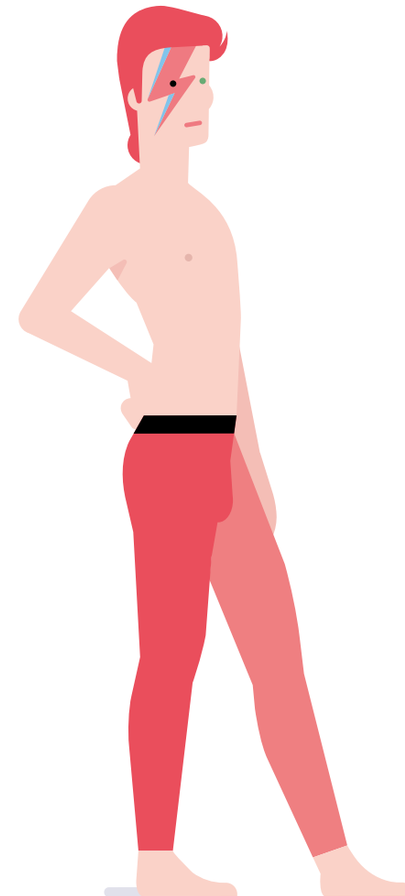
Music Legends

40 inspiring icons

Hervé Guilleminot & Jérôme Masi



WIDE EYED EDITIONS

Rock Around the Decades



Elvis Presley recorded "That's All Right (Mama)" in 1954, in a small studio in Memphis in the South of the United States. It was a mix of rhythm and blues, which had African American origins, and of country music, which had its roots in European folk music. This unique sound sparked the rock revolution, which quickly spread to the United Kingdom—and the rest of the world.

The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and later the Who took the next steps in the evolution of so-called "popular music"—or pop, for short—and provided a soundtrack to the fast-changing society of the 1960s. Since then, rock and pop music has continually reinvented itself, absorbing new sounds and responding to the issues faced by each new generation to produce a kaleidoscope of different kinds of music.

From the hypnotic, psychedelic rock of 1960s hippies, to the protest songs and folk music of the 1960s and 1970s, to hard rock—with its aggressive vocals and distorted sounds—to the laid-back Caribbean beat of reggae, to the eccentricity and sparkle of glam rock in the 1970s, to the bitter urban brutality of punk rock in the 1980s, to the steely atmosphere of the new wave, to the hip-hop music that came out of the streets of the U.S. and came to define the 1990s (not forgetting everything that happened in between), each year, wave upon wave of musicians have woven new strands into the fabric of pop music, right up to this day, and inspired new sounds, as well as the revival of old sounds, as new generations of artists are influenced by their forebears. Want to know more? Here are 40 famous artists and groups who have helped to write the fabulous history of rock.

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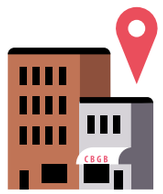
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Elvis Presley

With the face of an angel, and devilish swiveling hips, Mississippi-born Elvis Presley's great popularity as a live performer was increased by his chart-busting records, television appearances, and Hollywood films. A musical superstar from the beginnings of rock 'n' roll in 1954, he stole the limelight from "the Rat Pack"—the world-famous Las Vegas crooners—though in turn he himself was made to look outdated by British pop in the 1960s. Nevertheless, he remains a global icon and the legend of "the King" lives on!



BACKGROUND

Elvis was born in Mississippi and died in Graceland, Tennessee: two places in the U.S. celebrated for their musical heritage.

CULTURAL MIX

From the outset, Elvis fused hillbilly and country music with rhythm and blues to create a new sound, which came to be known as "rockabilly." With his look, his style, his music, and his way of life, he embodied rock 'n' roll.

STAGE AND SCREEN

People often forget that although Elvis was the "father of rock," he was also an actor (he was in 31 films) and often performed onstage. He put on more than 1,100 concerts in the United States, half of which were in Las Vegas.

5 DATES

1935
Born in Tupelo (Mississippi)

1954
Began at Studio Sun (Memphis)

1958-1960
Drafted into the U.S. Army

1968
Live *Comeback Special* on American television

1977
Died in Memphis (Tennessee)



CONCERT

After a seven-year hiatus, in 1968, NBC broadcast the *Comeback Special*. Dressed in a black leather suit featuring an upturned collar (which became a signature look), he was a massive hit.

MUSICAL STYLE
Rock 'n' roll

KEY DATES
Born in 1935, died in 1977

1

HEARTBREAKING LOOKS

With long sideburns and a slicked-back hair, Elvis was the ultimate 1950s pinup.



ROCK 'N' ROLL SINGER

The "father of rock" was first and foremost a brilliant singer, both a rocker and a crooner.

