR_nUUI

“Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j11rwc6Sf4o>

Honky Tonk: Ernest Tubb, Hank Williams

“I’m Walking the Floor Over You” Ernest Tubb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWmbFX9DHrM>

The Best of Hank Williams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjCoKslQOE8>

WWII Music

“God Bless America” by Irving Berlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmc-pEyUHTs>

“There’ll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover” by Vera Lynn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5aeClRY4kA>

“We’ll Meet Again” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHcunREYzNY>

“Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive”- Johnny Mercer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cpyWmYw1A>

“Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” Andrew Sisters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8of3uHG1tCI>

“Don’t Fence Me In” by Bing Crosby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMnLoOnrwbG>

“Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcyiC79I9I0>

“G.I. Jive” by Johnny Mercer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcyiC79I9I0>

“I’ll Be Seeing You” Bing Crosby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ld7pkvZPqk>

“Sentimental Journey” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7umIJj8UBo>

“You’d be So Nice to Come Home To” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dferwQX98ls>

“Shoo Shoo Baby” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lT7_YHwnfjM

“I’ll Be Home For Christmas” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL7leMc1blw>

“White Christmas” Bing Crosby - Best selling single of all time (50 million copies)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Pq-CUYd9QU>



Movies

Disney

Fantasia (1940)

Pinocchio (1940)

Dumbo (1941)

Bambi (1942)

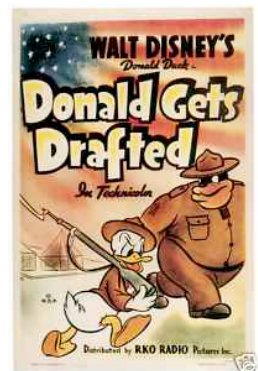
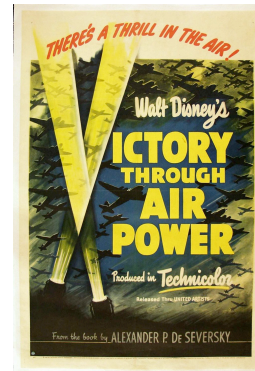
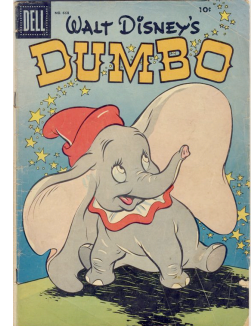
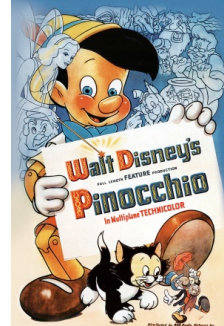
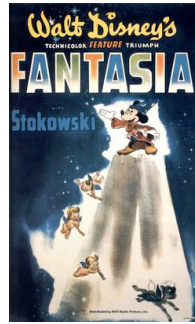
Fun and Fancy Free (1947)

Victory Through Air Power (1943) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I27OFjFKFKA>

Der Fuehrer's Face (1943) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bn2GooXFrxxg>

Donald Gets Drafted (1942) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDDVpFMABOQ>

Lots of shorts with Donald, Mickey, Pluto, Goofy



Musicals

Meet Me in St. Louis with Judy Garland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwF6kNIDg30>

Yankee Doodle Dandy by George M. Cohan starring James Cagney

Easter Parade with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire

The Barkleys on Broadway with Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers

Going My Way with Bing Crosby

Anchors Aweigh with Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly

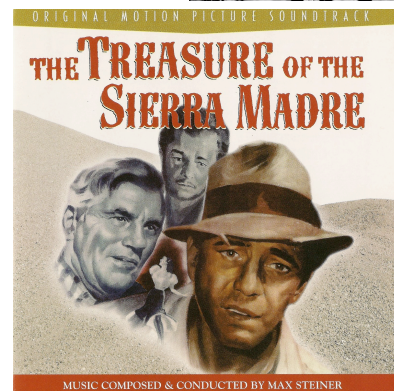
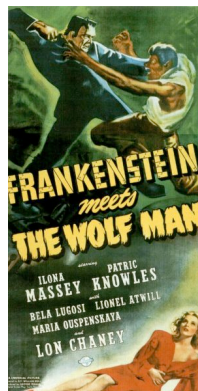
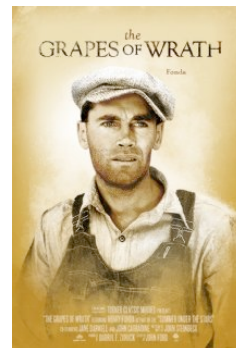
Holiday Inn with Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4T6hOxFRoY>

For Me and My Gal with Judy Garland

On the Town with Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7CigW2Tdgw>

Stormy Weather with Lena Horn

White Christmas with Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4c6AwTrUcg&list=PLU-unhyZDOW2am8q3Bng3_u4B_fDingws



Dramas

It's a Wonderful Life <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewe4lg8zTYA>

Casablanca <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkL9l7qovsE>

The Maltese Falcon

The Philadelphia Story

Citizen Kane <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzhh3U2cONs>

Miracle on 34th Street

The Grapes of Wrath

How Green Was My Valley

Going My Way

Sergeant York (about WWI)

To Have and Have Not (French Resistance)

Sands of Iwo Jima (John Wayne)

Best Years of Our Lives (Veterans Re-entry into Civilian Life)

Thrillers

Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man

The Body Snatcher

The Curse of the Cat People

The Post man Always Rings Twice

Alfred Hitchcock gets started

Westerns

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre

Red River

The Ox-Bow Incident

Radio

In the early 1940's, radio programs reflected America's involvement in World War II. As the number of news and human interest programs grew, evening variety, musical, quiz, and audience participation programs shrunk. During this time, evening dramatic programs exploded and reached its peak. People grew tired of war news, and used the radio shows as a way to escape. With the expansion of television, radio drama's popularity faded.

Popular shows:

Quiz shows - The \$64,000 Question

Comedy - Abbot and Costello, Amos and Andy,
Adventures and Detective: The Adventures of the Thin Man, The Adventures of Superman, The Adventures of Father Brown, The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, Dick Tracy, Crime Doctor, The Green Hornet

Westerns: Gene Autry's Melody Ranch

Music shows and News also were popular

Television

During the war: BBC (has been broadcasting since 1930s)
ABC and NBC begins to air shows

1947

Howdy Doody <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=674LDaMpDnU>

Meet the Press

World Series

Tournament of Roses Parade

1948

More and more people buy televisions

The Ed Sullivan Show Texaco Star Theater - Milton Berle

Metropolitan Opera

Symphony

Christmas Specials: A Christmas Carol

Perry Como

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

1949

The Lone Ranger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLBsOEd8XI0>

Inauguration of Truman

Classic plays and stories



Musical Theater

Carousel

South Pacific <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ljm9CDRAhMQ>

On the Town

Annie Get Your Gun <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lakGIwI9u0>

Kiss Me Kate (Based on Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew)

USO WWII Entertainment

Bob Hope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2CD2MXSTTU>

