

# Background dates for History of English-language popular Music

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## -4000 to -1

- c.4000 Sumerians settle on site of Babylon
- 3500-2500: Upper and Lower Egypt united; 1st and 2nd dynasties — the Old Kingdom
- 3000-2000 'Sage Kings' in China, then the Yao, Shun and Hsai (-2000 to -1760) dynasties
- 3000-2500: China: pentatonic scale formalised (2500-2000). Authorities check if court and village songs correspond with the five notes (acc. The 'Shiu CHing' (=Book of History)
  - Decline of Babylon. 18th dynasty in Egypt: irrigation, trigonometry, sun dials. Indus culture flourishes. Iron in China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt.
  - Moses leads Israelites out of Egypt. Trojan war. Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.
  - Teotihuacan Sun Pyramid (Mexico)
- 2200-525: dynasty of Pharaohs (god-kings)
- c-1000 Indian Rigveda (Veda of Hymns) and Samaveda (Veda of Chants) developed (forerunners to Jewish & Gregorian chants?)
- Phoenicians main traders in western Mediterranean
- Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
- c 550 Pythagoras 'discovers' octave
- c.500 BC: Celts arrive in Britain**
- c 440 Sophocles' Theban trilogy
- c 340-30 Plato's *Republic*; Aristotle's *Politics* and *Poetics*
- c 320 Aristoxenos' *Harmonics*. Defines rhythm as tripartite: speech, melody, movement
- 55 Romans invade of Britain** (leave in 4th century)
- c.100 Emperor Wu founds Imperial Office of Music (Yüeh-fu), attached to the Office of Weights and Measures, for standardising pitch and supervising music
- 5 Christ born

## 1-999

- 30 Crucifixion of Christ
- 58 Buddhism introduced into China
- 300 Maya civilisation flourishes
- 324 Christianity official religion of Roman Empire**
- 340 Definite split of Roman Empire
- 386 Hymn singing introduced by St Ambrosius, Milan
- 410 Alaric and Goths sack Rome
- 432 St Patrick starts mission to Ireland
- 440 Jutes, Angles and Saxons arrive and control most of England by 800**
- 450 Responsorial singing (precentor and congregation) after Jewish pattern common in Roman church
- 476 Goths conquer Rome: end of Western Roman Empire
- 563 St Columba (Irish abbot) on Iona to convert Picts and Scots
- 570 Muhammed the prophet (b)
- 600 'Antiphonar' - Pope Gregory's collection of church chants.
  - Book printing in China
- 632 Muhammed the prophet (d)
- 642 Arabs conquer Egypt (642), Byzantium (655), Crete (674), Tunis (700), most of Spain (718)
- 650 Neumes (notation for groups of notes) used until 1050
- 685 Founding of Winchester cathedral
- 715 Moslem empire extends from Pyrenees to China with Damascus as capital
- 800 Charlemagne crowned first Holy Roman Emperor
  - City of Machu Picchu (Inca, Peru) built
- 814 Arabs adopt Indian numerals (incl 0)
- c825 Ishaq-al-Mausili (767-850), Arab singer and music theorist (cf.900)
- 841 Vikings invade what is now Normandy
- c850 Greek musical theory translated into Arabic and developed (e.g. 'Treatise concerning the Inner Knowledge of Melodies' by Al-Kindi (d.874). 'Al-musiqi' important subject in Arab universities.
- 900 c. Ibn al-Munajjim (d.912) 'Risala fi'l-musiqi' (=Book about Music) showing Arab classical scales as Pythagorean but ascending
- 942 Arabs bring kettledrums and trumpets to Europe
- 950 Al-Farabi (d), working at Aleppo and Córdoba, author 'Kitab al-musiqi al-kabir' (=The Great Book on Music)

## 1000-1399

- 1000 Musical notation improved by Guido d'Arezzo
- 1015 Poposa monastery (Ravenna): sight singing is introduced
- 1026 Guido d'Arezzo introduces solmisation (do re mi fa so la)
- 1045 Split between Roman and Eastern Orthodox church
- 1050 Harp arrives in Europe (Arabic). Time values given to notes
- 1066 Norman invasion of Britain**
- 1071 Constatine the African (1020-1087) brings Greek medicine (via Arabs) to Western Europe
- 1081 Commercial treaty between Venice and Byzantium
- 1094 El Cid takes Valencia from the Moors
- 1096 First Crusade begins
- 1119 Bologna University founded
- 1130 Troubadour and trouvère music evolves
- 1150 Paris University founded
- 1167 Oxford University established
- 1200 Cambridge University founded
- 1201 Façade of Notre Dame completed
- 1233 Coal mined for first time in Newcastle
- 1237 Genghis Khan & Mongols capture Moscow
- 1250 Magister Perotinus (Notre Dame, Ars antiqua)
  - Music faculty at Salamanca University
- 1271 Marco Polo (1254-1324) journeys to China (return 1295)
- 1285 Adam de la Halle (1238-1287) 'Le jeu de Robin et

- Marion'
- 1291 Arabs capture Acre. End of crusades
- 1322 Pope forbids use of counterpoint in church music
- 1325 Tournai Mass - first polyphonic mass
- 1327 Aztecs establish Mexico City
- 1348 Black death sweeps across Europe
- 1351 1347-1351 Black Death kills 75,000,000**

- 1354 Mechanical clock at Strasbourg Cathedral
- 1360 Lute (via Arabs) playing popular in Europe
  - Beginnings of development of clavichord and cembalo
- 1361 Black Death reappears in England**
- 1365 Guillaume de Machaut (1300-1377) 4-voice Mass

## 1400

- 1414 Medici of Florence bankers to papacy (until 1476)
- 1431 Jeanne d'Arc burnt at stake
  - First German peasants' revolt (+ Engl 1380s)
- 1453 Turks take Constantinople, converting St Sophia Basilica into a mosque
- 1455 Venetian Cadamosto explores Sénégal river
- 1456 Turks conquer Athens (burning Acropolis in 1458)
- 1463 Turks conquer Bosnia (also Herzegovina in 1467)
- 1465 First music printing
- 1470 Portuguese navigators reach the Gold Coast
- 1473 Woodcut music printing** (Eslingen, Germany)
- 1477 Torquemada (1420-1498) in full swing with the inquisition

- 1483 Botticelli paints 'Birth of Venus'
- 1492 Columbus's voyage to Caribbean
  - Spanish conquer Granada and extinguish Moorish kingdom in Spain
- 1493 Pope Alexander VI divides lands found in Americas between Spain and Portugal
- 1495 Greek and Latin classics published by Aldine Press, Venice
  - Josquin des Près (1450-1521) appointed organist at Cambrai
- 1498 Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator (1469-1524) reaches India
- 1499 Oxford University institutes degrees in music

