

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ СТАВРОПОЛЬСКОГО КРАЯ И МОЛОДЁЖНОЙ
ПОЛИТИКИ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
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American music

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The origins of the American music

- Since 1492 people have come to America from all over the world and they have brought their music with them. This mixing of people and music has created unique American music – spirituals, ragtime, the blues, jazz, country-western, the musicals and rock-and-roll.

Spirituals

- ▣ Spirituals began in the 18th century in the South. When the slaves sang white religious hymns they added African rhythms to the music. This is how spirituals were born.



Spirituals have become an important part of American culture. There are spirituals choirs in many American universities.

Ragtime

In the 1890s black musicians started to play a new kind of piano music called ragtime. It was played with a strong rhythm which was 'ragged' - not regular. The most famous songs are 'The Entertainer' and 'The Maple Leaf'. Ragtime was especially popular from 1895 to 1920.



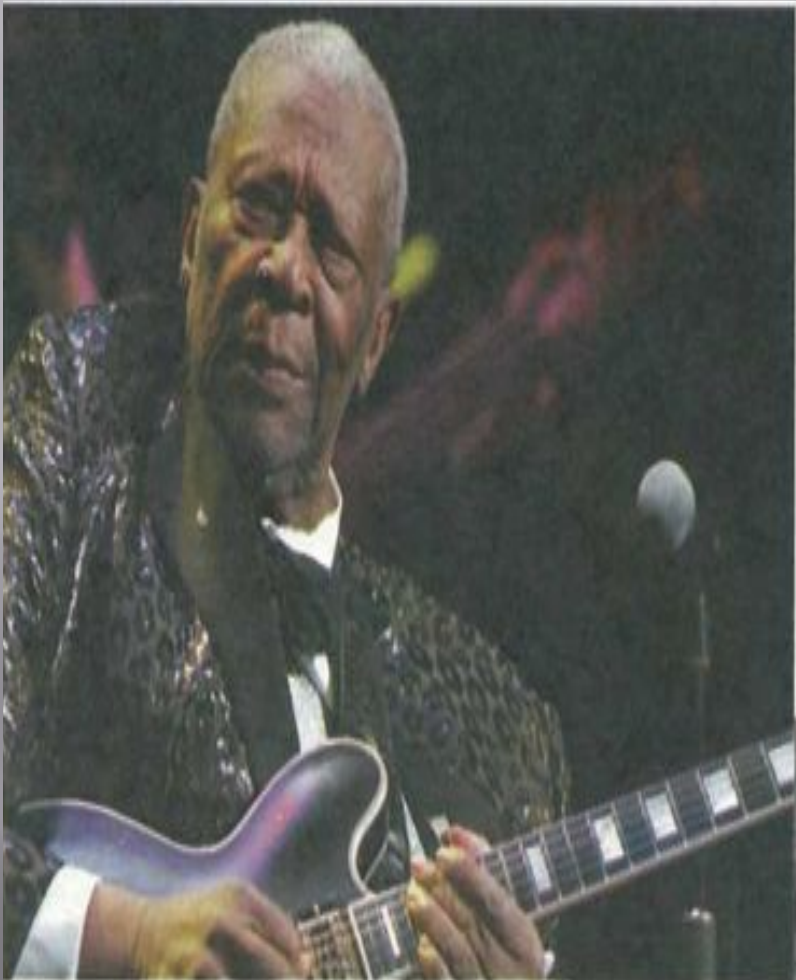
- Scott Joplin (1867-1917) was the greatest ragtime composer and pianist. People called him 'the king of ragtime'.

The Blues

- Born on the Mississippi River Delta in the early 1900s, the blues developed from African folk songs and church music.



- William Christopher Handy, the 'father of the blues'. He made the blues popular all over America.



- Blues legend B.B. King with his guitar 'Lucille'. King is 86 years old but he still gives concerts.
- ▣ He is considered to be one of most influential blues guitarists of all time.

Jazz

- Jazz was born in New Orleans at the beginning of the 20th century. It developed from spirituals, ragtime and blues, and its most important element is improvisation. Louis Armstrong, an all-time great jazz musician, once gave a classic reply to a reporter who asked him ‘What is jazz?’



