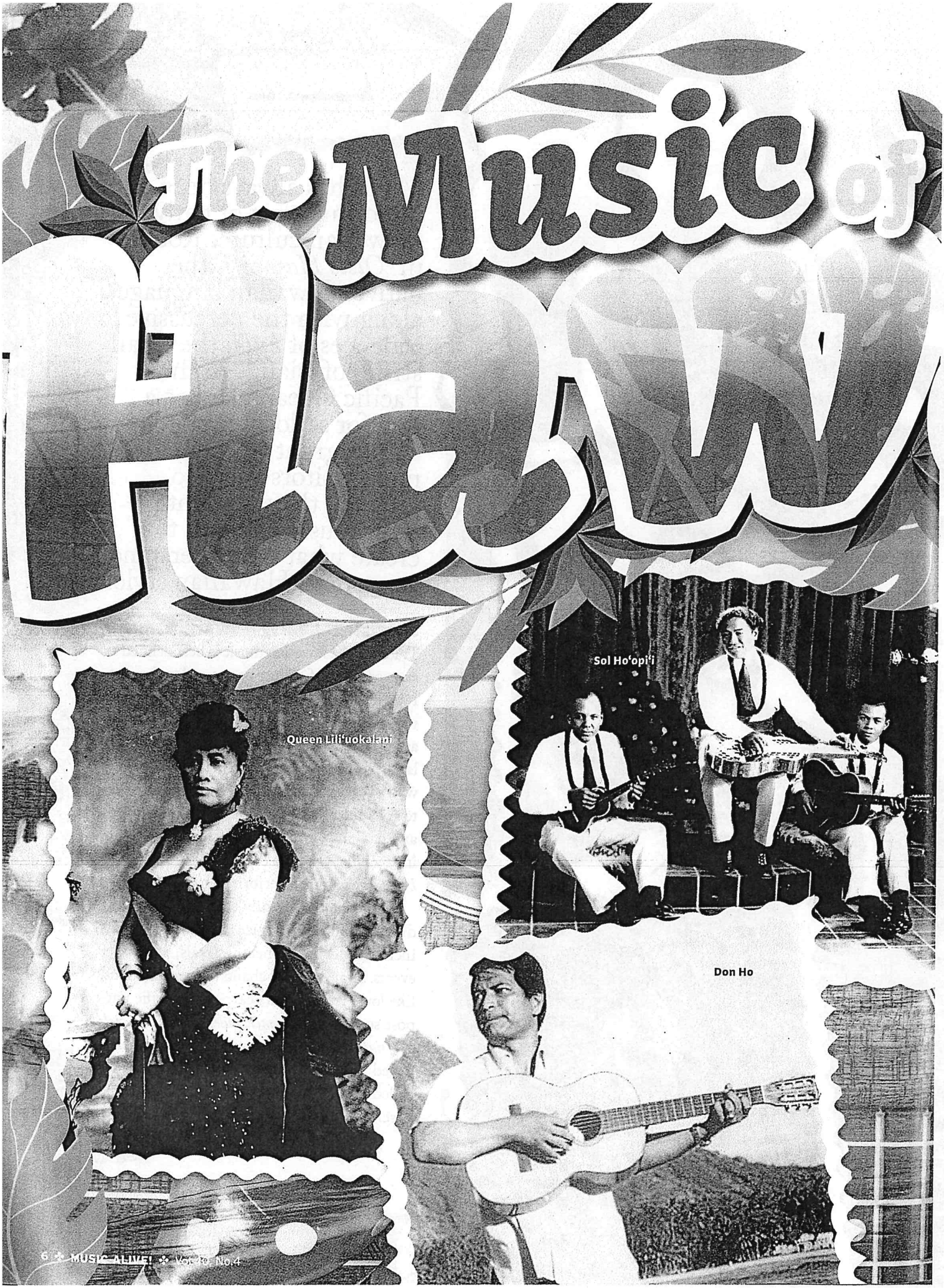
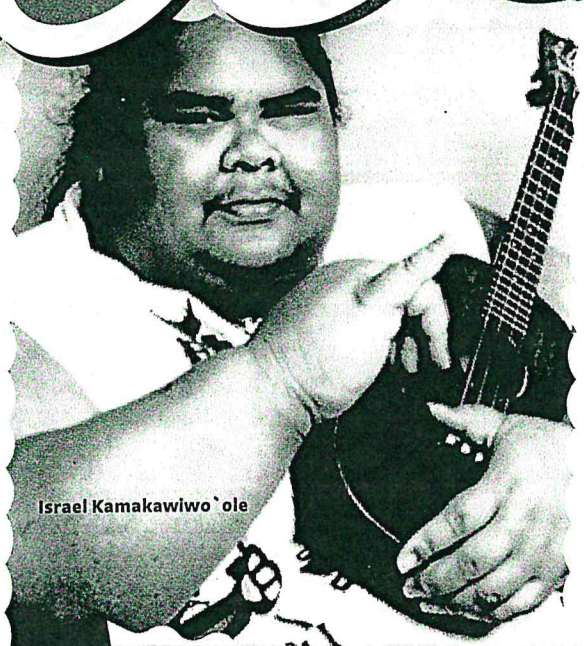
The Music of Hawai'i



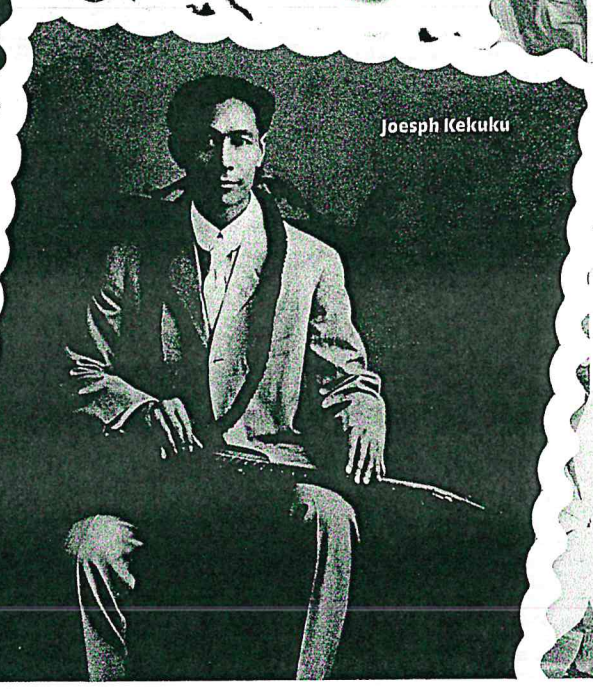
Mele

By Stacey Swanson

Music has always been an important part of native Hawaiian culture. Rooted in *`Ōlelo Hawai`i,* the native Hawaiian language, along with the percussive cadences of *hula,* the small string of islands in the Pacific Ocean became a hub for sailors, explorers, and migrant workers. As more visitors came to Hawaii, they brought their music, helping to create what we understand as modern Hawaiian style.



Israel Kamakawiwo`ole



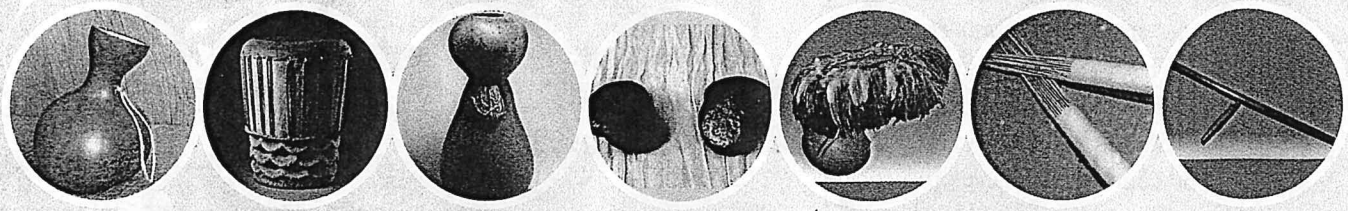
Joesph Kekuku

Traditional early Hawaiian music

Traditional Hawaiian music is best defined as an expression of culture connected to the past. It originates in the *mele* (chants) of Polynesian voyagers who first settled the islands as early as 400 C.E., coming from the Marquesas Islands 2000 miles away. They traveled to Hawaii's Big Island in canoes. Mele paid respect to gods and prominent figures with *hula* drums and dancing. Two kinds of Hawaiian chanting include *mele oli*, a cappella songs, and *mele hula,* dance music performed as a group.

The mele told family stories, mythology, discussed the importance of the land and was included during games, festivals, and other events. Some kinds of chants express emotions, like love, while others carried a specific purpose such as prayer (*mele pule)* or surfing (*mele he'e nalu).* The older, formal style of hula is called *kahiko*, while the modern version is called *'auana. Haku mele are* Hawaiian composers and performers.

Traditionally, Hawaiian chant is accompanied by a series of instruments crafted from materials found on the islands, such as:



ipu heke a double gourd | **pahu** sharkskin covered drum | **ipu** single gourd | **'ili'ili** waterworn lava stone castanets | **'uli'uli** feathered gourd rattles | **pu`'li** split bamboo sticks | **kala'au** rhythm sticks.

While there is not an exact word in the Hawaiian language for "music," there is an extensive vocabulary to describe its rhythms, instruments, styles, and voicing. Hawaiian folk music is simple in melody and rhythm, but complex and rich in the poetry, accompanying *hula*, and vocal styles.

A merging of cultures

Beginning in the late 1700's, Hawaii was introduced to different musical styles. Mexican cowboys, brought to Hawaii to manage cattle and called *paniolos*, introduced the guitar and falsetto singing, or yodeling. In the late 1800s Hawaiians began re-tuning the instruments, playing what was called "slack-key guitar," or *ki ho`alu, a* finger-picked style of plucking the strings and not using a flat pick. Slack-key tuning is achieved by starting with a guitar in standard tuning and detuning or "slacking" one or more of the strings until the six strings form a single chord played without pressing down any strings. These tunings were often well guarded, sometimes only passed down within a family. Playing techniques include "hammering-on," and "pulling-off," where fingers press on strings in different ways, and "chimes" or harmonics, where a finger is placed lightly on a string at certain intervals. The music also features the use of "slides." These techniques mimic the falsettos and vocal breaks common in Hawaiian singing. Portuguese immigrants who came to Hawaii brought the Cavaquinho, a predecessor of the ukulele. A small, four-stringed guitar-like instrument, ukulele literally means "flea (*uku*) jumping (*lele*)." When plucked, the high pitch of the strings recalls the image of a jumping flea. The ukulele is often referred to as a gift brought to Hawaii. As European settlers began to live and visit the islands, they brought Western classical music and brass instruments, among others, eventually incorporating them in big bands and the jazz of Hawaii. The 1900s brought immigrants from Japan. And, though Hawaii was originally inhabited by Polynesians, people came from other islands as well, such as the Maori who brought the *Haka* chant from New Zealand, among others. As influences and instruments arrived in Hawaii, the Hawaiians adapted them, developing their own unique playing techniques and music. In 1889, Joseph Kekuku began picking while sliding a piece of steel across his guitar strings, thus inventing what became known as "the steel guitar (*kika kila*)." The popularity of Hawaiian music throughout the 1920s, with its unique slide-style of guitar playing, prompted the invention of the resonator and electric guitars in the U.S.