## 1500

- 1500** Josquin des Près at court of Louis XII
  - da Vinci's Camera Obscura
  - **Petrucchi's movable type music printing** (Venice)
- 1503 da Vinci paints 'Mona Lisa'
- 1506 Niccolò Machiavelli, at 37, creates Florentine militia, first national army in Italy
- 1509 Beginnings of slave trade**; Bartolomé de las Casas, bishop of Chiapas, states that each Spanish settler should bring a certain number of Negro slaves to the New World
- 1512 Royal Navy builds double-deck ships with 70 guns, 1,000 tons
  - Copernicus states that earth and other planets turn around sun
- 1513 1st known popular printed song published in UK: John Skelton's 'Ballade of the Scottyshe Kynges'
- 1515 Spanish under Diaz de Solis reach mouth of Rio de la Plata
- 1517 Luther's 95 Theses**
  - Archduke Charles grants monopoly of slave trade to Flemish merchants. License to import 4,000 African slaves to Spanish American colonies granted to Lorens de Gominot
- 1518 Spanish reach Yucatán and Mexico
- 1521 Luther imprisoned
- 1522 Magellan sails round the world
- 1524 Johann Walther (1496-1570) produces, in collaboration with Martin Luther, the hymnal 'Geystlich Gesangk-Büchleyn'
- 1525 Juan Luis Vives demands state help for the poor
- 1528 Erasmus: 'Ciceronianus' - satire on Latin scholarship
  - Atttaignant 1st book published
- 1530 Portuguese colonise Brazil
- 1531 Halley's comet arouses wave of superstition
- 1533 Henry VIII excommunicated
  - Pizarro executes the Incas of Peru
- 1534 Luther completes German bible
  - Jesuit order founded by Ignatius Loyola
  - Susato starts publishing in Antwerp
- 1535 Jacque Cartier's second voyage: Québec et Montréal
- 1536 Jean Calvin: 'Christianae religionis Institutio'
  - Pedro de Mendoza founds Buenos Aires and sends

- expeditions in search of Peru
  - First song book with lute accompaniment published in Spain
- 1539 Spain annexes Cuba
  - Olaus Magnus produces map of world
- 1541 John Knox (1505-1572) leads Calvinist Reformation in Scotland
- 1543 Calvin, Geneva Psalter
- 1545 Council of Trent (Concilium Tridentinum) meets to discuss Reformation and Counter Reformation (-1564)
- 1548 Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561): Psalter
- 1549 Jesuit missionaries to South America
  - Thomé de Souza founds São Salvador (Bahia)
- 1551 Palestrina made music director at St Peter's, Rome
- 1556 Lassus publishes his first book of motets
- 1557 State bankruptcy in Spain and France**
- 1558 Gioseffo Zarlino (1517-1590): 'Istituzioni armoniche' defines modern major and minor scales
- 1560 Church of Scotland founded
- 1562 John Hawkins makes first journey to New World; starts slave trade between Guinea and West Indies**
- 1563 Breughel paints 'The Tower of Babel'
- 1564 English Merchant Adventurers granted new royal charter
  - Scots' Psalter (Dunfermline?)
- 1565 Palestrina: 'Missa Papæ Marcelli'
- 1574 Portuguese found São Paolo and colonise Angola
- 1575 Paris pop. 300,000; London 180,000; Cologne 35,000
- 1580 Francis Drake returns from world circumnavigation
- 1581 *Greensleeves* mentioned for first time
  - Vincenzo Gallilei (Gallileo's Dad, 1520-1591), lutenist and scientist, engraves music examples. Publishes 'Dialogo della musica antica e della moderna'
- 1588 Spanish Armada defeated. English Guinea Company founded**
- 1590 First Shakespeare plays performed
- 1595 Dutch start colonising East Indies
- 1596 English pacification of Ireland**
- 1597 Thomas Morley (1557-1603): 'A Plaine and Easie Introduction to Practicall Musick'

- Dowland: 'First Booke of Songs'
- 159s Anti-minstrel act from Queen Elizabeth I: they shall be 'grievously whipped and burned through the gristle of the ear with a hot iron of the compass

of an inch about'. The third offence could bring 'death without benefit of clergy or privilege of sanctuary'

## 1600

- 1600 English East India Company founded.** Amsterdam Bank founded
- Dutch opticians invent telescope
  - Approximate **populations** (in millions): **France 16, Germany 14.5, Spain 8, Hapsburg dominions 5.5, England and Ireland 5.5, Holland 3**
- 1602 Dutch East India Company founded with capital of £540,000 in Batavia: first modern public company
- 1605 Santa Fé** (now New Mexico) founded
- **Barbados claimed as English colony**
- 1606 G Galilei invents proportional compass
- 1607 Jamestown landing:** Virginia Company of London, granted royal charter, sent 120 colonists
- Monteverdi's *Orfeo*
- 1608 O'Dogherty rebellion in Ireland fails
- 1610 *Parthenia* printed & published
- 1614 Virginian colonists prevent French from settling Nova Scotia, Maine and Maryland
- 1615 English fleet defeat Portuguese off coast of Bombay
- G Galileo faces Inquisition
- 1616 William Shakespeare dies (b. 1564)
- *Collegium musicum* founded at Prague
- 1618 Thirty years war starts (ends 1648)
- 1619 First African slaves on North American continent arrive in Virginia**
- **Fitzwilliam Virginal Book** (see 1816)
- 1623 New Netherlands (from Chesapeake Bay to Maine) formally organised as Dutch province
- William Byrd dies (b. 1542)
- 1625 French occupy the Antilles and Cayenne
- 1626 Peter Minuit (director-general of Dutch West India Company's N Amer. settlement), buys island of Manhattan from Native Americans for 60 guilders' worth of goods. New Amsterdam founded
- Professorship of music at Oxford
  - John Dowland dies
- 1628 Ignácio Loyola canonised by Gregory XV (!)
- **Pilgrim Fathers**, leaving Plymouth (Devon) in the Mayflower, land at New Plymouth (Massachusetts) to found Plymouth colony
- 1630 Beginning of public advertising in Paris
- 1633 Galileo forced by inquisition to abjure theories of Copernicus
- 1636** Welsh Puritan **Roger Williams** (1603-1683) banished from Massachusetts; establishes Providence (Rhode Island); **proclaims complete religious freedom**
- 1642 UK Civil War begins (ends 1646)**
- 1644 René Descartes *Principia philosophica* (incl. 'Cogito, ergo sum')
- 1646 English Civil War ends with defeat of royalists
- 1648 Peace of Westphalia ends thirty years war (started 1608). German population shrinks from 17 million (1618) to 8 mill due to war, famine and plague
- 1649 Republic in England** until 1660. Charles I beheaded. **Cromwell invades Ireland. Free enterprise receives state support in England**
- Anti-ballad singers Act of Parliament. Magistrates