- Louis Armstrong was born into a very poor family in New Orleans. As a boy he sang and danced in the streets of New Orleans in the hope to earn some money. He became famous in the 1920s. Many people think he was the greatest of all jazz musicians.



- Ella Fitzgerald is considered to be one of the greatest female jazz singers of all time.

- In the 1920s many black jazz musicians moved north, taking jazz with them, and Chicago and New York became centres for music.
- In the 1930s jazz reached its heyday of mass popularity. It was the time of big bands and a new kind of jazz called ‘swing’.



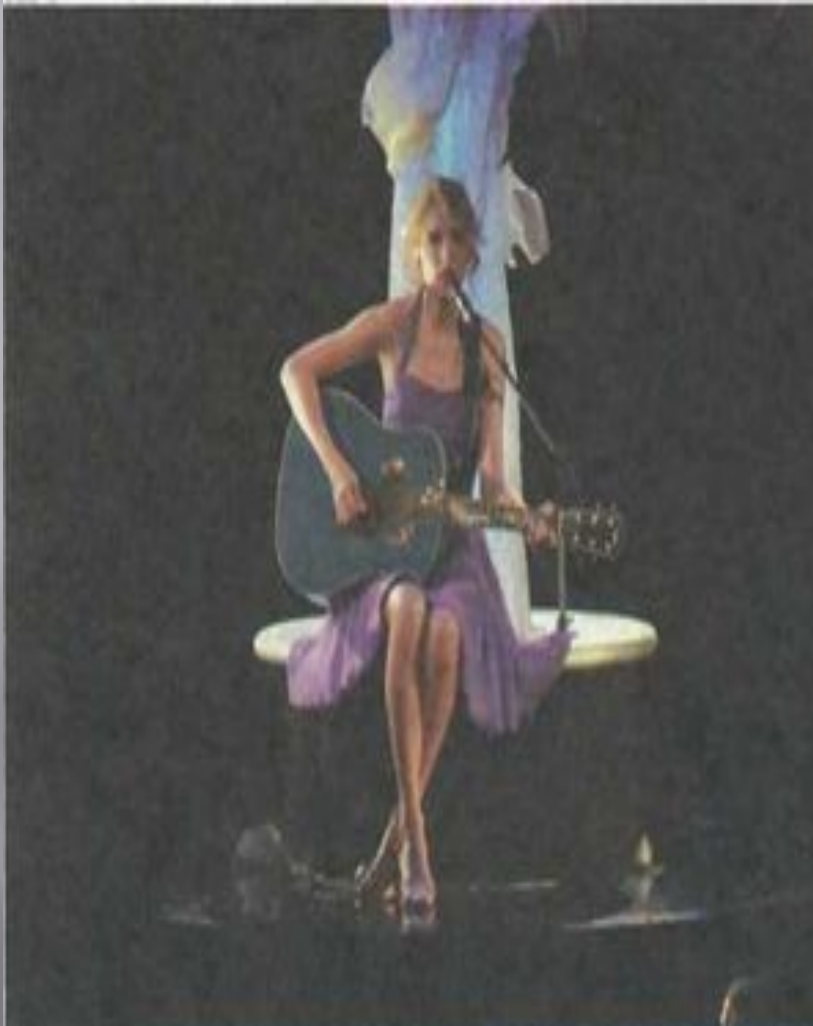
- Glenn Miller was the leader of a famous big band which played swing music in the 1930s and 40s. He also wrote music and played the trombone. The Glenn Miller Orchestra was reformed after the war and continues to play to this day.

- Jazz is changing all the time. In the 1960s and 70s jazz musicians began combining the rhythms of rock-and-roll and electronic instruments with traditional elements of jazz. This kind of music is called 'fusion' or 'electric jazz'.
- Jazz today is more varied than ever before.

Country-western

- Another popular type of music which came out of the American South is country-western, or country music. It began in the 1920s, but its cultural origin and musical sounds are totally different from jazz. Country songs are usually accompanied by the guitar, banjo and fiddle.

- In the 1960s many people were against the war in Vietnam. Country singers like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez started writing anti-war songs and songs about the problems of American society. Country music became political.
- Today, country music is played in clubs and bars in every city in the US.



- ▣ Taylor Swift is probably the most popular country singer-songwriter in America today. She has sold over 20 million albums.