FUN FACT

MUSIC & HAWAIIAN ROYALTY

Queen Lili'uokalani, the last Queen of Hawaii, was a musician and prolific composer, best known for the memorable song Aloha'Oe. A compilation of her works, titled "The Queen's Songbook", was published in 1999.

Scan code above to listen here: bit.ly/ ma404hawaii3

See it in Disney's Lilo and Stitch: bit.ly/ ma404hawaii4

Hawaii and the U.S. mainland

American popular music began fusing with Hawaiian music at the beginning of the 1900s with the invention of *hapa haole* songs. These were sung in English, with Hawaiian musical elements such as ukulele or lap steel guitar accompaniment. *Hapa haole*, though popular outside the islands, were less about Hawaii and more about mainstream popular music of the time.

In 1915, the Hawaiian steel guitar was introduced to the mainland's country music scene at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. The instrument gained popularity and began to influence country and blues artists around the U.S. Steel guitar is still used in country music today, and its sound has long been a hallmark of the genre.

The connection between the music of the

Hawaiian Islands and the U.S. mainland was not a one-way street: Hawaiian musicians began incorporating jazz and other popular styles into steel guitar and ukulele music. The Hawaiin musician Sol Ho'opi'i played a prominent role in this melding, playing both Hawaiian music and jazz, Western swing and country, and developing steel guitar as an art form. His music helped to establish the Nashville style of country music. The influx of thousands of American servicemen to Hawaii during World War II created a demand for swing rhythm and country groups. The Western swing style, popular on the mainland since the 1930s, employed the steel guitar as a key element, and its return to Hawaii made the style sound familiar and instantly popular.

(Top to bottom) Martin Denny Group, Kalani Pe`a, Amy Hānaiali`i Gilliom

The period from 1930 to 1960 has been called the "Golden Age of Hawaiian music," when music was adapted for orchestras and big bands. Due to the expansion of trans-Pacific air travel, long-standing Hawaiian performers like Gabby Pahinui, who had begun recording in 1947, finally reached mainstream audiences across the United States. Pahinui inspired a legion of followers who played a mix of slack-key, reggae, country, rock, and other styles. Lena Machado was a master of *ha`i*, the yodel-like vocal technique that emphasizes the break between natural and falsetto ranges. Pianist Martin Denny defined the mainland's perception of the islands, with music that was full of jazz and yet tropically light in sound. His original works included the exotic percussion instruments of the islands and even birdcalls to emphasize the Tiki styles of the South Pacific.

Don Ho (1930–2007), Hawaii's best-known music act of the latter half of the 20th century, became a symbol of Hawaiian culture around the world, combining the elements of traditional Hawaiian with 1950's style crooner music. The Hawaiian renaissance on the 1970's began a push to reestablish traditional musical styles during a massive rise of tourism and habitation of non-islanders, an effort still being practiced today.

Traditional revivalists were not the only beneficiaries of the Hawaiian renaissance. Kalapana's "Nightbird," featured the lilting, smooth bossa-nova style, was a standard on island radio for decades. In 1993, Israel Kamakawiwo`ole also brought the spotlight back to Hawaii with his famous version of "Over the Rainbow," a haunting melody accompanied by ukulele, written for the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz and originally sung in the movie by Judy Garland.

In the present day, Hawaiian music continues to build on its foundations with indie rock, Hawaiian hip-hop (known as *ana mele paleoleo*,) and "Jawaiian," which is Hawaiian reggae music. Modern Hawaiian music has many homegrown luminaries, from Amy Hānaiali`i Gilliom to Kalani Pe`a. One prominent current artist is Raiatea Helm, a master of the *leo ki`eki`e* falsetto tradition, originally from the island of Moloka`i.

HEAR THE MUSIC
visit musicalive.com

"Over the Rainbow"
By Israel Kamakawiwo`ole

"Quiet Village"
By Martin Denny

"Tiny Bubbles"
By Don Ho

"My Little Grass Shack"
By Sol Ho'opi'i

Extra Credit

Watch this short documentary detailing the evolution of Hawaiian guitar, scan the QR code above or go to **bit.ly/ma404hawaii1**

Listen to a contemporary mele chant: **bit.ly/ma404hawaii2**

Name:

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THE MUSIC OF HAWAII

Take this short quiz to test your knowledge.

1) What is the "chant" singing style used in traditional Hawaiian music?

_____

2) Who brought the guitar to Hawaii?

_____

3) How is slack-key guitar different than a standard six-string guitar?

_____

4) What does the term "ukulele" translate to mean?

_____

5) Who invented steel guitar?

_____

6) What style of song used English lyrics with traditional Hawaiian instruments?

_____

7) Hawaiian steel guitar playing deeply influenced which American music style?

_____

8) Which singer became an international ambassador for Hawaiian popular music?

_____

9) Why would there be a demand for swing rhythm and country music in Hawaii during the 1930's and 40's?

_____

10) Describe the two primary kinds of traditional Hawaiian chant.

_____

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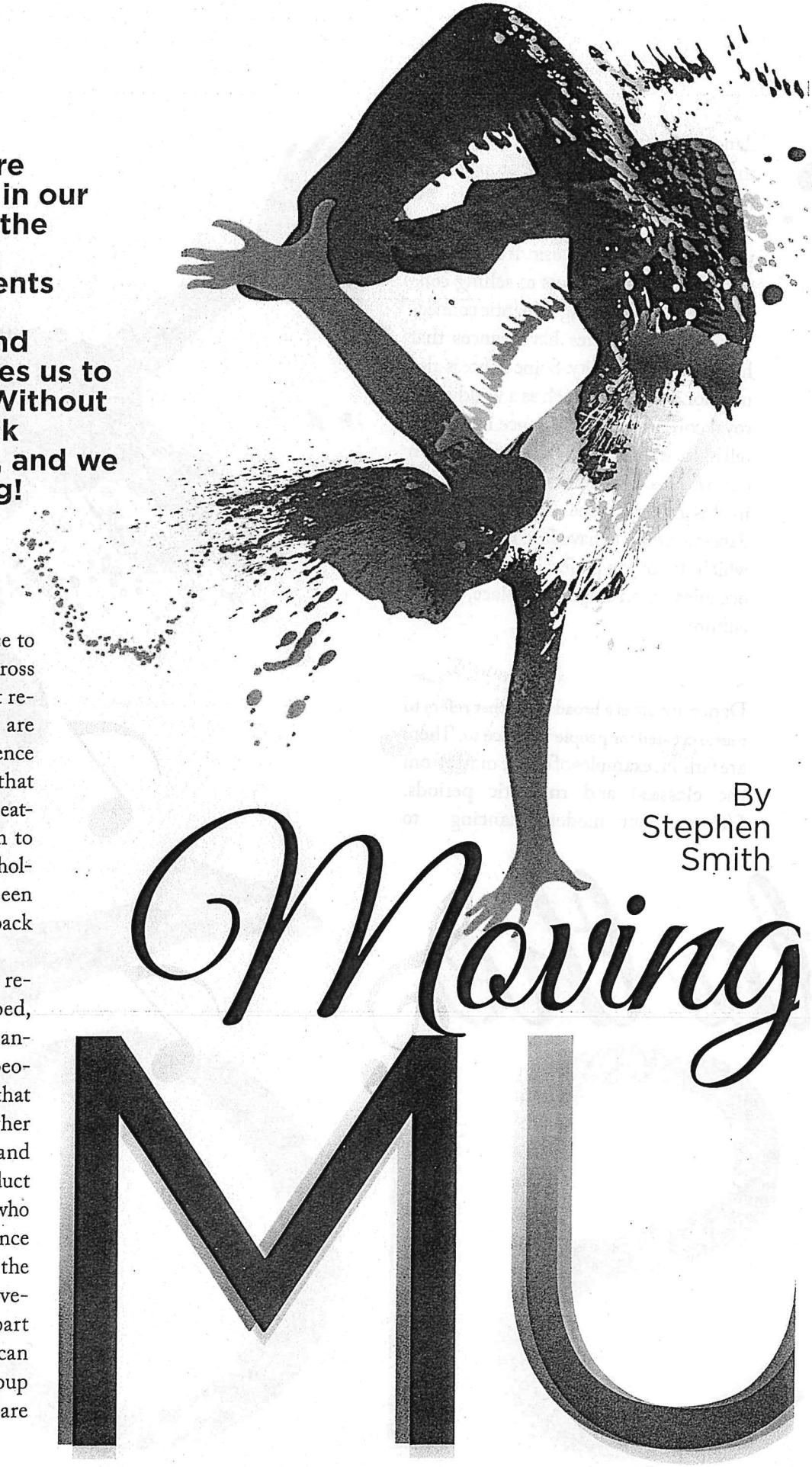
Moving MU

By Stephen Smith

Music and dance are deeply embedded in our physiology, and in the human experience. Music — arrangements of sound over time — unconsciously and automatically causes us to move our bodies. Without knowing it, we track tempo and rhythm, and we respond by dancing! Why is that?



How did dance music begin?

Dance, or movement in response to a musical rhythm, is common across all human cultures. Throughout recorded human history, the two are inexorably linked. There is evidence dating back to the Stone Age, that people danced, first to rhythmic beating on rocks and logs, and then to sound made by blowing through hollow sticks. Early flutes have been found in caves in France dating back 40,000 years.

Music did not have a written record until notation was developed, but cave paintings and pieces of ancient pottery show depictions of people dancing. Even today, groups that live completely cut off from other civilizations still have music and dance. Moving together is a product of evolutionary adaptation. Those who moved together had a better chance of survival, and music allowed for the better coordination of that movement. Over time, this became a part of our human development. We can see this synchronization in group dancing, such as folk and square

dancing. We also see this unified movement in marching bands, step teams, and ballet.