instructed to flog and imprison them at sight and to confiscate their stock

- 1650** Quaker movement starts
- **Extermination of Native Americans starts**
- 1651** Dutch settle Cape of Good Hope
- **John Playford starts music publishing**
- 1652 John Hilton publishes *Catch as Catch Can* (collection of rounds, etc.)
- 1653 Lully director of les petits-violins du roi
- 1655 English capture Jamaica**
- 1656 Thomas Tomkins dies
- 1660 Dutch peasant farmers (Boeren) settle in South Africa
- 1661 *Académie Royale de Danse* founded by Louis XIV
- 1664 British annexe New Netherlands** and rename New Amsterdam (surrendered by Peter Stuyvesant) New York
- 1666 Stradivari labels his first violin
- 1668 British gain control of Bombay
- 1669 Rembrandt van Rijn dies (b. 1606)
- Vermeer paints 'Girl at the Spinnet'
- 1670 First major British settlement in Carolina at Charlestown
- 1675 Paris population 0.5 mill (1800 650,000; 1930 3 mill)
- 1678 Thomas Britton (1644-1714) introduces weekly concerts in Clerkenwell (London)**
- First German opera house in Hamburg
- 1680 French organise colonial possessions from Québec down to mouth of Mississippi
- 1681 Female professionals appear for first time in Paris Opera
- 1683 Turks, having helped Emeric Tökölyi to become king in Hungary (after rebellion against Hapsburgs), siege Vienna
- Newton explains gravitational attraction of sun, moon and earth
- 1685 Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Händel, Domenico Scarlatti born
- 1686 Roman Catholics readmitted to English army
- 1687 Venetians, in war against Turks, damage the Athens Acropolis. Turks already at war with Russia
- 1688 English lords invite William of Orange to be king. William and Mary crowned 1689. Declaration of Rights
- 1689 Dido & Aeneas (Purcell)
- 1690 English population c. 5 mill** (1600 was 2.5 mill)
- Calcutta founded by colonial administrator Job Charnock
  - French engineer Denis Papin (1647-1714) devises pump with piston, raised by steam
  - **20 000 slaves in North America. cf. 1780, 1820, 1850**
- 1694 Bank of England founded
- 1696 Johann Kuhnau (1660-1722): *Frische Clavier-Früchte, oder sieben Sonaten* (the sonata as piece in several contrasting movements)
- 1697 Last remains of Maya civilisation destroyed by Spanish in Yucatán

## 1700

- 1701 Music publisher Henry Playford (1657-1709) establishes weekly concerts at Oxford

- 1706 Marlborough conquers Spanish Netherlands
- Henry Mill invents carriage springs (UK)

- 1707 Union between England and Scotland under name 'Great Britain'
- 1709** 14,000 inhabitants of the Palatinate emigrate to N America (c. 100,000 Germans during C18, 5 mill during C19)
- First Copyright Act in Britain
  - **Cristofori's gravicembalo piano e forte**
- 1710 English South Sea Company founded
- 1st copyright law enacted in England
- 1712 Slave revolts in New York
- Arcangelo Corelli: 12 Concerti Grossi
- 1715 Rising of Native Americans in S Carolina
- Vaudevilles appear in Paris as popular musical comedies
- 1716 Hapsburgs drive Turks out of Hungary (1716)
- Couperin: *L'art de toucher le clavecin*
  - Marius' piano (France); Schröter's piano (Germany) (see 1709)
- 1717 School attendance made compulsory in Prussia
- Mother Grand Lodge of Freemasons established in London
- 1719 Ireland declared as inseparable from Britain
- 1721** Swiss immigrants introduce rifles into N America
- Bach: Brandenburg Concertos
  - **Public concerts held at Boston (MA) and Charleston (SC)**
- 1726** Händel becomes British subject
- 1728** John Gay: *Beggar's Opera*
- 1729 Bach: St Matthew Passion
- 1730 John and Charles Wesley form Methodist sect at Oxford
- 1732 Covent Garden Opera House opened
- 1733 Pergolesi's *La serva padrona*, opera buffa 1st performed (Naples)
- 1737 John Wesley's 'Psalms and Hymns' published in Charleston
- 1740 Frederick the Great introduces freedom of press and worship in Prussia
- Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778) writes masque 'Alfred' containing 'Rule Britannia'
- 1741 Händel composes the *Messiah* in 10 days. 1st perf in Dublin 1742
- 1742 Cotton factories established in Birmingham and Northampton (UK)
- 1743 East India yarns imported into Lancashire for manufacture (UK)
- 1744 *God Save the Queen* published (London)
- 1745 *The Campbells are Coming* published
- Quadrille becomes popular dance in France
  - Vauxhall Gardens in full swing
- 1746 Charles Edward Stuart defeated at Culloden. Wearing of tartans prohibited in Great Britain (-1782). Bagpipe ban results in 'mouth music'
- 1749 Georgia becomes Crown Colony
- Händel: *Royal Fireworks Music*

## 1750

- 1750 Pergolesi's 'La serva padrona' 1st performed in London
- Johann Sebastian Bach (b. 1685) dies
- 1751 *La guerre des bouffons* between French and Italian music fans
- The minuet becomes Europe's fashionable dance
- 1754** 1st iron rolling mill at Fareham (UK)
- 1758 George Washington and John Forbes take Fort Duquesne, later renamed Pittsburgh
- First English manual on guitar playing published
- 1759 Battle of Québec
- 1762 Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *Du contrat social, ou principes du droit politique*
- Benjamin Franklin improves the harmonica, making it into a playable musical instrument
  - Diderot: 'Le neveu de Rameau'
- 1763** Voltaire: *Treatise on Tolerance*
- **Louisiana becomes British**
- 1765 British colonies in N America start organised resistance against London
- 1769** James Watt invents steam engine (perfected 1775)
- 1770 James Cook discovers Botany Bay
- 1772** Judge William Murray (1705-1793) sets precedent by ruling that a slave is free on landing in England
- 1773 Boston Tea Party
- The waltz starts to become fashionable in Vienna
- 1775** American Revolution starts (ends 1783). Paul Revere's victory at Lexington. Britain hires 29,000 German mercenaries
- 1776** US Declaration of Independence
- 1778 *La Scala* opened (Milan)
- 1780** Serfdom abolished in Bohemia and Hungary
- **700 000 slaves in USA**, cf. 1690, 1820, 1850
- 1781 Franciscan monks settle at Los Angeles
- Serfdom abolished in Austrian dominions
- 1782 Bank of North America established in Philadelphia
- Johann Christian ('London') Bach (b. 1735) dies
- 1783** Britain recognises independence of US
- 1786 Robert Burns: Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect
- Mozart: *Marriage of Figaro* (Vienna)
- 1787** British settlement for freed slaves in Sierra Leone
- 1788 Bread riots in France
- Mozart: Symphonies 39-41
- 1789** George Washington 1st US president
- 1st steam-driven cotton mill in Manchester
  - **French Revolution**
- 1790 First steam-powered rolling mill built in England
- Guitar stringing & tuning fixed at E, A, D, G, B, E
- 1791** Wilberforce's motion for abolition of slave trade carried through Parliament
- The waltz becomes fashionable in England
  - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (b. 1756) dies
- 1792 Denmark abolishes slave trade (1st to do so)
- Mary Wollstonecraft: *Vindication of the Rights of Women*
  - Illuminating gas used for 1st time in Britain
- 1793 Compulsory school in France from 6 yrs
- **US law compels escaped slaves to return to their owners**
- 1794** Commune de Paris abolished, Robespierre executed
- First telegraph: Paris - Lille
  - **Slavery abolished in French colonies**
  - *Auld Lang Syne* (Burns, 1781) published
- 1795 Haydn's London Symphonies
- Paris Conservatoire founded
- 1797 Wackenroder & Tieck: *Outpourings of a Monk* - romantic religious essays
- England starts exporting iron
  - Lithogr mus printing - Germany

