

LISTENING TO ROCK MUSIC II

This class is modeled after *Rock Music of the '60s and '70s*, focusing on Rock/Pop music from the '70s and '80s, and offshoots such as funk, punk, prog-rock, and heavy metal.

Class activities include detailed listening sessions, lectures and participation-based discussion - incorporating a bit of music theory. The overall schedule of topics will be "individualized" in that some class meetings will be dedicated to discussing songs and/or artists chosen by students once the quarter has begun.

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.

We will continue look at some basic elements common to the styles: form, rhythm, instrumentation/arranging and harmony, musical precursors, certain cultural and technological influences, lyric content.

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.

Topics/artists covered include:

Chromatic Harmony: The Beatles, Pink Floyd, David Bowie

Album Continuity/Concept Albums: The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Chicago, Rush

Production: Boston, Journey

Punk: The Dead Kennedys, The Clash, Black Flag, The Descendents, Death Wish, Dag Nasty

Funk/Soul: The Meters, Funkadelic, Curtis Mayfield

Prog-Rock: Yes, Rush

Heavy Metal (or Hard Rock?): Black Sabbath, Van Halen

Misc: The Velvet Underground, The Police, Frank Zappa

Because of the small class size, each student is encouraged to submit an artist's name and/or album that we can discuss.

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.