

History of English-language Popular Music

Histoire de la musique populaire anglophone

Notes to MP3 examples on CD1 (-1955)

Annotations aux enregistrements MP3 sur CD1

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Preliminary comments

A provisional text

These annotations are incomplete and provisional. They have been written in English to save valuable time. Over the next few years I hope to produce more detailed versions, including one in French for my students at the Université de Montréal.

A word of warning: this document probably contains many examples of dubious syntax and should not be emulated. The main priority with this text is at this stage to put important facts and ideas into some sort of written form as soon as possible. I regret the matter of good writing will have to be deferred to a later date.

Function

These notes do not constitute a history of popular music in the English-speaking world. They are merely intended as background information to the obligatory listening repertoire included in the course *Histoire de la musique populaire anglophone* which I teach in the Faculté de musique at the Université de Montréal.

Restriction of subject area

Any history of popular music should ideally cover no more and no less than that. However, this history of English-language popular music has a more restricted focus: it attempts initially to cover the origins of popular song and of dance music in the English-speaking world, and then to trace their development, in the twentieth century, as the most widely diffused forms of music in the world. Using the definition of popular music set out in other documents,¹ this history should really have included music, produced in the English-speaking world, for film, TV, computer games, etc. However, since such music constitutes the subject of another course al-

1. See *Kojak - 50 Seconds of TV Music* (2000: 15-24) | <http://tagg.org/bookxtrax/kpmusdef.pdf> | and 'Popular Music Studies: a brief introduction', 3-5 | <http://tagg.org/teaching/PMusStudsIntro.ppt> | .