## 1800

- 1800** London pop. 1m (1900: 4.5m)  
 — **Population USA 5.3 mill (cf 1840): 80% Brit, 10% Afr, 10% other**
- 1801** Populations - **Paris: 550,000 (2.8 mill 1931); New York 60,000 (7.4 mill 1931)**
- 1802 J N Forkel (1749-1818): *The Life of J S Bach*  
 — (c 1802) E T A Hoffmann (1776-1822) writes for *Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung* (Leipzig), esp about Mozart & Beethoven. 'Classical' and 'romantic' approx same thing. Influential on Schumann and Wagner
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase  
 — Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842) invents the shell
- 1804 Napoléon crowned Emperor  
 — Trevithick's steam locomotive
- 1805 Rockets are introduced as weapons in British army  
 — Beethoven: Fidelio (Vienna)
- 1806 British cotton industry employs 90,000 factory workers and 184,000 handloom weavers
- 1807 Britain prohibits slave trade**
- 1808 USA prohibits import of slaves from Africa**  
 — Thomas Moore's 'Irish Melodies' 1st ed  
 — Beethoven: Symphonies N° 5 and 6
- 1809 Broadwood grand pianos
- 1810** Napoléon at zenith  
 — Venezuela breaks away from Spain  
 — Durham coal miners' strike  
 — **US population 7.3 million**  
 — Breitkopf & Härtel Leipzig start publish  
 — **US industry production \$2m (\$2bn 1860)**
- 1812 USA declares war on Britain  
 — French army retreat from Moscow (20,000 of 55,000 survive Russian campaign)
- 1813 Mexico proclaims independence  
 — London Philharmonic Society founded
- 1814** Parts of Westminster illuminated by gas  
 — George Stephenson runs **1st practical steam locomotive** at Killingworth Colliery (Newcastle)  
 — Schubert's production of 700 Lieder begins (ends 1828)
- 1815 John Macadam makes roads of crushed stone  
 — Vienna Congress and Battle of Waterloo  
 — Restoration of French Monarchy
- 1816 Postwar economic crisis in Britain causes mass emigration to US and Canada**  
 — Argentina independent of Spain  
 — The Elgin Marbles bought for The British Museum  
 — Viscount Fitzwilliam (b. 1745) bequeaths Virginal Book to Cambridge University (see 1619)
- 1818 Chile declares itself independent
- 1819 USA purchase Florida from Spain; Alabama joins the Union  
 — Bolivar becomes President of independent Colombia  
 — Maximum 12-hr day for juveniles in England  
 — Beethoven goes deaf
- 1820 1.5 mill slaves in USA (cf. 1690, 1780, 1850)**  
 — German immigration increase until 1850 in USA
- 1821** Venezuela definitively independent. Peru, Guatemala, Panama proclaimed independent  
 — Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) demonstrates sound reproduction  
 — London Cooperative Society founded  
 — **Populations (mill): France 30.4; Britain 20.8; Italy 18; Austria 12; Germany 26; USA 9.6**  
 — Ch M von Weber (1786-1826): 'Der Freischütz' (Berlin)  
 — Factory production of harmonicas by Buschmann (Germany)
- 1822 Brazil totally independent of Portugal
- 1823 Monroe Doctrine (closes American continent to settlement by European powers)  
 — Henry Bishop writes *Home Sweet Home*
- 1824 Beethoven: Symphony #9 (Vienna 1824, London 1825)
- 1825 Faraday isolates benzene  
 — Stockton-Darlington railway (1st to carry passengers)  
 — Rossini: *Barber of Seville* 1st perf USA  
 — *The Minstrel's Return'd* (USA)  
 — Babcock cast iron piano frames (USA)
- 1826 James Fenimore Cooper: *The Last of the Mohicans*
- 1827 Ohm's Law (electrical current potential and resistance)  
 — Schubert: *Die Winterreise* (lyrics by Wilhelm Müller)  
 — Ludwig van Beethoven (b. 1770) dies
- 1828** Working Men's Party founded in New York  
 — **Maria Marten broadside sells 1 mill copies (UK)**  
 — Franz Schubert (b. 1797) dies
- 1829** **Bach's Matthew Passion revived by Mendelssohn** at Berlin Singakademie, 100 yrs after 1st perf in Leipzig, Good Friday 1729  
 — John Henry (US physicist) constructs an electromagnetic motor  
 — Rossini: *William Tell* (Paris Opera)  
 — Daguerre's Daguerreotypes
- 1830 France captures Algeria  
 — Mendelssohn: *Songs Without Words and Hebrides*
- 1831 German emigration to US c 15,000 (in 1841 c. 43,000)**  
 — **Population: UK 13.9 mill; US 12.8 mill**  
 — Bellini: *La Sonnambula* and *Norma* (Milan)
- 1832 Blaina works brass band (Wales)  
 — Hector Berlioz (1803-1869): *Symphonie Fantastique* (revised version)
- 1833 Abolition of slavery in British Empire**
- 1834 Spanish Inquisition (begun C13) finally suppressed  
 — Cyrus Hall invents reaping machine (USA)  
 — Schubert & Weber 1st publ in USA
- 1836 Texas wins independence from Mexico  
 — Colt's pistol (for praries!)
- 1837 *Woodman Spare That Tree*
- 1838 Queen Victoria crowned  
 — Jenny Lind's début in Stockholm  
 — Prussian army band reorganised  
 — Morse's telegraph patent
- 1840** Transport of criminals from England to Australia (Van Diemen's Land / Botany Bay / New South Wales) ends  
 — 4500 km railway in USA, 2130 in UK  
 — **More than 50% of US immigrants until 1890 are from British Isles (cf 1800)**
- 1841 British sovereignty proclaimed over Hong Kong  
 — New Zealand becomes British colony  
 — **Populations in mill: UK 18.5; US 17; Ireland 8**
- 1842** Riots and strikes in industrial N England  
 — Orange Free State set up by Boers  
 — Child labour in mines prohibited (UK)  
 — New York Philharmonic Society founded  
 — The **polka** (Czech origin) becomes fashionable
- 1843** Virginia Minstrels under Dan Decatur Emmett (1815-1904) produce **1st minstrel show**
- 1845 Texas and Florida join the USA**
- 1846 Potato famine in Ireland**  
 — US defeats Mexicans at Paolo Alto, enter Santa Fé and annexe New Mexico territories. **Spanish-**

