

LISTENING TO CLASSIC ROCK MUSIC

OVERVIEW

In this class we will discuss and listen to some of the stylistic features of classic (1960's through early 1970's) British and American pop and rock music. This will not so much be a history of the music, but an overview of its stylistic ingredients. We will focus specifically on what we are hearing that makes this music special, likeable and enduring.

Initially we will look at some basic elements common to the style: format, rhythm, instrumentation/arranging and harmony, musical precursors, certain cultural and technological influences, lyric content.

Next we will focus on specific artists and some of the individual traits that characterize their music. We will also make comparisons between a variety of artists and their songs. We will want to see how different artists often follow similar compositional procedures, but also how each evolved individually.

Finally, we will look at specific albums (as opposed to just select song tracks) to see how collections of songs were organized in significant ways and sequences. This will show how often times the album is more than the sum of its parts and not just a convenient way to package a series of works.

Throughout the class, we will discuss terms and ideas specific to this type of music—written explanations will be provided.

The goal of the class will be to enhance and refine your listening abilities as well as to expand your musical vocabulary.

Some of the artists we will discuss include:

The Beach Boys

THE BEATLES

David Bowie

Jimi Hendrix

Elton John

The Grateful Dead

Led Zeppelin

The Monkees

Pink Floyd

The Rolling Stones

The Small Faces

Traffic

The Who

The Zombies

You are encouraged to suggest other artists and/or particular songs that we can include in the curriculum.

Handouts/downloads will be available on a weekly basis and also listening suggestions for homework. Any music theory terms used in class will have a simplified accompanying explanation.

Week	Topics/links	Assignments/Listening
1: June 22	Introduction <u>Basic Terms</u> <u>Blues, Arrangements (covers) and Small Forms</u>	<u>Listening guide</u> (for any/all songs)
2: June 29	Blues, Arrangements and Small Forms Continued	
NO CLASS ON THURSDAY JULY 4		
3: July 11	<u>Featured Instruments</u>	<u>Keith Moon Article</u>
4: July 18	<u>Untraditional/Extended Forms</u> <u>Stairway...</u>	
5: July 25	<u>Jazz Influences and Jamming</u>	Coltrane: <u>My Favorite Things</u> Davis: <u>Shhh/Peaceful</u> Hubbard: <u>First Light</u>
6: Aug 1	<u>Particular Scales and Chords</u> <u>Mixing Keys/Chromaticism</u>	
7: Aug 8	<u>Achievements in Album Continuity:</u> <u>Concept Albums</u>	
8: Aug 15	Album Continuity: <u>Abbey Road</u>	