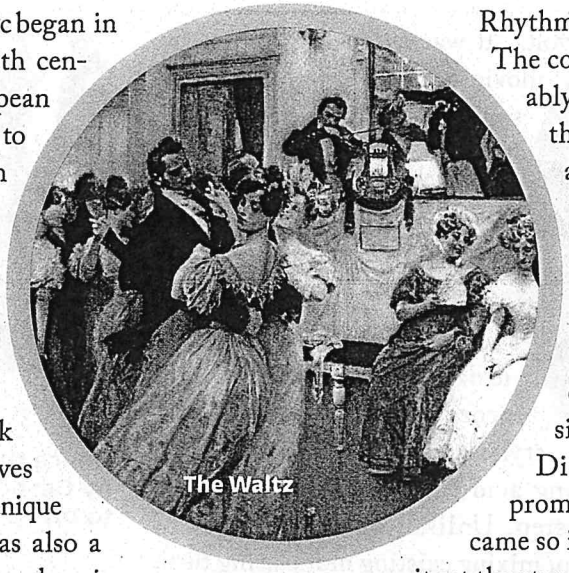
There are seemingly endless reasons why people dance to music, from driving social justice movements to selling consumer goods to making romantic connections. Many cultures have dances that honor their spirituality. Some dance is also used for celebration, such as a wedding or royal coronation. Some dance intends to tell a story, such as the *hula* as featured in our *Music Alive* story on Hawaiian music in this month's issue. And then there's dancing simply to have fun. Regardless of which dance you prefer; it has roots, and occupies an an important place, in our culture.

A brief history of dance music

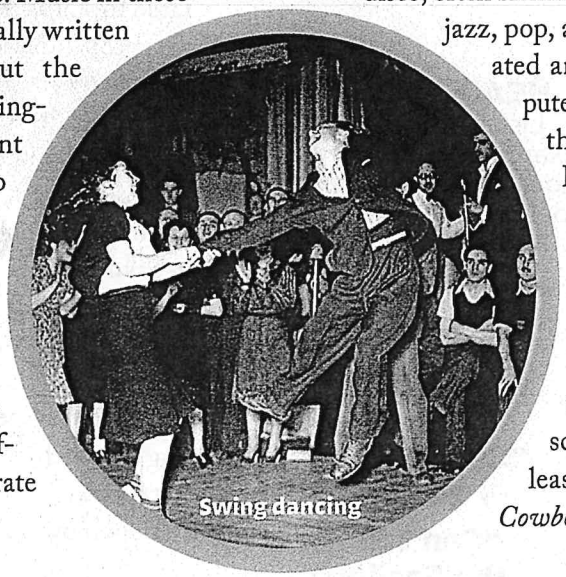
Dance music is a broad term that refers to music created for people to dance to. There are famous examples of dance music from the classical and romantic periods. However our modern dancing to

to the SIC

contemporary popular music began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the 1800's, European immigrants traveled west to North America, bringing with them their native dances, like the polka and waltz. These movements evolved into round and square dancing. Some people feel that it was the cowboys and settlers on the western frontier that took these traditional dance moves and incorporated them into a unique style. Ballroom dancing was also a popular form of entertainment and music was often created specifically for those dances in this period. Ballroom dancing encompasses a wide range of dance styles, from the fox trot, samba, and other Latin dances, to the Charlston, jitterbug, lindy and jive. A number of these moves were employed in popular dance competitions in the 1930's.


The Waltz

Swing music, a form of big band jazz, became wildly popular from the 1930's to 1950's. The music complimented energetic dancing, flips, and stunts with its upbeat rhythm and quick tempo. The popularity of swing declined in the late 1950's as rock-and-roll and rhythm and blues entered the music scene. Music in these styles wasn't specifically written as dance music, but the catchy rhythms and singable melodies lent themselves well to dancing. That said, some songs, like "The Twist" by Chubby Checker and "Shake a Tail Feather" by The Five Dutones, were specifically created to generate dance crazes.


Swing dancing

Rhythm and blues gave way to funk in the 1970's. The concept of dance music changed considerably as funk evolved into disco. It was disco that would ultimately reshape dance music as we know it today. From the French word *discotheque*, disco is a genre that blended soul, funk, rhythm and blues, and pop. It is known for its heavy bass lines and strong beats. Disco was one of the first musical styles to incorporate electronic instruments like the synthesizer. Donna Summer ("The Queen of Disco"), The Bee Gees, and ABBA were prominent figures in the disco sound. It became so influential that it set the standard for future dance music styles. Country line dancing has elements of disco's line dancing, combined with traditional folk dances brought from Europe. America saw a variety of new dances emerge, including the "Electric Slide" in this same era.

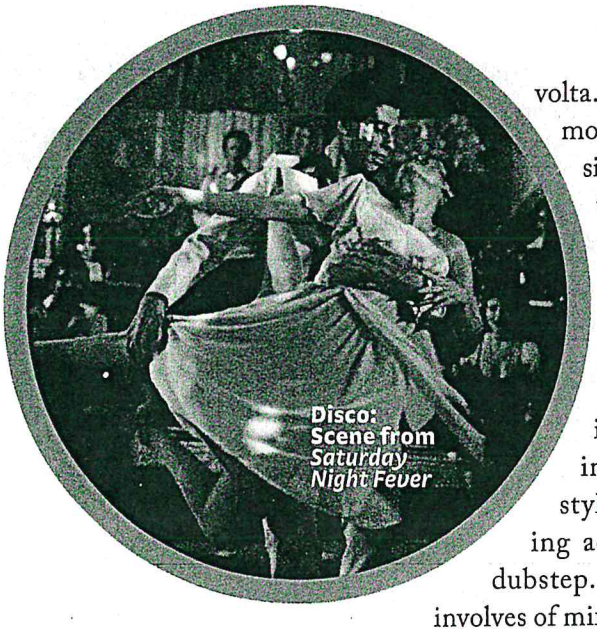
Electronic instruments were used to make a new style of music in the 1980's. Bands like the Pet Shop Boys and Depeche Mode in the U.K. began releasing synthesizer-heavy music referred to as synthpop. Synthpop is known for its blend of pop music and these synthesizers, which then served as an important influence on later dance music. Electronics were taking a more prominent, if not exclusive role in a genre referred to as "techno." Techno is composed specifically to accompany dance. Between the late 80's and into the 90's, techno would become as influential as disco, often blending different genres like jazz, pop, and soul music all created and mixed using computers and electronics. On the country front, Billy Ray Cyrus' 1992 hit "Achy Breaky Heart" helped revive the mass popularity of western line dancing which catapulted into the mainstream's consciousness with the release of the film *Urban Cowboy* starring John Tra-

LEARN MORE

How to Dance the Foxtrot
Scan the code above or go to
bit.ly/ma404dance1

Can you name all the music styles in this *Trolls World Tour* clip?
Scan the code above or go to
bit.ly/ma404dance2

Watch Fik-Shun pop and lock to EDM dubstep
Scan the code above or go to
bit.ly/ma404dance3



Disco: Scene from *Saturday Night Fever*

volta. It was a Travolta role in the movie *Saturday Night Fever* that similarly supercharged disco just three years prior. In the 90's, Latin dance music styles would re-emerge, this time as salsa and then reggaeton.

Today, dance music is often referred to as electronic dance music (EDM). EDM incorporates a wide variety of styles under its umbrella, including acid house, techno, trap, and dubstep. Unlike other forms, EDM involves of mixing existing music using turntables and other electronic equipment. Several music genres now incorporate EDM into their music, including pop, R&B and hip-hop. Today, access to the internet via smartphones is allowing a generation to create, record and share original dance moves set to music on Tik Tok.

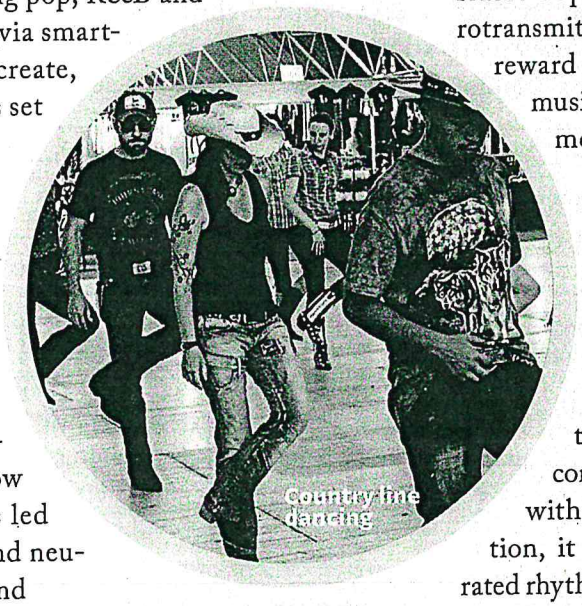
GET MOVING!

Dance the "Cha Cha Slide" by Casper. To watch the video go to bit.ly/ma404dance4

Behind the Music: Why Music Makes You Move

When Stevie Wonder's 1972 hit "Superstition" comes on, you might find yourself bobbing your head, tapping your feet, and maybe even dancing along. This seemingly automatic response makes one question why and how music makes us want to move. It has led many musicologists, psychologists, and neuroscientists to the study of "groove" and the mind/body connection. Why we are compelled to tap or dance to music and why does it feel good? Why does it make us happy?

Music stimulates the orbitofrontal cortex, the portion of the brain located directly behind the eyes, and the midbrain region called the ventral striatum. In addition, music activates the cerebellum, at the base of the brain, which is involved in the coordination and timing of movement. It is this part of the brain where music and dance connect. When we feel pleasure or happiness from listening and/or moving to music, our brain releases dopamine, its primary neurotransmitter involved in the brain's reward system. The more we like music, the more we dance, the more dopamine is released.



Country line dancing

Research has consistently shown that rhythm is crucial to groove. But music is not just rhythm, it is harmony, melody, timbre, structure, performance, and many other things. In a research study comparing different rhythms with varied levels of syncopation, it was found that listeners rated rhythms with a medium degree of syncopation to be most pleasurable. This suggests that there is a "sweet spot" when it comes to finding a good groove. Too much syncopation and we lose the beat; the rhythm becomes too unpredictable and we can no longer synchronize with it. Not enough syncopation? The rhythm becomes too predictable and boring. This optimal level of tension between syncopation and beat encourages us to engage with the music. And what better way to engage with a rhythm than to move when you hear it!

HEAR THE MUSIC

Listen to these great examples of dance music. Does it make you tap your toes? Visit musicalive.com for these and more.

