

# Music and Culture of 1950s

## MUSIC

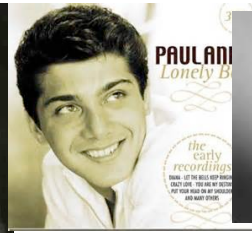
### Mainstream Popular Music

Continuation of the Big Band, Jazz Band era

Nat King Cole rises in popularity

Patty Page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AkLE4X-bbU&list=RD2AkLE4X-bbU>

Frank Sinatra continues to be a crooner, but is no longer a teen idol - too old  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSrHvNr8QQQ>



### New Teen Idols:

Paul Anka <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY4uxdAt4-M>

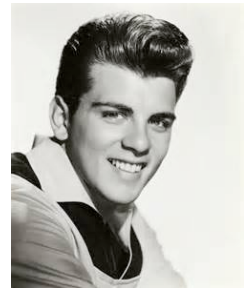
Frankie Avalon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fakpqLDEQAo>

Fabian <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osvn-393OyY>

Connie Francis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrjz22PLv3k>

Brenda Lee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgdVd7ujEro>

Hilltoppers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vx3iuqos-NM&list=RDvx3iuqos-NM>



Importance of Dick Clark and America Bandstand  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8dEn6qCecg>

### Country Music

#### Bluegrass

Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys

-originated in Kentucky

-Appalachian music is a blend of Scottish and Eastern European folk, gospel, country, western

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAVFpThoeB4>



Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs - Foggy Mt. Boys

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_Y3mnj-8IA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_Y3mnj-8IA)



#### Nashville Sound (Bakersfield, California)

Buck Owens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-YTyFvxHMA>



## **Birth of Rock n Roll**

“Rebellious” music - attractive to young people who wanted an alternative to musical tastes of adult world

Pioneers in music - looking for a new sound

Within a decade (mid 1960s) Rock n Roll dominated the music industry

ROOTS: country/western blended with blues

Late 40s - fast blues emerged: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_vgfavJ50E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_vgfavJ50E)

1954 “Shake Rattle and Roll” released by Joe Turner - a little racey

Rereleased and cleaned up - Bill Haley and the Comets

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B7xr\\_EjbzE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B7xr_EjbzE)

Most early rock was first written and recorded by black artists - then later covered by white artists - reaching a broader audience.

Controversy -loud

- rebellious or sexual lyrics

- opponents said it was corrupting young people

- inspiring wilder dancing

Most traditional record labels (RCA, Columbia) stuck with mainstream artists music at first. New labels were created to accommodate the new music (Sun, Atlantic)

SUN RECORDS: Sam Phillips, a radio announcer, opened a recording studio in Memphis. 1st rock song recorded was “Rocket 88” by Jackie Brenston (about a car) He mostly worked with black recording artists and groups at first. Then he began looking for a white singer who had sound and feeling of a black performer . . .

ELVIS PRESLEY

1954-55 Elvis - still a teenager - made 1st records. R & B on one side/country on the other.

By the end of 1956 - Elvis was a national star.

1st appearance on Ed Sullivan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGZm7EOamWk>

Jailhouse Rock (movie): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qka6JrKUM5U>

Blue Suede Shoes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bm5HKIQ6nGM>

Heartbreak Hotel live at a state fair (listen to the girls): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDdkkN9QWqA>

Don't Be Cruel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noE1u3Xu6Vg>

All Shook Up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNPTwk8NAYE>

Sam Phillips sold Elvis's contract for \$35,000 bc he needed money to pursue other artists for his label.

First Generation (still very much a line between white and black artists and how they were treated by the industry and the public)

White Performers:

Johnny Cash <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEV58ztuihs>  
Jerry Lee Lewis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ljgZGhHrYY>  
Roy Orbison - pretty woman  
Carl Perkins - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRNyvO4QouY>  
Charlie Rich <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXyYTquXRc>

Black Performers:

Chuck Berry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ROwVrF0Ceg>  
Little Richard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVlttmFAzek>  
Bo Diddley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMZjAOoX6nw>  
Fats Domino <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbfMlk1PwGU>  
Chubby Checker <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbK0C9AYMd8>

**Variety of Sounds** - many times depended on area of country

**Rockabilly** - blend of country and blues - South - specifically Memphis

Elvis  
Bill Haley and the Comets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgdufzXvjgw>  
Buddy Holly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eq9FCBatl3A>

**DooWop** - smooth harmonies and close to mainstream sounds - NYC, Philly, Baltimore

Platters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0mWVVSkyHo>  
Coasters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WfDYssJMqs>  
Drifters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-XQ26KePUQ>  
Capris <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4xNF9uh8SA>  
Dion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzO6krwjllM>  
Earls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLWWa72Ps5g>

**Folk** - Kingston Trio <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZYjc57V55U&list=RDsZYjc57V55U>

Pete Seeger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXKJ1jPuaol>  
Woodie Guthrie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxiMrvDbq3s>

**Latin music** - Ricky Ricardo - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu6Ra59RSis>

## **Gospel - pioneers of the 1960s soul**

Five Blind Boys of Mississippi [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34CEhzJrkO0&list=PLSrKUT\\_roCwQiH4ubjcWkIFVh6Qg3xy8H&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34CEhzJrkO0&list=PLSrKUT_roCwQiH4ubjcWkIFVh6Qg3xy8H&index=2)

Sam Cooke <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfDn4WD0AcM&list=PL6rNxvyXV9hSPJwJtWQFHwJW-GgBfVRyg>

Aretha Franklin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8rCGSx5SY8&index=4&list=RDfgTnA9FseWw>

## **Soul -**

Dinah Washington - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtJLZ2zL2Os&list=RDemkqc3Plw8E&index=2>

## **RAY CHARLES -**

Georgia on My Mind [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSIqmZeY\\_\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSIqmZeY__8)

Hit the Road Jack [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap7gPX\\_517E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap7gPX_517E)

What 'd I Say <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClqWwiC1BFI>

I Got a Woman [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnI\\_LuCJ4Ek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnI_LuCJ4Ek)

I Can't Stop Loving You [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_7iRVtxui8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_7iRVtxui8)



Set Backs to Rock and Roll

Little Richard - went into ministry

Elvis - drafted into the Army

Buddy Holly and Big Bopper - killed in a plane crash

Chuck Berry - went to prison

## TELEVISION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wKlth2yTF8>

## MOVIES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWYKxuAU1hs>

Disney Movies:     *Cinderella*  
                          *Alice in Wonderland*  
                          *Peter Pan*  
                          *The Lady and the Tramp*  
                          *Sleeping Beauty*



## MUSICALS

On Broadway:      *The King and I*  
                              *The Sound of Music*  
                              *Flower Drum Song*  
                              *Guys and Dolls*  
                              *Music Man*  
                              *My Fair Lady*  
                              *Gigi*  
                              *West Side Story*

Movie Musicals:    *Oklahoma!*  
                              *Carousel*  
                              *South Pacific*  
                              *King and I*  
                              *White Christmas*  
                              *Royal Wedding (Fred Astaire)*  
                              *Kiss Me Kate*  
                              *High Society*  
                              *An American In Paris*  
                              *Singin' In the Rain*  
                              *Funny Face (Audrey Hepburn)*  
                              *A Star is Born (Judy Garland)*

## COMICS