The musical

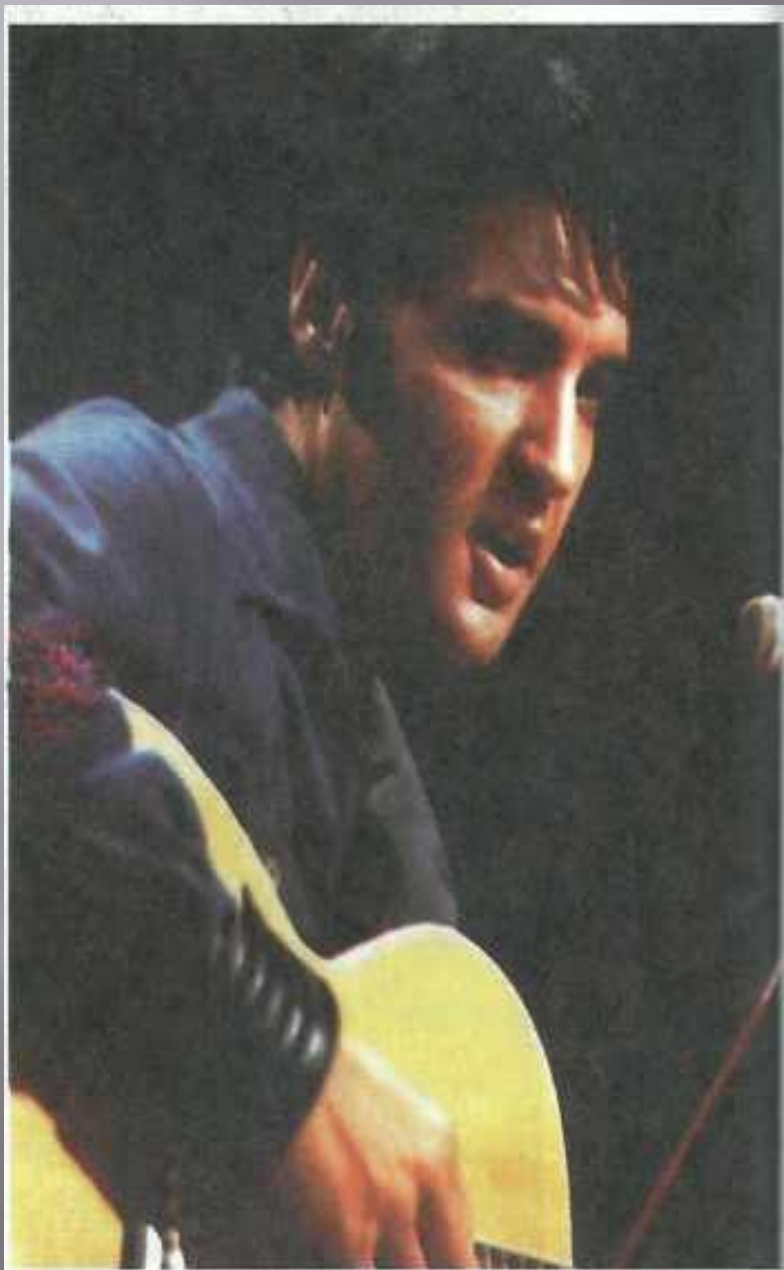
- In the 1930s another American-born art form appeared - the musical. It was a new form of entertainment which combined acting, songs and dancing. In New York most musical shows were on Broadway. Many Broadway musicals - 'Showboat', 'My Fair Lady', 'West Side Story' - were later made into films.

Rock-and-roll

- The 1950s were an exciting time for music. Teenagers wanted dance music with a good beat, and so they began to listen to R & B (rhythm and blues). A white disc jockey, Alan Freed, was the first person to call this new music 'rock-and-roll.'



- ▣ The first white group to make a rock-and-roll hit record was Bill Haley and the Comets with 'Rock Around the Clock.'



- Elvis Presley was called the ‘king of rock’. He was a white boy who sang black music with unusual natural talent and energy. He was polite and lonely; he didn’t smoke, he didn’t drink, and he didn’t eat meat, but many adults found his singing dangerous.

Conclusion

- ▣ Things change fast in the world of rock music, but one thing is certain. Music brings the people of the world together, and perhaps with music we can change the world and make it a better place.

Sources:

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