"Sing, Sing, Sing"
By Benny Goodman

"Superstition"
By Stevie Wonder

"Stayin' Alive"
By The Bee Gees

"Can't Stop the Feeling"
By Justin Timberlake

Name:

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STUDENT QUIZ

DANCE MUSIC

Take this short quiz to test your knowledge.

1) What evidence do we have of dance existing in ancient cultures?

_____

2) Can you name a few reasons why people dance to music?

_____

3) What is "dance music?"

_____

4) During what time was swing dance music popular?

_____

5)Why did swing music decline in popularity?

_____

6) Which dance music style was pivotal in shaping what we consider dance music today?

_____

7) What made Techno different than earlier dance music?

_____

8) Which country singer catapulted country line dancing into international popularity?

_____

9)Which part of the brain is used for the timing and coordination of movement?

_____

10) What are the two primary musical techniques needed for a catchy groove, according to researchers?

_____

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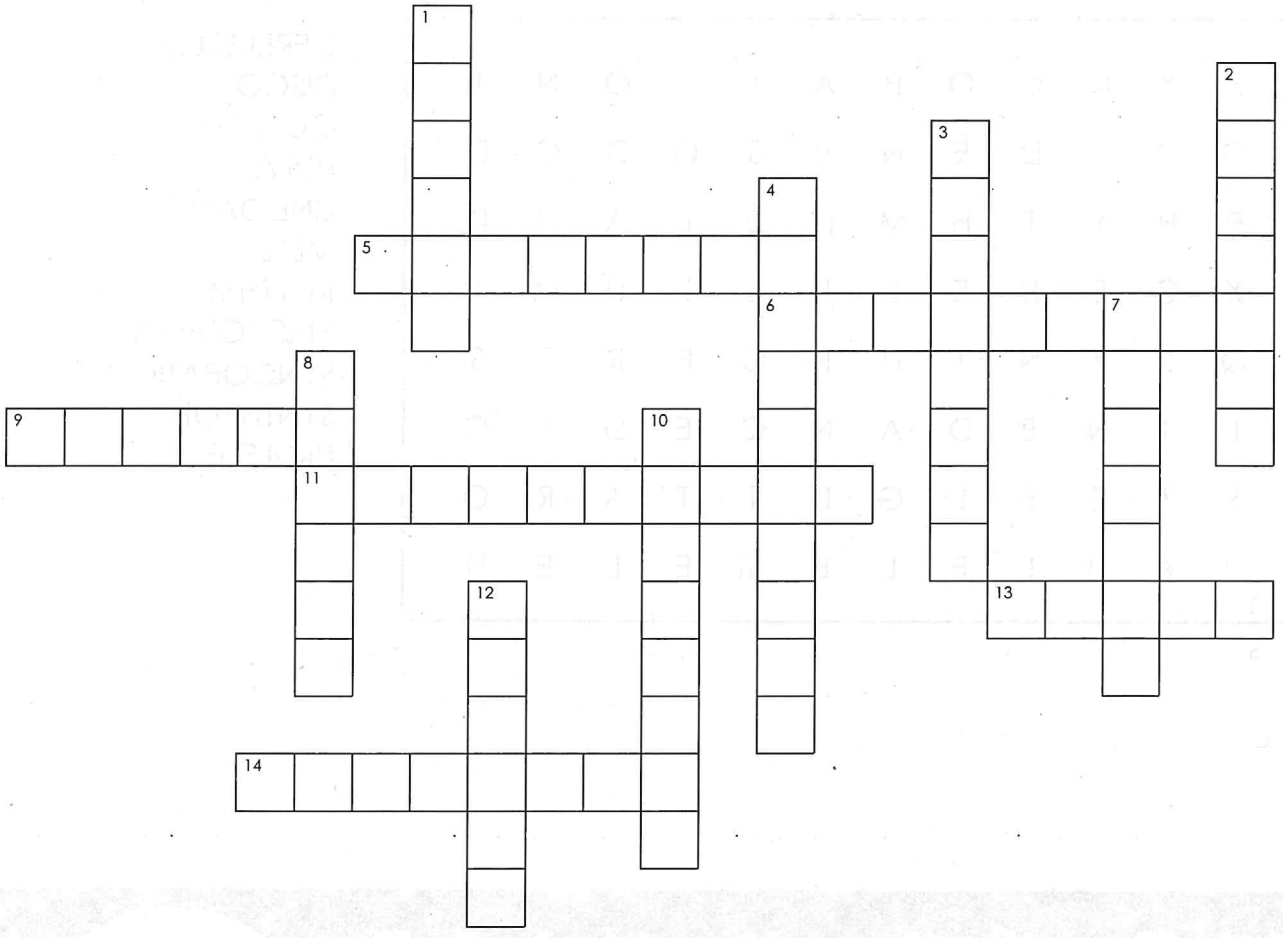
CROSSWORD



Across: →

5. Hawaiian name for Steel Guitar
6. What Winder created to help learn music
9. Rhythm and syncopation are essential to __
11. Part of the brain that helps us move
13. Type of dance with energetic flips
14. Neurotransmitter that makes you feel good

Down: ↓

1. Scientific term for "tone deaf"
2. Instrument meaning "jumping flea"
3. Harry Styles' latest album
4. Portuguese migrants that brought uke to HI
7. Condition of not recognizing music at all
8. Dance music that is completely electronic
10. Hawaiian style of strumming the guitar
12. The "Queen" of Disco

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WORD SEARCH

There are more unpitched percussion instruments than you think!
Find and circle the percussion instruments listed on the right. Words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal or backwards!

S	Y	N	C	O	P	A	T	I	O	N	I
G	O	L	D	E	N	V	S	O	D	C	D
R	H	Y	T	H	M	H	U	L	A	N	D
X	C	E	R	E	B	E	L	L	U	M	I
Q	S	Y	N	T	H	P	O	P	R	F	S
L	I	N	E	D	A	N	C	E	D	L	C
S	T	E	E	L	G	U	I	T	A	R	O
U	K	U	L	E	L	E	M	E	L	E	H

CEREBELLUM
DISCO
GOLDEN
HULA
LINE DANCE
MELE
RHYTHM
STEEL GUITAR
SYNCOPATION
SYNTHPOP
UKULELE

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Protect Their Hearing!

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ETYMOTIC EDUCATION
(Formerly Adopt-A-Band)

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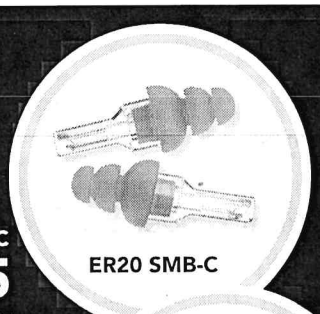
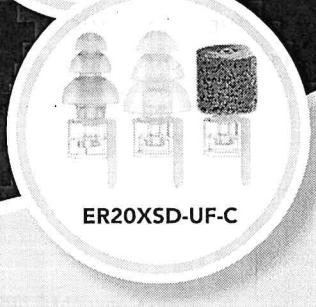
Purchase orders accepted, but products shipped upon payment

ER20 SMB-C
$10.25
plus shipping

ER20XSD-UF-C
$14.95
plus shipping


ER20 SMB-C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STUDENT QUIZ

HARRY STYLES IS GOLDEN

Take this short quiz to test your knowledge.

1) Name the members of One Direction.

_____

2) Why did Styles name the band One Direction?

_____

3) When did the band go on hiatus and why?

_____

4) What is the title of Styles' debut album?

_____

5) Which artists are considered an influence for Harry Styles work?

_____

6) When did Styles sign to a record label as a solo artist?

_____

7) What is the title of his most recent album?

_____

8) What kinds of clips are shown in the music video for "Adore You?"

_____

9) What is the message behind the song "Lights Up?"

_____

10) Name another Harry Styles song.

_____

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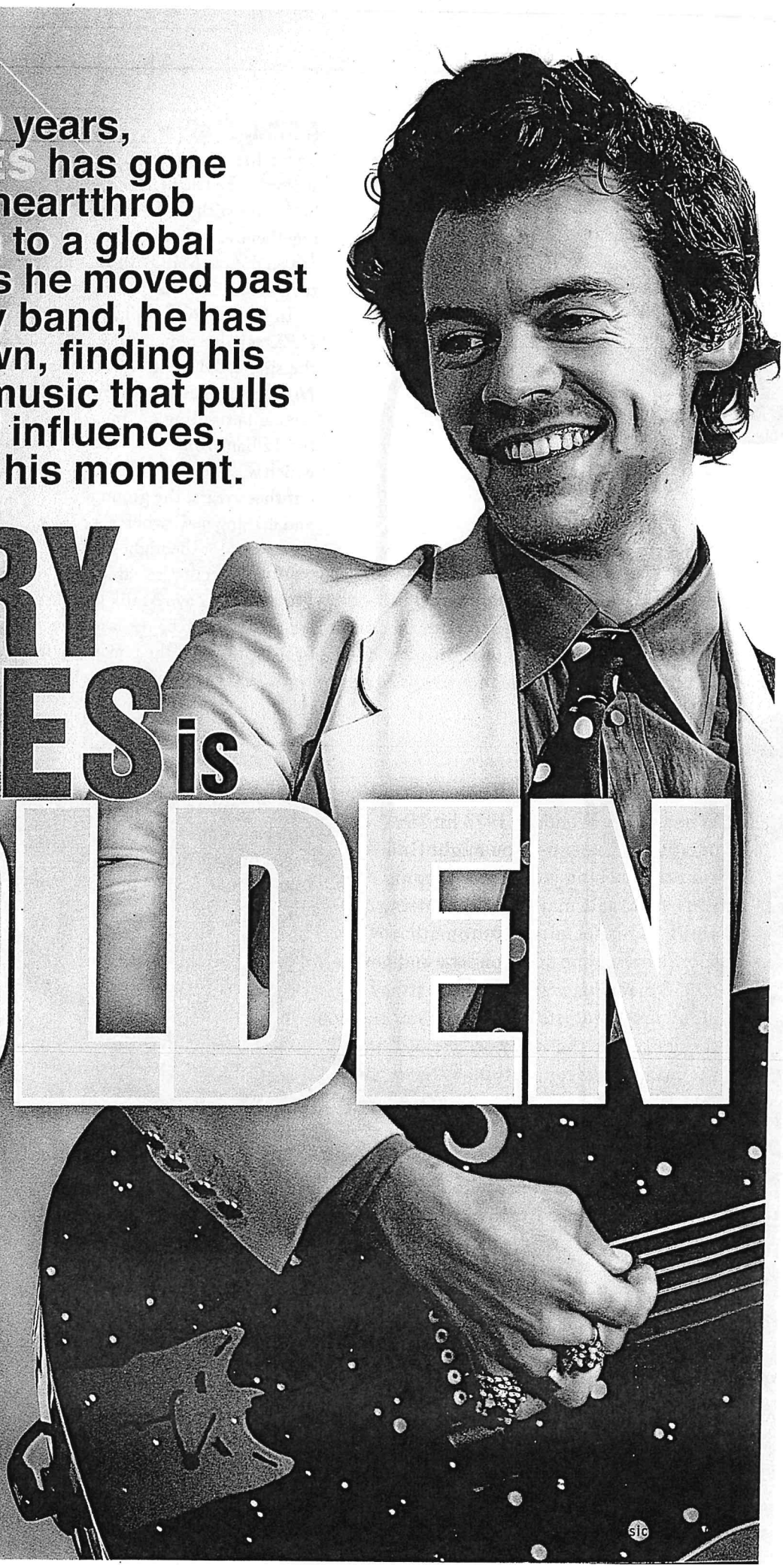
Over the past 10 years, HARRY STYLES has gone from a teenage heartthrob in One Direction to a global solo pop star. As he moved past his start in a boy band, he has come into his own, finding his voice, creating music that pulls from a myriad of influences, and making this his moment.