PROVOCATIVE HIPS

His hip swiveling was considered so indecent that several television channels only filmed the top half of his body.

The King

Bob Dylan

INSTRUMENTS

An acoustic guitar, a harmonica, and a harmonica holder were his faithful companions... and helped him create his trademark sound!



In 1961, Bob Dylan arrived in Greenwich Village, a bohemian neighborhood in New York, and soon became a leading light of the American folk music revival. The counterculture messages of "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are a-Changin'" saw the songs adopted by the civil rights movement and anti-war movement. But then, defying his fans, the ever-evolving Dylan left behind folk songs to incorporate pop and rock influences, releasing the revolutionary "Like a Rolling Stone" in 1965, which cemented him as a major global artist.

NOBEL PRIZE

In 2016, Dylan became the first songwriter to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition." Never afraid to defy convention, he waited two weeks before acknowledging the accolade.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1964
The Times They Are a-Changin'

1966
Blonde on Blonde

1969
Nashville Skyline

1975
Blood on the Tracks

2006
Modern Times

INFLUENCE

At the beginning of his songwriting career, Dylan was influenced by the great protest songwriter Woody Guthrie and blues singer Lead Belly.



NEVER ENDING TOUR

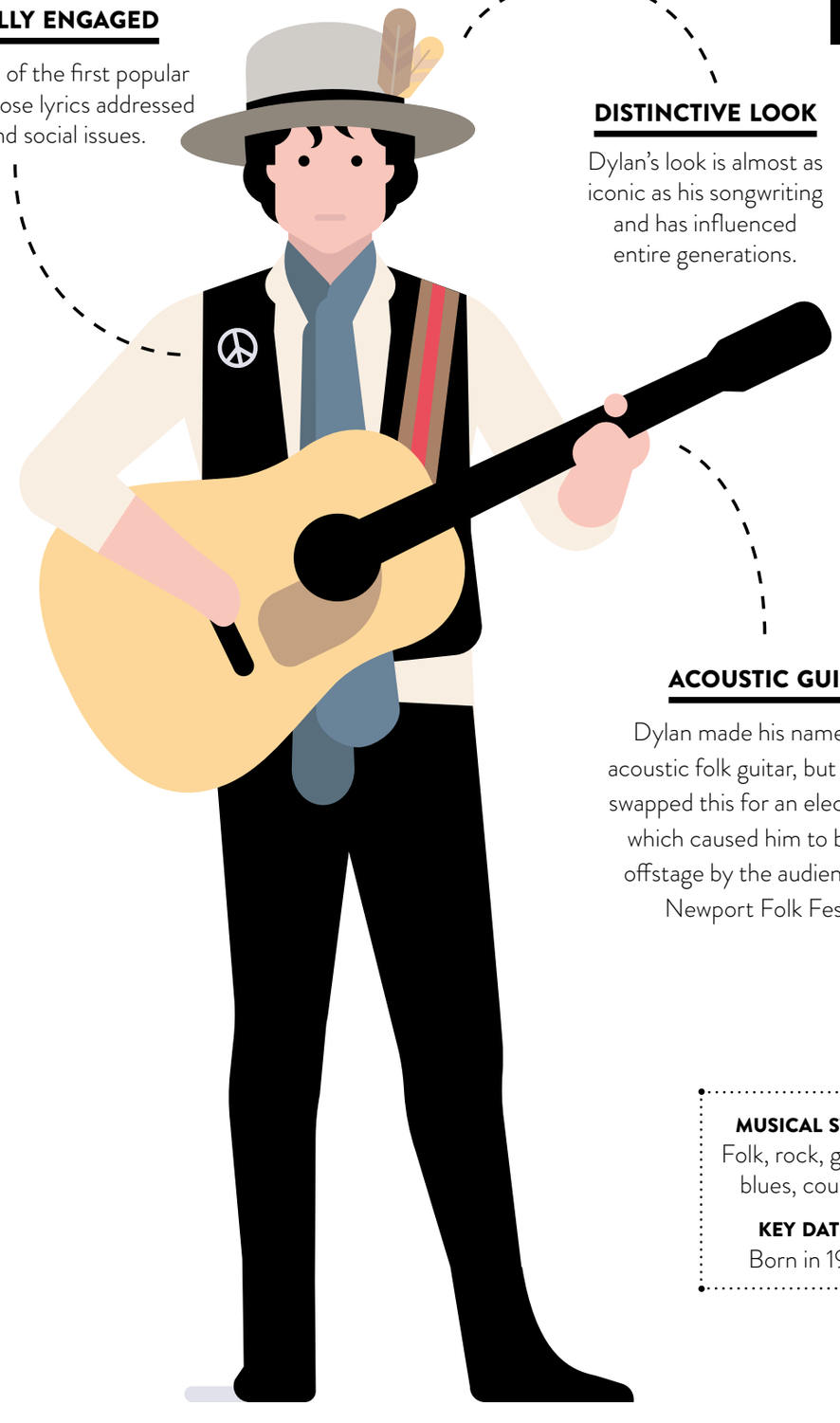
In 1988, the Never Ending Tour gave Dylan an opportunity to return to his best-known songs, improvising onstage. The musicians would change numbers every evening and perform the songs differently from one night to the next.