- **Mexican War starts** (end 1848)
- Electric arc lighting at the *Opéra* in Paris
- Adolphe Sax patents saxophone (invented 1841)
- 1847 Factory Act (UK) - 10 hrs/day women and children
- USA capture Mexico City
- Siemens electrical firm founded
- Froment invents electric motor
- Christy Minstrels
- 1848 *Communist Manifesto*

- Revolutions (1848-9) in Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Dresden, Paris.
- Johann Strauss, Snr. (1804-1849): *Radetsky March*
- 1849 Britain annexes the Punjab
- **Broadside** about the execution of James Bloomfield Rush reportedly **sold 2.5 million copies** in the UK
- Frédéric Chopin (b. 1810) dies

## 1850

- 1850 **California becomes US state**
- Cuba declares its independence
- **7 mill slaves and 0.3 mill slave owners in USA (cf. 1820)**
- Ferenc (Franz) Liszt: 'Mazeppa'
- *Bachgesellschaft* founded
- Jenny Lind tours USA
- Chappell starts music publishing (UK)
- Francis Day & Hunter mus publish (UK)
- 1851 **Populations in mill: China 430; Germany 34; France 33; UK 20.8; USA 23**
- **Stephen Collins Foster** (1826-1864) publishes ***Old Folks At Home***. **20 mill copies** sold by 1856
- SACEM starts (France)
- 1859 Charles Darwin: *On the Origin of the Species by Natural Selection*
- Dan Emmett: *Dixie's Land*
- Wagner: *Tristan & Isolde*
- 1860 **Since 1850 424,000 British and 914,000 Irish emigrants to USA**
- **Industrial production. USA \$2 bill (\$2 mill 1810); UK \$3 bill**
- **45,000 km rail in USA (cf 1880, 1930)**
- 1861 **Civil War starts (USA) (ends 1865)**
- 1862 Electric generators in production
- Ludwig Köchel's catalogue of Mozart's works
- 1864 Massacre of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians at Sand Creek (Colorado)
- *Syllabus Errorum* issued by Pius IX, condemning

- liberalism, socialism and rationalism
- 1865 Nottingham pawnbroker William Booth (1829-1912) organises the Christian Revival Association, renamed (1878) The Salvation Army
- **Civil War (USA) ends** (started 1861). Lincoln assassinated. 13th ammendment **abolishes slavery**
- Droit moral: composer as author in Fr law
- 1866 First transatlantic cable
- 'Black Friday' on London Stock Exchange
- Offenbach: *La vie parisienne*
- 1867 Johann Strauss, Jr: *Blue Danube Waltz*
- 1870 Jules Verne: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*
- First Vatican Council promulgates dogma of papal infallibility
- John D Rockefeller (1839-1937) founds Standard Oil Company
- Suffragettes organised (cf. 1928)
- 1871 German unity after victory in Franco-Prussian war. Wilhelm I proclaimed German Emperor at Versailles, Paris capitulates, France cedes Alsace-Lorraine. Paris Commune lasts 2 moths
- Stanley, having butchered hundreds of thousands of Africans on his way up the Congo, says 'Dr Livingstone, I presume' at Ujiji and is later knighted by Queen Victoria. The British Empire later becomes a model of racial supremacy for Hitler in 'Mein Kampf'
- 1872 Claude Monet doing impressionism

## 1875

- 1875 London's main sewerage system completed
- Georges Bizet (1838-1875): *Carmen*
- Gilbert & Sullivan: *Trial by Jury*
- Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto #1 (Boston)
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone
- Internal combustion engine
- Pianola first demonstrated at the Philadelphia Exhibition, USA
- Thomas P Westendorf: *I'll Take You Home Kathleen*
- Bayreuth Festspielhaus opens with first complete performance of Wagner's *Ring der Niebelungen*
- 1877 Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
- First public telephones (USA)
- **Edison invents phonograph**. Cylinder wrapped in tin foil, operated by a hand crank
- 1878 Turks pushed back to Adrianople (Edirne).
- Electric street lighting introduced in London
- Paris World Exhibition
- Edison invents light bulb
- 1879 Jules Levy, on cornet, made first-known musical recording (of *Yankee Doodle*)
- Bell laboratories - magnetic tape (USA). Experiments for a short time
- 1880 135,000 km rail in USA (1860 45,000)
- Maxim invents machine gun (UK)
- Borodin (1833-1887) *Steppes of Central Asia*

- Jacques Offenbach (b. 1819) dies. (His 'Périscholle' 1st performed same yr)
- A G Bell sketches stereo (cf 1931, 1955)
- 1881 Populations (mill): London 3.3; New York 1.2; Berlin 1.1; Vienna 1.0; Tokyo 0.8; St Petersburg 0.6
- UK Music Publishers' Association founded
- 1884 J L Molloy's *Love's Old Sweet Song*
- Sound put on to film by Bell (Photophone)
- 1885 The Congo becomes personal possession of Belgian King Leopold II
- Karl Marx: *Das Kapital*, vol 2 (posth.)
- 1886 Statue of Liberty dedicated
- Berne Convention (copyright)
- 1887 American Music Publishers' Association founded in USA
- Edison and Swan combine to produce Edison Swan electrical lamps
- 1888 **Emile Berliner's flat zinc disc gramophone 1st recording by popular pianist**. Josef Hoffman (aged 12) at Edison laboratories
- 1889 Edison's Cinematograph
- Jessie Walter Fewkes records Zuni and Passamaquoddy 'Indians' in USA