HARRY STYLES is GOLDEN

By Kim Engel



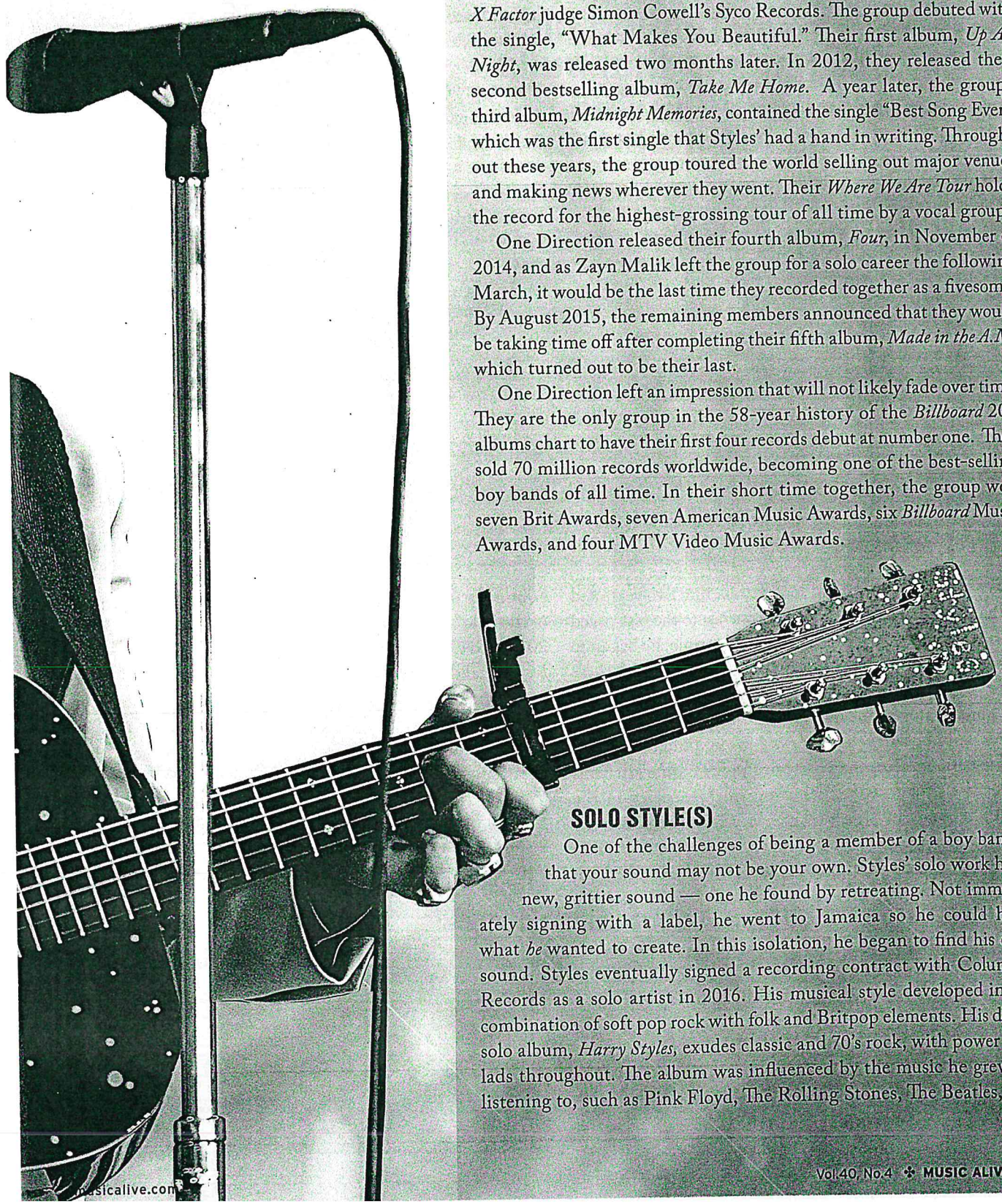
A SINGING COMPETITION CREATES A NEW DIRECTION

Styles' life changed in April 2010 when he auditioned for the seventh season of the televised British singing competition *The X Factor*. After he, along with four other boys, were eliminated, the five were put together as a group. Styles, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, and Zayn Malik called themselves *One Direction*. The group eventually reached *The X Factor* finals, finishing in third place.

In January 2011, One Direction signed a record contract with *The X Factor* judge Simon Cowell's Syco Records. The group debuted with the single, "What Makes You Beautiful." Their first album, *Up All Night*, was released two months later. In 2012, they released their second bestselling album, *Take Me Home*. A year later, the group's third album, *Midnight Memories*, contained the single "Best Song Ever," which was the first single that Styles' had a hand in writing. Throughout these years, the group toured the world selling out major venues and making news wherever they went. Their *Where We Are Tour* holds the record for the highest-grossing tour of all time by a vocal group.

One Direction released their fourth album, *Four*, in November of 2014, and as Zayn Malik left the group for a solo career the following March, it would be the last time they recorded together as a fivesome. By August 2015, the remaining members announced that they would be taking time off after completing their fifth album, *Made in the A.M.* which turned out to be their last.

One Direction left an impression that will not likely fade over time. They are the only group in the 58-year history of the *Billboard* 200 albums chart to have their first four records debut at number one. They sold 70 million records worldwide, becoming one of the best-selling boy bands of all time. In their short time together, the group won seven Brit Awards, seven American Music Awards, six *Billboard* Music Awards, and four MTV Video Music Awards.



SOLO STYLE(S)

One of the challenges of being a member of a boy band is that your sound may not be your own. Styles' solo work has a new, grittier sound — one he found by retreating. Not immediately signing with a label, he went to Jamaica so he could hone what *he* wanted to create. In this isolation, he began to find his own sound. Styles eventually signed a recording contract with Columbia Records as a solo artist in 2016. His musical style developed into a combination of soft pop rock with folk and Britpop elements. His debut solo album, *Harry Styles*, exudes classic and 70's rock, with power ballads throughout. The album was influenced by the music he grew up listening to, such as Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, and

HARRY STYLES

Fleetwood Mac. He also cited Freddie Mercury, Elvis Presley and Shania Twain as influences, both musically and in terms of fashion.

The search for his sound paid off. The album was certified platinum in the U.S., while its lead single "Sign of the Times" topped the U.K. charts. The 70s glam rock/soft rock ballad - reminiscent of David Bowie - was named best song of 2017 by *Rolling Stone*.

FINDING HIS SOUL

The release of his second album further solidified his voice and was also inspired by sounds of the 1970's; the entire album explores the freedom of Styles' musicality, featuring the sound established in his first album. However, it also incorporates additional elements of funk and soul. It took him two years and a lot of hard work to complete; a stark contrast to the fast-paced album drops in the *One Direction* days. Over time, he began to discover his true musical and personal self. It was through these changes that he came to accept who he was, which in turn helped him to grow as an adult artist.

Styles' sophomore release *Fine Line* is a huge, soulful, full-of-joy pop masterpiece. Its first single "Lights Up," was released in October 2019, debuting in third place in the U.K. As he sings in "Lights Up," he's "stepping into the light," after spending a long time in self-reflection. The second single "Adore You", was released that December, just two weeks before the album dropped. *Fine Line* had the largest U.S. debut sales week for a British artist since Eric Clapton's *Unplugged* in 1992.

Singer Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac called the album Styles *Rumours*, her band's landmark album, and she commented that it inspired her to write new music. *Rolling Stone* ranked the album #491 in their "The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time" list in 2020. The album's third single, "Watermelon Sugar," became Styles' fourth U.K. Top 10 single, as well as his first number one single in the U.S.

One Direction on *The X Factor Live*, in Glasgow in 2011. From left to right: Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik

FUN FACT

Styles came up with the band name One Direction, thinking that it would sound good when the host of *The X Factor* announced the band.

ON "GOLDEN"

The first track on *Fine Line*, and its fourth single released, was written during session work at Shangri-La Studios in Malibu, California. Styles knew from the beginning that "Golden" would be the first track. It's a blast of vintage 70's Southern California soft rock, the kind of "Laurel Canyon" mellowness that defined his first album, layered in with guitars and harmonies. The so-called Laurel Canyon sound described a style of folk/rock music made by 1970s artists who lived, worked and recorded in that area of Los Angeles.

"Golden" is a memory of Styles' time spent in California. The song, written in the kitchen of the studio, was born as he played guitar while everyone else sang along. Amidst the sunny pop lyric, however, there is a strain of bittersweet loss: As the sun goes down, he pleads, "I don't wanna be alone." Styles was finding joy in the music even if the song is about a time when he was experiencing the isolation of fame, and what success meant during that time. Through understanding and adjustment came his inner freedom.

Even during this difficult time, 2020 has been a success for Styles. He was nominated for British Male Solo Artist and British Album of the Year at the 2020 Brit Awards. Styles received the American Music Award for Favorite Pop/Rock Album for *Fine Line* and he was named *Variety*'s "Hitmaker of the Year" in November. He's also been nominated for three 2021 GRAMMY awards: Best Music Video for "Adore You," Pop Vocal Album for *Fine Line*, and Pop Solo Performance for "Watermelon Sugar." The awards take place at the end of January.