POLITICALLY ENGAGED

Dylan was one of the first popular songwriters whose lyrics addressed political and social issues.

DISTINCTIVE LOOK

Dylan's look is almost as iconic as his songwriting and has influenced entire generations.



ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Dylan made his name playing acoustic folk guitar, but in 1965 he swapped this for an electric guitar, which caused him to be booed offstage by the audience at the Newport Folk Festival.

MUSICAL STYLE
Folk, rock, gospel, blues, country

KEY DATES
Born in 1941

Voice of a generation

The Beatles

BACKGROUND

Embodying the sound of the Merseybeat in 1960s Liverpool, "Beatlemania" took the world by storm and in 1964 they conquered the U.S., in the so-called "British Invasion."



If music history had to choose its most important pop group, it would be the Beatles. Why? Because no other group has dominated its generation to such an extent. The "Fab Four" pioneered new styles of music, but their influence was felt far beyond this realm, as they trailblazed new ideas in film, fashion, and political activism, which collectively came to encapsulate 1960s counterculture. Creating such hysteria among their fans that their music couldn't be heard above the screaming at their concerts, today they remain the best-selling band in history.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Behind the scenes, the Beatles were managed and supported by two icons of pop music: George Martin, their producer, and Brian Epstein, their manager. Together, they anticipated and dominated every trend, from pop, to psychedelic music and rock.

MAJOR ALBUM

"Yesterday," which appeared on their 1965 album *Help!*, is the most-covered song in the world: as it stands, there are 3,000 versions!



CONCEPT ALBUM

In 1966, the Beatles got tired of giving concerts and chose to stay in the studio to produce albums. They moved beyond the classic 45s to make new and conceptual albums, of which *Sgt. Pepper* (1967) is the perfect example.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1964
A Hard Day's Night

1966
Revolver

1967
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

1968
The White Album

1969
Abbey Road

1970
Let It Be

MUSICAL STYLE
Pop rock

KEY DATES
Founded in 1962, broke up in 1970

LENNON-MCCARTNEY

This unrivaled singer-songwriting partnership saw John and Paul write nearly 200 songs together!

SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND

These psychedelic costumes appeared on the album cover of pop music's masterpiece.



MEMBERS

John Lennon, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, and George Harrison

The Fab Four

The Rolling Stones

London 1962 played backdrop to the formation of the Rolling Stones—a band that would go on to rock the world for more than 50 years. The band's five turbulent decades have seen dramatic ups and downs, including changes in lineup, the tragic death of the band's founding member Brian Jones, and countless legal and personal problems. Nevertheless, fans and critics alike have shown their committed support for the "World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band," and today the band has sold more than 200 million albums worldwide.



CONCERT

Shortly after Brian Jones's death, a concertgoer was brutally killed at the Altamont Free Concert (hosted by the Stones), making 1969 one of the toughest years in the band's history.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1969
Let It Bleed

1971
Sticky Fingers

1972
Exile on Main St.

1974
It's Only Rock 'n' Roll



CHANGING LINEUP

The original (constant) lineup, featuring Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Brian Jones, Bill Wyman, Charlie Watts, and Ian Stewart, changed when Jones left the group just a month before his death in 1969. Mick Taylor took his place, and Ron Wood took his in turn, in 1975.

STICKY FINGERS

The iconic Rolling Stones' logo, a pair of red lips and lapping tongue, was inspired by Mick Jagger's mouth. It was created in 1970 by John Pasche, an art student at the Royal College of Art in London, and first appeared on the Stones' album *Sticky Fingers*, in 1971.

INFLUENCE

One of their sources of inspiration was blues music, with the Stones taking their name from "Rollin' Stone," a song by Muddy Waters.

MUSICAL STYLE
Blues rock, rhythm 'n' blues, psychedelic rock

KEY DATES
Founded in 1962

BAD BOYS

With leather jackets, big hair, and bare chests, the Stones offered the perfect "bad boy" alternative to the Beatles.

BRIAN JONES

The original founder's increasingly turbulent lifestyle led to him being fired by the band in 1969.

LONG HISTORY

Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, who wrote most of the Stones' hits, first met in primary school.



The Stones