## 1890

- 189+ US invade Central America
  - US occupy Puerto Rico, Hawaii &c
- 1890 Sherman Act (Esso, Carnegie)
  - **More than 50% of US immigrants Slavonic, Mediterranean (cf. 1800, 1840)**
  - First moving picture shows appear in New York
  - Edvard Grieg (1843-1907): *Per Gynt*
- 1891 The Phonogram starts monthly publication (New York)
  - Edison's Kinetoscope
- 1892 **Coca Cola stops marketing itself as a medicine and is advertised as a soft drink**
  - Edvard Munch: *The Scream*
  - **Charles K Harris's *After The Ball* sells 1 mill units in a year. Earns \$25,000 a week as sheet music**
  - ***Daisy Bell*** ('Bicycle made for 2') by Harry Dacre v pop as sung by Katie Lawrence
- 1893 Karl Benz and Henry Ford each build (independently) a 4-wheel car
- 1894 **US industry \$10 mill; UK \$4.3 mill**
  - *Billboard* 1st published
  - 1st gram records in USA. Hard rubber plates
- 1895 Auguste and Louis Lumière invent a motion picture camera
- 1896 *Kentucky Babe* (music by Adam Geibel) is hit as sung by Isadore Rush
  - Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924): *La Bohème* (Torino)
  - Marconi invents radio
  - Clockwork-driven gramophone invented
- 1897 March and Schottische *A Hot Time In The Old Town* by Theo A Metz
  - Voltey **pianola** Aeolian Co USA
  - 1° patent electr-mech sync film-record (F)
  - Gustav Mahler becomes conductor of Vienna Opera
- 1898 **Spanish-American War**
  - First coin-operated piano successfully marketed by the Wurlitzer Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
  - Johann Strauss Jr (1825-1899): *Wienerblut*
  - **Shellac used in mass prod of 78s (USA)**
  - **HMV & DGG start mass production**
- 1899 Boer War (ends 1900)
  - Compagnie française du gramophone founded. Paris, later subsidiary in Spain
  - **1st record-pressing factory** (Hannover, D). Gaisberg and Sanders
  - Johann Strauss, Jr. (b. 1825) dies

## 1900

- 1900 **London population 4.5 mill (1800: 1 mill, 1960 8 mill)**
  - Freud: *The Interpretation of Dreams*
  - Bloomingdale's Gramophone Department (NYC). **1st record section in a department store**
  - Harry von Tilzer: *A Bird in a Gilded Cage*
  - 20 mill exx mus sold in UK: 40,000 new titles
  - Carbon microphones for telephone
  - **2 mill pianos in UK**
  - Paris Exhibition Phono - Cinéma - Théâtre
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies
  - Oil drilling begins in Persia
  - **Victor Talking Machine Company founded** (US). Johnson and Berliner
  - Enrico **Caruso records in Milano**. UK owned Gramophone Company
  - **Ragtime** becoming popular
  - First black artist to go on to have a successful career, Bert Williams, contracted to the Victor Talking Machine Company, USA
  - Giuseppe Verdi (b. 1813) dies
- 1902 African 'folk' music first recorded?
  - Elgar composes first *Pomp and Circumstance* marches
  - Léon Gaumont - *le portrait parlant*
- 1903 Henry Ford with a capital of \$100,000 founds the Ford Motor Company
  - 1,000,000 pirate music copies found in UK
  - GEMA founded
  - US film *The Great Train Robbery*: 12 mins, longest to date
  - *Sweet Adeline*
- **Caruso recording sells 1m copies**. 'Vesti la giubba' (=On with the motley) for Victor Records in USA
  - 1st 'unbreakable' discs produced. Shellac-covered cardboard
- 1904 1 million cylinder- and recorded disc players in USA
  - Wireless Telegraphy Act (UK). Puts radio under state control
  - Puccini: 'Madame Butterfly' (Milan)
- 1905 First regular cinema established in Pittsburgh
  - Franz Léhar: 'The Merry Widow' (Vienna)
- 1906 US troops occupy Cuba
  - **Populations (in mill): London 4.5; New York 4; Paris 2.7; Berlin 2; Tokyo 1.9; Vienna 1.3**
  - Percy Grainger first to record English 'folk' singers on phonograph in Lincolnshire
  - Gabel's Automatic Entertainer (Juke Box)
  - Victor Victrola cabinet gramophone. Cost \$200 and had enclosed horn
- 1907 Slow motion effect invented by August Musger (film 'Skating')
  - First 'Ziegfeld Follies' staged in New York
- 1908 L H Bakeland (USA) invents Bakelite
  - *L'Assassinat du Duc de Guise* (mus: Saint-Saëns)
  - Automatic phonograph, using discs and coin-in-the-slot, introduced in USA
  - Double sided discs become the norm
- 1909 US copyright law extended to include music
  - 27.5 million cylinders and discs produced in USA
  - Schönberg: *Erwartung* op 17

## 1910

- 1910 First dance marathon organised by Sid Graumann of Graumann's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood
  - ***The Laughing Song* sells 1m copies. Written by black artist George Washington Johnson**, recorded by English comedian Burt Shephard
  - The tango gains immense popularity in Europe & USA
- 1911 **Irving Berlin: *Alexander's Ragtime Band***
  - Scott Joplin (1868-1917): *Treemonisha*
  - Stravinsky: *Pétouchka*
- 1912 British coal strike, London dock strike, transport workers' strike

- Sinking of the Titanic
- *After the Ball* (see 1892) reaches 10 mill sales. Sheet music lyrics translated into many languages
- London has 400 cinemas. In USA c. 5 mill people visit cinemas daily
- Edison's diamond disc phonograph in USA
- Cylinder recordings virtually obsolete
- 1913 Henry Ford pioneers new assembly line techniques in car factory
  - Stravinsky: *Rite of Spring*
  - Dance craze sweeps USA (I & V Castle)
- 1914 World War I starts**
  - **Almost 10.5 mill immigrants entered USA from southern and eastern Europe in period 1905-1914**
  - US Marines invade Mexico
  - Performing Rights Society founded
  - **ASCAP founded**
- 1915** Einstein's Theory of Relativity
  - Henry Ford develops a farm tractor
  - ***Carry Me Back To Old Virginny* 1 mill rec sales. Written by black artist James A Bland, sung by Alma Gluck (soprano) with male chorus and orchestra. Is this the 1st million-seller by a female singer?**
  - 1st US full-length feature film: *Birth of a Nation* (D