LEARN MORE

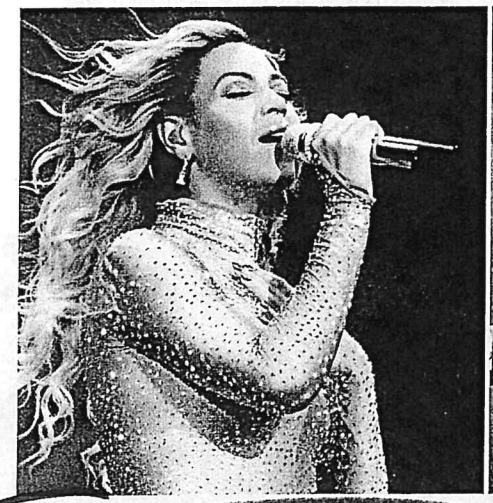
One aspect of Styles' artistry is his thought-provoking videos. The video for "Sign of the Times" features Styles flying and walking on water. The video earned a "British Artist Video of the Year" at the BRIT Awards in 2018. Fine Line's "Adore You" video is up for a GRAMMY this year. Compare and the contrast the two!

"Sign of the Times"
bit.ly/ma404hs1

"Adore You"
bit.ly/ma404hs2

MUSIC NOTES

NEW SOUNDS, NEW IDEAS



Beyoncé Ties a Frank Sinatra Record

THE 63RD GRAMMY AWARDS brings us an exciting new record: Beyoncé is now tied with Frank Sinatra as the artist with the most "Record of the Year" nominations in GRAMMY history with seven each. Beyoncé and Sinatra began their careers as members of a group before setting out on their own. Sinatra sang with the Harry James and Tommy Dorsey big bands of the late 1930's and early 1940s before going solo in 1942. Beyoncé received her first Record of the Year nomination in 2000 as a member of Destiny's Child for "Say My Name." Sinatra received his first Record of the Year nomination at the very first GRAMMY Awards ceremony in 1958; his seventh in 1980. Beyoncé co-wrote all seven of her nominated songs while Sinatra did not. Few singers during Sinatra's time wrote their own material. Beyoncé is up for the award at the GRAMMY ceremony on January 31st for "Savage" with Megan Thee Stallion.

Beyoncé's Record of the Year Nominees:
"Say My Name" (2000),
as member of Destiny's Child
"Crazy in Love" (2003) feat. Jay-Z
"Irreplaceable" (2007)
"Halo" (2009)
"Formation" (2016)
"Black Parade" (2020)
"Savage" (2020) with Megan Thee Stallion

Sinatra's Record of the Year Nominees:
"Witchcraft" (1958)
"High Hopes" (1959)
"Nice 'N' Easy" (1960)
"The Second Time Around" (1961)
"Strangers in the Night" (1966)
"Somethin' Stupid" (1967),
Duet with Nancy Sinatra
"Theme From New York, New York" (1980)

Top 10 Best Selling Albums of all time

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A PLATINUM RECORD? Then, chances are you are familiar with RIAA certifications. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is an organization that represents America's recording industry. The certification program tracks total sales of albums and singles. Below are the **10 bestselling albums of all time.** Any surprises?

1. **THE EAGLES - "Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975"** - 38 million copies
2. **MICHAEL JACKSON – "Thriller"** 33 million copies
3. **THE EAGLES – "Hotel California"** 26 million copies
4. **AC/DC – "Back in Black"** 25 Million copies
5. **THE BEATLES – "The Beatles"** 24 million copies
6. **BILLY JOEL – "Greatest Hits Volume I & Volume II"** 23 miliions copies
7. **LED ZEPPELIN – "Led Zeppelin IV"** 23 million copies
8. **PINK FLOYD – "The Wall"** 23 million copies
9. **GARTH BROOKS – "Double Live"** 21 million copies
10. **HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH "Cracked Rear View"** 21 million copies

SO CLOSE: **Fleetwood Mac's** "Rumours" album missed the Top 10 selling records of all time in the U.S. with "only" 20 million units sold.

1981 2021
music4OALIVE!
YEARS
VOL. 40, NO.4

Editor-in-Chief Stacey Swanson
Design & Production Michael R. Vella
Circulation Director Mona Kornfeld

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MUSICALIVE! (ISSN 1051-8975) is published eight times each year by In Tune Partners, LLC, P.O. Box 166 Thornwood, NY 10594. fax 914-948-4045, phone 914-358-1200.

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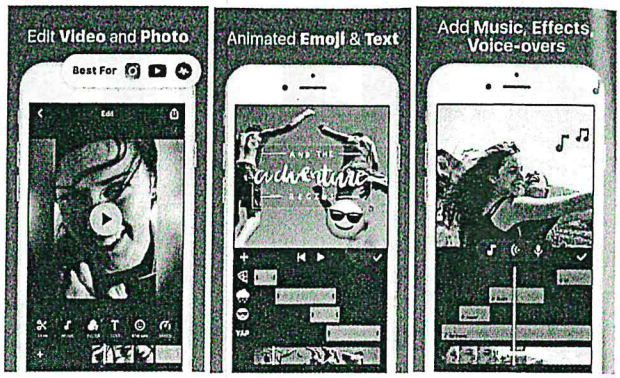
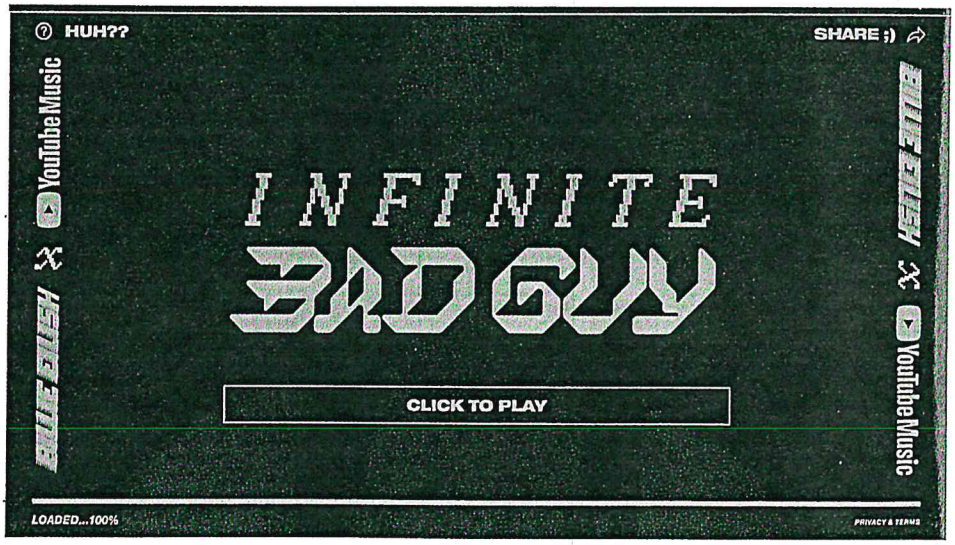
Music Videos Made Easy



WHETHER YOU want to be hands-on or let AI do the work, there's now a crop of easy-to-use apps that let musicians...or really anyone, make music videos.

InShot lets you crop, resize, filter, add music, and speed up videos in the dimensions needed for social media platforms. **Mojo** provides animation templates and allows users to add photos and videos. **TikTok's** video editor lets you speed things up, add filters and music to short videos. By contrast, **StoriesStudio** cuts up longer videos into separate clips. **Clips** gives Apple users the ability to edit music videos in an iMovie style layout and create vertical and horizontal videos using effects, filters, animated text, emojis, stickers and more. You can Airdrop, email, and save files to the cloud. **Magisto** is an intuitive, AI-driven app that transforms videos and photos into an expertly crafted full video. The app finds the best parts and stabilizes them, and it can add filters while auto-cropping to make sure everything stays in frame.



"Infinite Music Video" Means You'll Never See the Same ersion Twice

WHAT DO RUSSIAN METAL HEADS, flute players, and Malaysian guitarists have in common? They've all covered "Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish, whose music video for the song surpassed one billion views recently, making it one of the most covered songs in the history of YouTube.

To celebrate, YouTube created "the world's first infinite video," taking clips from "Bad Guy" covers and randomly linking them together. There are "1.46 x 10 to the 100th power" of video combinations, making it impossible to view the same sequence more than once in a lifetime. After starting the video, the viewer can listen in on the next scheduled performance or hop around by specific instruments or genres. There are categories for sign language, dance, parodies, and more. The requirements for the project are so large that it cannot live on YouTube. Instead, it has its own microsite billie.withyoutube.com. Want to add a video? Use #InfiniteBadGuy #BadGuy #BillieEilish to get discovered!

Radiophonic Workshop Turns the Internet into a Musical Instrument

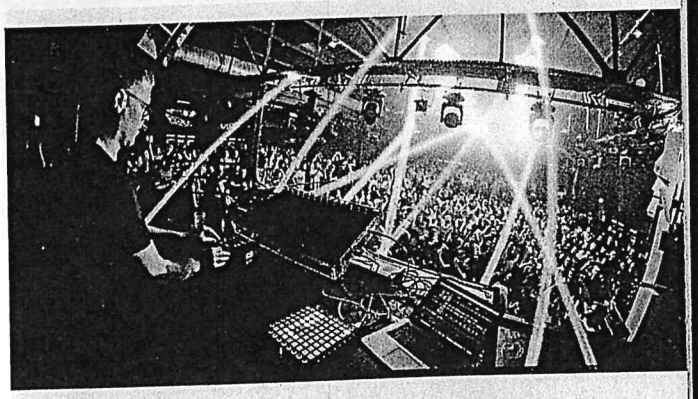
THE BBC RADIOPHONIC WORKSHOP has long been considered a pioneer of electronic music, influencing generations of musicians including Paul McCartney and Pink Floyd. It has continued to explore the sounds of the future with an endeavor that reflects a reality of 2020 on a program called "Latency." On November 22nd, they live-streamed a performance inspired by the phenomenon experienced on Zoom video calls.