## 1920

- 1920** Government of Ireland Act (UK): N & S Ireland each to have own Parliament
  - Hitler announces his 25-point programme at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich
  - Gandhi (1869-1948) emerges as India's leader in its struggle for independence
  - **Prohibition starts in USA (ends 1933)**
  - **1st commercial radio broadcast. USA, Europe**
  - First US anti-trust action involving music publishers
  - Columbia starts issuing blues recordings
  - Gustav Holst: *The Planets*
  - **1st electro-acoustic recording** (London). Recording of Armistice Day burial service for Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, by Guest and Merriman, using remote pickup with microphones and amplifiers developed for military purposes during WW1
  - **Ralph Peer starts recording black artists**
  - Thermionic tubes (valves)
  - Marconi opens first public broadcasting station at Writtle (UK)
  - **Paul Whiteman tours Europe with his band**
- 1921** Populations (in mill): USSR 136, **US 107**, Japan 78, Germany 60, UK **42.5**
  - Women get vote at 21 in UK
  - US record sales reach \$106 mill. US production of records exceeds 100 mill units
    - Moving coil microphones
    - Schönberg announces principles of the 12-tone scale
- 1922** Irish Free State officially proclaimed
  - BBC formed
  - **200 commercial radio stations IN USA**
  - Columbia produce first 'silent' record surface in USA
  - Alban Berg (1885-1935): *Wozzeck* (written 1914-1921) 1st performed (Berlin)
  - 2 mill radio licenses in UK
  - 1st combi radio-phonographs marketed in USA
  - **3 mill radio sets in USA**
- 1923** Okeh start separate 'race' catalogue in USA
  - W Griffiths, mus J Breil)
- 1916 Dada mvmt founded in Zürich
  - George O'Connor, a white Washington attorney, allegedly records first-known blues record
- 1917 USA joins First World War**
  - **October revolution**
  - C G Jung *Psychology of the Unconscious*
  - Chaplin's yearly salary \$1 mill
  - 1st jazz recordings in NYC. *Indiana* b/w *The Dark Town Strutters Ball* by the ODJB. Not the first 'jazz' record to be released
  - New Orleans' Storyville closed down
- 1918 First World War ends.** Military casualties: 8.5 mill killed, 21 mill wounded, 7.5 prisoners and missing. Forces mobilised 63 mill. Daily war expenditure (all belligerents) \$164.5. US pays \$179 mill in war pension to 646,000 pensioners. In 1919 Belgian war damage estimated at \$7,600,000,000
  - Women over 30 get vote in Britain
  - **Original Dixieland Jazz Band: *Tiger Rag***
  - Tri-Ergon's optical sound strip (Germany)
- 1919 Rutherford demonstrates that the atom is not the final building block of the universe
  - Alcock & Whitten make first non-stop flight across the Atlantic (16½ hrs)
  - Picasso paints *Pierrot et Harlequin*
- Anti-ASCAP licensing hearings in USA because of case brought about by National Association of Broadcasters (ends 1926)
- **Bessie Smith: *Down Hearted Blues* - 1st million-selling recording by black woman?**
- Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue*
- Honegger: *Pacific 231*
- US pop songs: *Yes We Have No Bananas*; *Tea For Two*; *I Want To Be Happy*
- Armstrong invents FM radio (cf. 1935, 1948, 1953)
- **Bix Beiderbecke's jazz band (Chicago)**
- **Joseph 'King' Oliver and 'Jelly Roll' Morton record New Orleans-style jazz**
- 1924** Ernö Rapée: *Motion Picture Moods for Pianists and Organists*
  - **Western Electric patent electromagn rec.**
  - Warner buy Vitaphone rights from Bell
  - Tri-Ergon contract Universal-Film-AG
- 1925 John Logie Baird, Scottish inventor, (1888-1946) transmits recognisable human features by television
  - Franz Kafka (1883-1924): *The Trial* (posth.); Hitler: *Mein Kampf* (vol. 1); E Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
  - **Electromagnetic recording on to market in US.** 1st record: two songs from University of Pennsylvania's 37th annual production of the Mask and Wig Club (Philadelphia)
  - Warner/Western Electric Vitaphone contract
  - **1st electronic recording using microphones**
  - **78 rpm record speed standardised**
- 1926** BBC comes under state control: changes name from British Broadcasting Company to British Broadcasting Corporation
  - General Strike (UK)
  - **694 commercial radio stations in the USA**
  - **Twice as many US homes own phonograms as own radios**
  - Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* released
  - *Bye Bye Blackbird* popular
  - **RCA forms NBC**



- Melody Maker founded in UK
- 1927** Inter-Allied military control of Germany ends; 'Black Friday' in Germany: economic system collapses; Gottfried Feder publishes the N.S.D.A.P. (Nazi) programme
- Selective phonogram machines, offering twenty selections, available in USA
- FCC (Federal Radio Commission, USA) founded
- **The Jazz Singer**. Al Jolson heard singing in film
- Bert Brecht, Kurt Weill: *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny* (Baden-Baden)
- Popular songs: *Ol' Man River* (fr *Showboat*); *My Blue Heaven*; *Blue Skies* (fr *The Jazz Singer*)
- Victor: 1st automatic record-changer (USA). Takes 12 10-inch or 12-inch records
- 1st attempts at over-dubbing by 'montage'
- **Record sales 100m in USA** (cf 1932)
- **Peer records J Rodgers & Carter Family**
- **US record sales peak at 104 mill units**
- 1928 Women's suffrage in UK reduced from 30 to 21
- First Mickey Mouse film (Disney)
- *Makin' Whoopee* popular
- Ravel: *Boléro*
- K Weill, B Brecht: *Die Dreigroschenoper* (Berlin)
- Fox buy Triegon rights - Movietone, optical
- **\$650 mill radio receiver sales USA**
- **CBS founded. Overtakes RCA by 1934**
- Dobro company formed (Dopyrea Bros, USA). Dobros: acoustic guitars with metal resonators
- Capacitor microphones (DC voltage)
- Ondes Martenot
- Fritz Pfeleumer invents magnetic tape (D)
- 1929 The Wall Street Crash** or 'Black Friday' in New York (Oct 28). World economic crisis begins. US securities lose \$26 billion in value
- Record Company of America (RCA) merges with Victor