Latency is internet lag caused by the milliseconds it takes for electrical signals to pass from one computer to another. Musicians in different locations trying to collaborate live on Zoom have struggled with the sonic lag. However, instead of trying to eliminate the lag (something that researchers in a number of places are working on) Workshop members Bob Earland and Paddy Kingsland set out to see if a *longer* delay could facilitate a unique sort of improvisation between artists, essentially "playing the internet" as an instrument itself. The resulting composition is essentially a loop of music with each musician adding elements as it is passed to them. ●

Watch "Latency" and count how many instruments you recognize! bit.ly/ma404mn1

WORD OF THE MONTH

Ostinato A musical phrase repeated over and over during a composition



German Court Rules That "Techno" is Culture

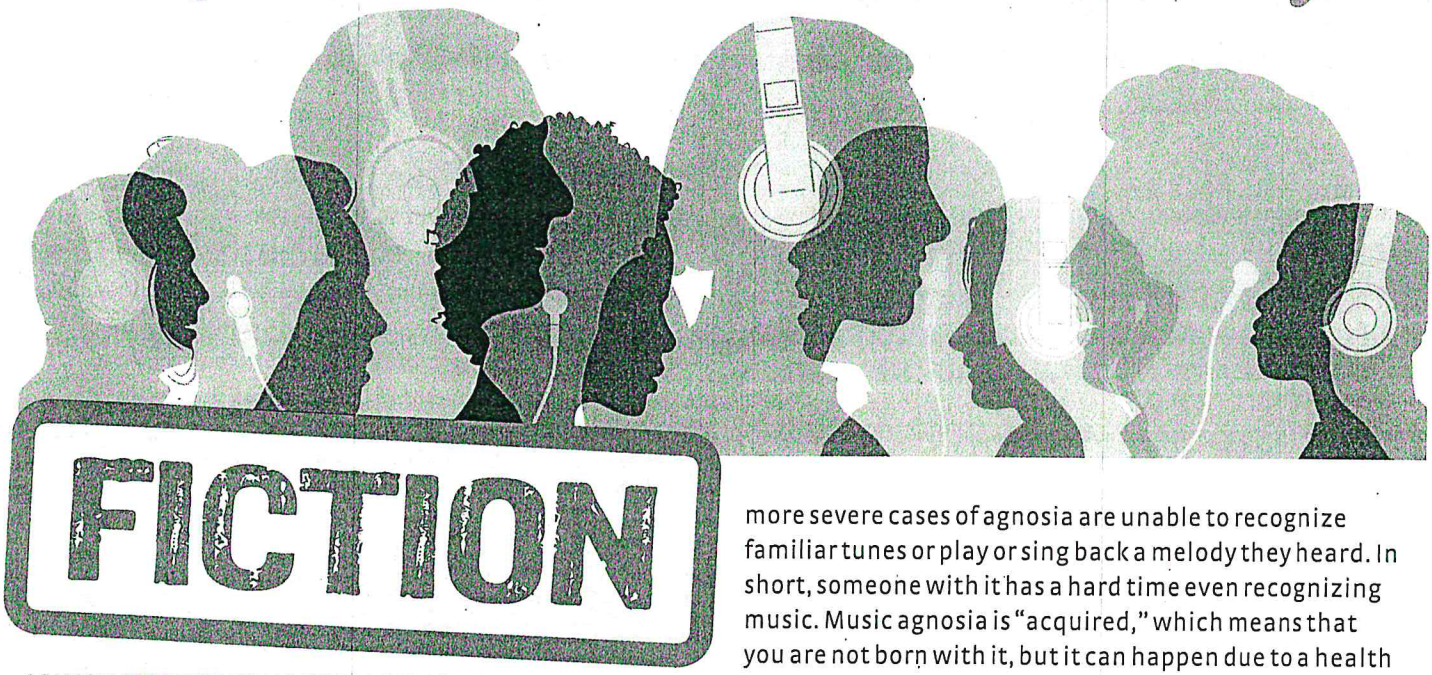
MOST GERMAN BUSINESSES that buy and sell things are subject to a 19% government "value added" tax, although there are some exceptions. For example, ticket revenue from cultural events is taxed at 7%. And, because it was deemed that "techno" – or music made and played by DJs in clubs – wasn't original, and therefore not "cultural," those clubs had to pay the higher rate. Now, Germany's high court determined that techno is, in fact, a genre of original music and that DJs don't just play other peoples' tracks, as reported by *The Local*: "(DJs) perform their own new pieces of music using instruments in the broader sense, to create new sound sequences that have their own character." This means that nightclubs can be considered cultural venues, pay only 7% in tax and reduce their financial burdens when they begin to reopen in the wake of coronavirus lockdowns. ●

MUSICAL MYTHBUSTERS

By Aiden Paul

We select a common belief about music and tell if it's fact or fiction.

Everyone hears music the same way.



AS YOU LISTEN TO YOUR FAVORITE SONG, what do you hear? It's likely that you can identify melody, harmony, tone quality, or/or chord progressions. While musical preferences are subject to each individual's taste, what each of us hears is a different matter. There are actually a few conditions that can make it challenging for some people to listen to music.

Have you ever heard of the term "tone deaf?" Amusia, meaning "musical deafness" or "tone deafness," is defined as the inability to recognize melody, read musical notation, or identify wrong notes. Those who experience the phenomena find that it is a challenge to sing, write, or play an instrument! Some with amusia describe music as mildly unpleasant, while others hear music as annoying noise. A person could have amusia from birth, while other individuals may develop it due to a brain injury, among other scenarios. Studies have shown that four percent of the world's 7.8 billion population can have amusia. That's a lot of people!

A similar condition is called agnosia, meaning the act of knowledge loss. In music, agnosia (specifically music agnosia) refers to a person losing the ability to recognize rhythm, chords, pitch, and notes. In addition, those with more severe cases of agnosia are unable to recognize familiar tunes or play or sing back a melody they heard. In short, someone with it has a hard time even recognizing music. Music agnosia is "acquired," which means that you are not born with it, but it can happen due to a health event, such as a stroke or dementia.

Musical hallucination (MH) is the experience of hearing music when none is being played. Different than thinking about a tune, sometimes called an "earworm," a musical hallucintation produces the sense of actually hearing music that no one else can hear. It is quite common in its simplest form, such as a buzzing, ringing, or sizzling, known as tinnitus. However, in a small number of people, these experiences can be more complex. MH may take the form of songs from childhood and may relate to strong childhood emotions. Musical hallucinations have a compelling sense of reality and are often mistaken for real music. The sounds are typically heard as short fragments of simple melodies. Although anyone can experience MH, it is more common in women than in men, those over 60 years of age, and those with hearing loss.

Lastly, individuals with hearing loss (partial or total) or impairment also hear music differently. The use of a hearing aid can help many hear the sounds of music, but for those who cannot use aids or were born or have become deaf, feeling the rhythm and vibrations of music from an object's surface to skin can provide a pathway and allow a person to experience music through touch.

COOL CAREERS

Graeme Winder

CEO and Founder of Meloquest

GRAEME WINDER DID NOT ENVISION himself a video game inventor when he created the Key & Kingdoms – the game that teaches piano playing. For 18 years, he'd been a private music teacher. He'd created a chain of music schools and become a music producer and film composer. But while reflecting on his own challenges reading music and learning to play piano, he came up with a way to make learning piano easy and fun, and knew he needed to further explore his entrepreneurial instincts. His company MeloQuest and its Keys & Kingdoms video game is a result of those efforts.

The game combines computer technology, proven educational methods, and gaming to teach students who learn on their own. Unlike traditional gaming, kids use the piano as the gaming controller, to explore immersive lands, craft tools, learn new songs and "unlock the musical power hidden within themselves."

MA!: What made you decide to create a new method of learning to play music?
After failing to get a music degree and frustrated with how limited music education was for my learning style, I started a music school to see if I could teach students the way I was able to learn. I called it the "sight reduction method." I immediately saw engagement, excitement, creativity, and self-expression. Students were learning full songs in minutes instead of weeks.

MA!: What gave you the idea to create a music learning video game?
After seeing how powerful the teaching method was in our music school, I knew I could help even more students. Creating a video game that could provide fun musical training was the next logical step.

MA!: Did you imagine your career would go in this direction? Was that your original goal?
After graduating college with a biology degree, I thought my future would be in medicine. If you said I would be running a gaming tech company, I wouldn't have believed you!

MA!: What are some of the responsibilities of your job today?
Being the founder of a start-up company, you don't have much (or any!) staff, so you are responsible for every aspect of the business. Then, you bring in people that have strengths in the areas you are weak. My biggest responsibility is to hire the right people, keep them highly motivated, and keep our course always pointed towards our mission.

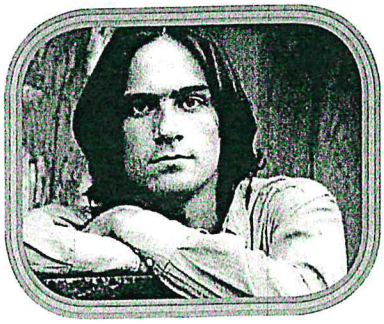
MA!: What are the most challenging and rewarding aspects of your job?
By far, the most rewarding is receiving videos of kids playing our game, learning music, and loving it! It's all the motivation we need to keep going. The biggest challenge we face is lifting a new company, and a new product, off the ground and into the market.

MA!: What are some traits someone would need to become an inventor?
Looking at new ways to do simple and routine things is a great sign of an innovative personality. Also, getting involved in activities that allow you to self-express and put your passion to work is a great sign that you can be successful starting and running your own business.

MA!: What advice do you have for anyone looking to create something new?
The first thing you should do is have the courage to try new things! It took me several attempts before we were able to come up with Keys & Kingdoms. Learning from both success and failure is always the way forward, and also that everything we ever do can always be improved upon.

LISTENING GUIDE

An appreciation of influential popular music and the elements that define a song in real time.



James Taylor's

"Fire and Rain"

The song that launched a career for the ages chronicles the artist's feeling of personal loss and pain.

00m

INTRO

0:00 Solo acoustic guitar begins with finger-picked arpeggiated pattern

0:07 Piano accompaniment enters with soft block chords, guitar still primary sound

VERSE 1

0:13 First line of lyrics begins, addition of string bass playing long tones

0:17 Solo guitar flourish played during vocal rest

CHORUS

0:37 Soft drumbeat pick up leads into the chorus

0:38 Drum groove begins; bass joins by playing quarter notes

01m

0:57 Dominant major chord and accent by drums signal ending of chorus

1:03 Accented drum set rhythm grows in volume, creating tension

1:07 Drumbeat softens yet continues to drive forward with entrance of vocal lyric

1:00 Strumming pattern and piano leads into next verse

VERSE 2

1:14 Change in dynamics as string bass plays half notes

1:32 String bass changes from half notes to quarter notes increasing the dynamic

1:36 Drum fill and addition of cymbal work for extra musical color

CHORUS

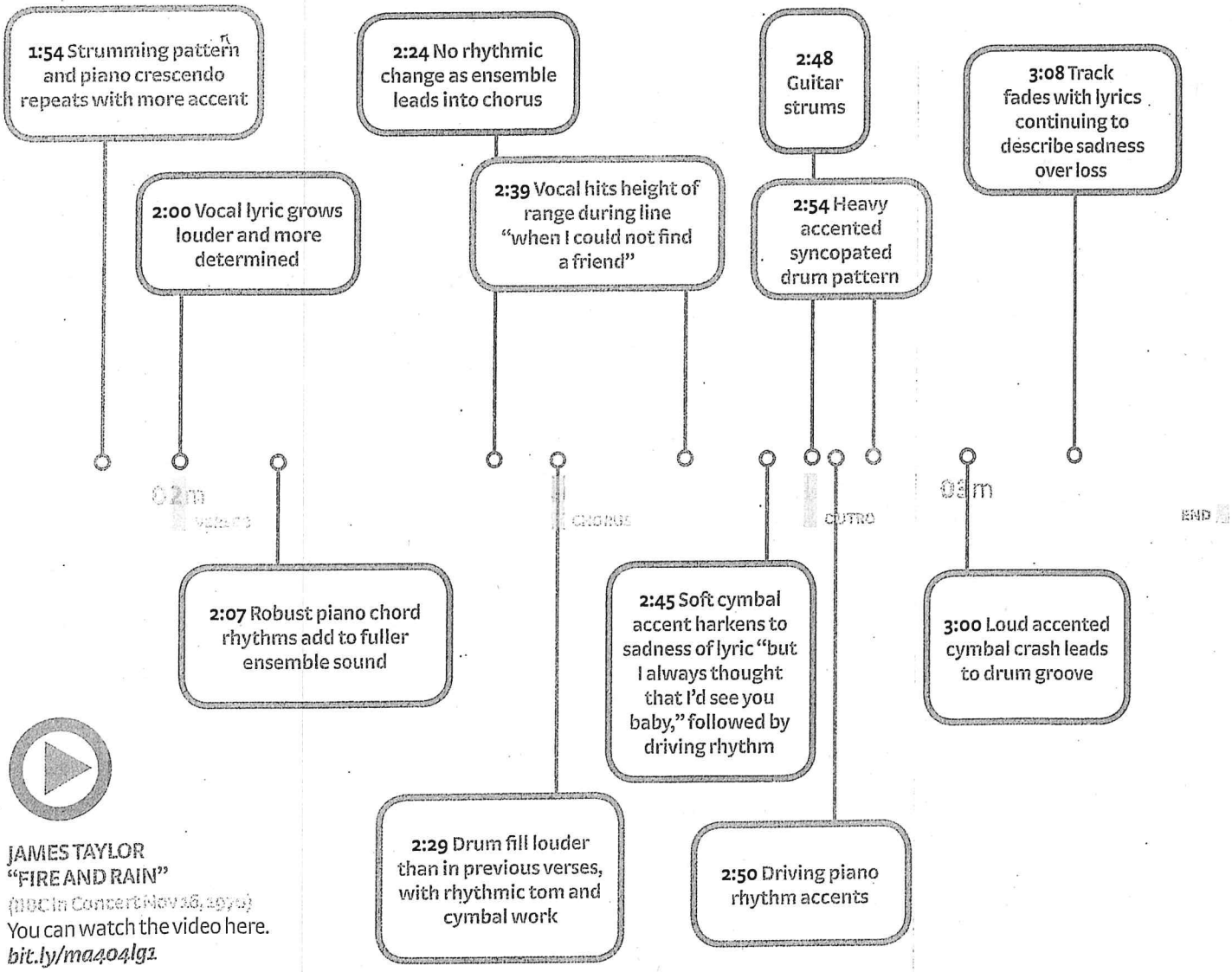
1:31 Lead into chorus changes from the first verse, as the rhythm is already driving

By Olivia Osborn

JAMES TAYLOR IS ONE of the best-selling music artists of all time having sold more than 100 million albums. Taylor got his big break in 1970 with the single "Fire and Rain." The song has three verses. The first verse is about the death of a friend. The second line "Suzanne the plans they made put an end to you" refers to childhood friend Suzanne Schnerr. The second part details Taylor's struggle to overcome drug addiction and depression. "Won't you look down upon me, Jesus" describes the struggle in the second verse. The "Flying Machine in pieces on the ground" is a reference to the depression he experienced over the break-up of his band, The Flying Machine. The third part deals with coming to grips with fame and fortune and looking back at the road that got him there. The track features the legendary Carole King on piano, Russ Kunkel on drums (using brushes rather than sticks,) and Bobby West on double bass.

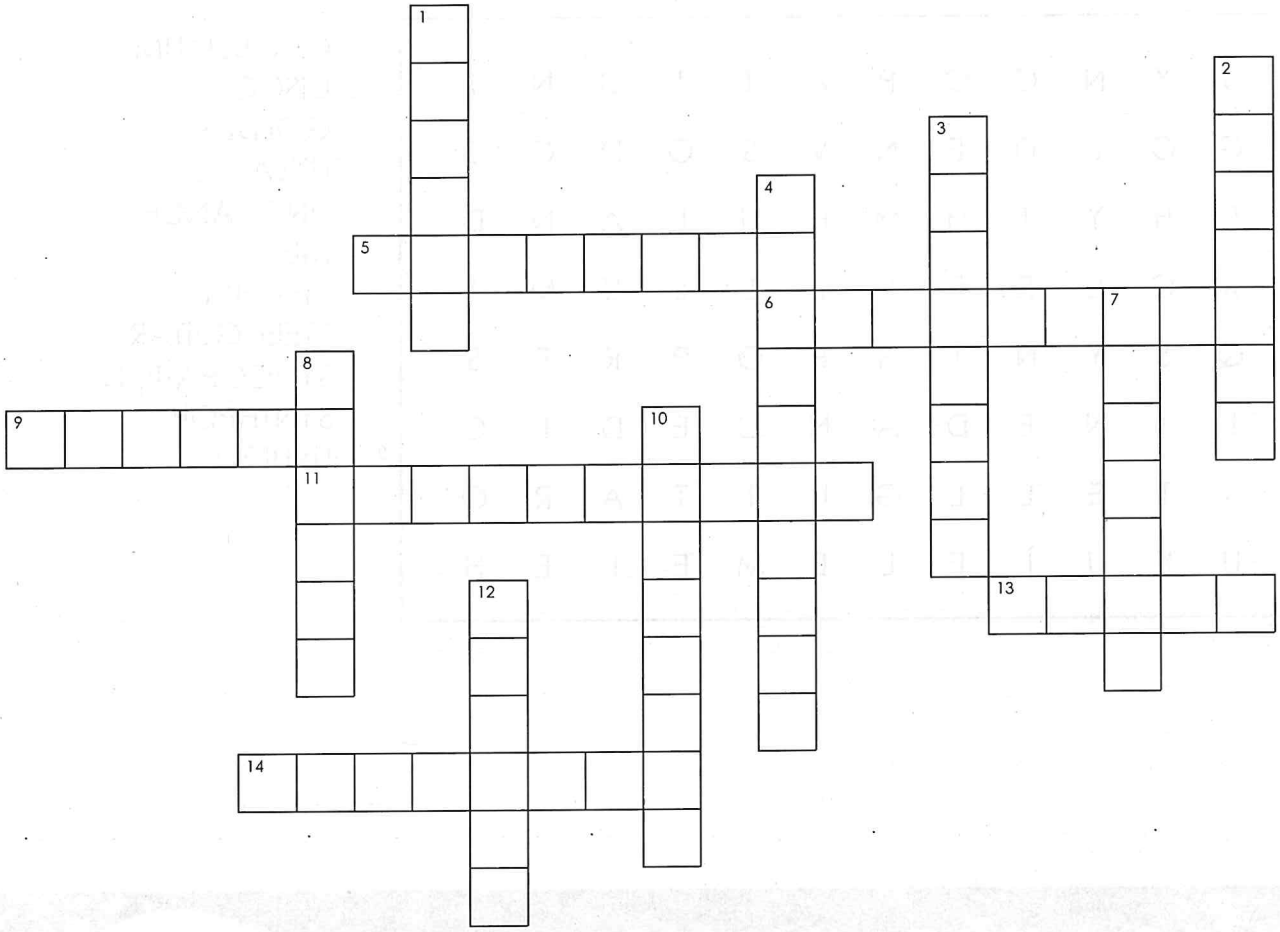
Unique to this song is an extended outro, with a switch in chord structure and feel. Overall, the harmonic structure alternates between the home key (also called the "tonic") and the dominant key (set at the 5th note above the tonic.)

In its year of release, "Fire and Rain" reached #3 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 songs chart, #2 on the Canada Top Singles chart, #6 on the Australian charts, and #42 on the UK charts. The track has been placed on many lists, such as Broadcast Music Inc's "Top 100 Songs of the Century", where "Fire and Rain" ranked #82. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), as well as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), created a "Songs of the Century" list, which was made up of 365 songs of significance from the years 1900 to 2000. with "Fire and Rain" at #85. Rolling Stone also included "Fire and Rain" on their "500 Greatest Songs of All Time" list at #227.



JAMES TAYLOR
"FIRE AND RAIN"
(NBC In Concert Nov 16, 1970)
You can watch the video here.
bit.ly/ma404lg1

CROSSWORD



Across: →

5. Hawaiian name for Steel Guitar
6. What Winder created to help learn music
9. Rhythm and syncopation are essential to __
11. Part of the brain that helps us move
13. Type of dance with energetic flips
14. Neurotransmitter that makes you feel good

Down: ↓

1. Scientific term for "tone deaf"
2. Instrument meaning "jumping flea"
3. Harry Styles' latest album
4. Portuguese migrants that brought uke to HI
7. Condition of not recognizing music at all
8. Dance music that is completely electronic
10. Hawaiian style of strumming the guitar
12. The "Queen" of Disco

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WORD SEARCH

There are more unpitched percussion instruments than you think!
Find and circle the percussion instruments listed on the right. Words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal or backwards!

S	Y	N	C	O	P	A	T	I	O	N	I
G	O	L	D	E	N	V	S	O	D	C	D
R	H	Y	T	H	M	H	U	L	A	N	D
X	C	E	R	E	B	E	L	L	U	M	I
Q	S	Y	N	T	H	P	O	P	R	F	S
L	I	N	E	D	A	N	C	E	D	L	C
S	T	E	E	L	G	U	I	T	A	R	O
U	K	U	L	E	L	E	M	E	L	E	H

CEREBELLUM
DISCO
GOLDEN
HULA
LINE DANCE
MELE
RHYTHM
STEEL GUITAR
SYNCOPATION
SYNTHPOP
UKULELE

Make Sure You Teach Your Students To
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Etymotic's "Adopt-A-Band" program is now called Etymotic Education

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(Formerly Adopt-A-Band)

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ER20 SMB-C

ER20XSD-UF-C