## 1930

- 193+ Record racks introduced in USA
- 1930** 390000 km rail in USA (cf 1860, 1880)
- Nazis disrupt perf. of Weill/Brecht 'Mahagonny' in Frankfurt and enact ordinance against Negro Culture
- **'Hillbilly' accounts for 25% of all US popular record sales in USA**
- Popular songs: *Georgia On My Mind* (Hoagy Carmichael); *I Got Rhythm* (Gershwin); *Body & Soul* (John Green)
- Xavier Cougat records *Peanut Vendor* (*El manisero*)
- 10-inch 78 rpm becomes standard
- 1931** Nazis order effacement of Bauhaus murals and remove Klee, Kandinsky etc. from Weimar museum. Brecht and Eisler flee Germany
- Essex Music International (EMI) opens its Abbey Road recording studio in London -- largest recording facility in the world
- RCA Victor fails to market successfully its vinyl plastic 33.3 rpm discs due to popularity of the 78 rpm alternative
- Electrical & Musical Industries EMI formed. Merger of HMV and English Columbia records (which had swallowed the Carl Lindström chain in 1925 and Pathé Frères in 1928), leaving only Deutsche Grammophon-Polydor and a few small 'independents' as rivals in Europe
- BPI British Phonographic Industries Ltd. Formed to represent the UK record industry in early 1920s (date inexact)
- 127 sound films made (only 8 in 1929)
- 'Minnie The Moocher' (Cab Calloway) popular in USA
- **Rickenbacker A model frying pan el gtr**. Beauchamp, Barth and Rickenbacker introduce first lap steel electric guitars in USA
- 1932** 3 million unemployed in UK
- Franklin D Roosevelt (Dem) wins landslide election with **'New Deal'** policies
- BASF develop magnetic tape in Germany
- Aldous Huxley: *Brave New World*
- Max Steiner (1888-1971): Music for *King Kong* (George Cukor, RKO)
- *Brother Can You Spare A Dime*; *I'm Getting Sentimental Over You* (George Bassman); *Night And Day* (Cole Porter); *April In Paris* (Gershwin) popular in USA
- **Record sales \$6 mill USA (cf 1927)**
- 1933 Prohibition ends in USA** (started 1920)
- *Machtübernahme, Reichstagsbrand*, Hitler granted dictatorial powers. First concentration camps (mostly communists and socialists at start; by 1945 10 million prisoners are interned of which at least half are killed). All books by non-Nazi and Jewish authors are burned in Germany. c. 60,000 authors, actors, painters and musicians emigrate from Germany between 1933 & 1939
- *Sophisticated Lady* (Ellington); *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes* (Kern); *Stormy Weather* (Howard Arlen); *Easter Parade*; *Anything Goes* (C Porter) and *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?* all popular in USA
- Plastic tape developed by BASF. Not marketed until 1950
- Radio Luxemburg starts on long wave
- 1934 Rock-Ola, Seeburg and Wurlitzer introduce multiple-selection jukeboxes across the US, installing 275,000 in five years. Bing Crosby becomes the most popular juke box artist of the day
- Muzak Company formed (USA)
- 'Blue Moon' (Rogers & Hart); 'Stars Fell On Alabama' (Frank Perkins) popular in USA
- Film & sound as postmix (Riefenstahl)
- Hammond organ and electric piano patented
- Edward Elgar (b. 1857) dies
- Korngold from Vienna to Hollywood
- 1935 'Your Hit Parade', sponsored by Lucky Strike, first broadcast on NBC**
- **Gershwin: Porgy & Bess**
- *Beguine the Beguine* and *Just One of Those Things* (Porter); *I Got Plenty o' Nuthin'* and *It Ain't Necessarily So* (Gershwin) popular in USA
- RCA refuse FM. Armstrong (cf 1923) tries to pedal wares elsewhere (cf 1948, 1953)
- 1st Gibson electro-acoustic guitar (USA)
- 70% of BBC time is music
- NCB founded
- Bob Durham C&W elgt rec w Vol-U-Tone amp
- Magnetophone developed in Germany. Magnetic tape dictating machine
- Alban Berg (b. 1885) dies
- 1936 Spanish Civil War begins (ends 1939)
- First BASF/AEG tape recording made of a live classical concert performance conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham
- 150,000 juke boxes in USA
- *Night Mail* (Britten)

- *Pennies from Heaven* popular in USA
- 1937** Carl Orff (living in Germany): *Carmina Burana*
- *Bei mir bist du Schön; The Lady Is A Tramp* (fr Pal Joey, Richard Rodgers); *A Foggy Day in London Town* (Gershwin); *It's Nice Work If You Can Get It; I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm* (I Berlin) all popular in USA
- **29 of 43 records are (swing) band recordings (USA)**
- Charlie Christian uses electric guitar in jazz
- George Gershwin (b. 1898) dies
- 1938 32,000 people die in US road accidents

## 1940

- 1940** Stereophonic recording demonstrated in Carnegie Hall, New York
- **ASCAP ban material from airplay in US**
- *You Are My Sunshine; How High The Moon; When You Wish Upon A Star; South Of The Border; Blueberry Hill* all popular in USA
- 350,000 jukeboxes in USA. Or: 225,000 juke boxes, using 13 mill records a year
- Central European composers moved to USA by 1940: Schönberg, Stravinsky, Bartók, Hindemith, Krenek, Milhaud, Martinu, Weill
- 1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbour. USA joins war**
- **Capitol Record start servicing US radio DJs with free releases** ("freebies")
- **1st electric blues broadcast in USA.** Sonny Boy Williamson on the KFFN 'King Biscuit Show', Chicago
- *Bewitched; Deep In The Heart Of Texas; Chattanooga Choo-Choo* popular in USA
- 1942** American Federation of Musicians ban on radio performance 1942-44
- Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (v Bing Crosby)
- *Casablanca* (Warner, Max Steiner)
- *That Old Black Magic* (Porter)
- 1st black musician in US radio band
- 1943 Over 600 'hillbilly' stations in USA
- Rodgers & Hammerstein: *Oklahoma!* (New York, 2,248 performances), incl *Oh What A Beautiful Morning!*
- Sergei Rachmaninov dies
- 1944 Decca issue frrr (sort of HiFi 78 rpm) recording. Based on war technology
- Allies take Radio Luxembourg and its magnetophone
- 1945 World War II ends**
- United Nations formed
- Landslide victory for Labour in UK. Clement Atlee, Welfare State (until 1951)
- **Atomic bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki**
- **US record sales \$109m, highest since 1921**
- George Orwell: *Animal Farm*
- Television sales boom until 1957 (USA)
- Béla Bartók (b.1881) dies
- Anton von Webern (b. 1883) dies
- 1946 US record sales double in 1 yr to \$218 mill**
- RCA press their billionth record: J-P Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*
- **Charlie Parker: Ornithology**
- **DGG use tape for recording**
- 1947** India proclaimed independent and partitioned into India & Pakistan
- Bell laboratories scientists invent **transistors**
- Melody Maker publishes 1st charts in UK. Based on sheet music sales
- US record sales peak at 400m units

- Honegger: *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* (Ondes M)
- *Alexander Nevsky* (Eisenstein/Prokofiev)
- 1939 World War II starts** (1 Sept)
- **Broadcast Music Inc (BMI) formed to rival ASCAP**
- *One o'clock Jump* (Basie)
- *Gone With the Wind* (Selznick / Max Steiner); *The Wizard of Oz* (mus H Arlen, starring Judy Garland)
- *Lili Marlene* (sung by Lale Andersen) becomes popular with German soldiers
- **51 mill radio sets in USA**
- **90% of UK homes have a radio set**

- Dizzy Gillespie: *Cubana be-Cubana bop*
- **Capitol use tape for recording**
- **Fender start producing amplifiers (USA)**
- **Bing Crosby records radio programs on tape.** Transferred to 16-inch disc for transmission
- More liberal radio station licensing in USA. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- 1948** Gandhi (b. 1869) assassinated
- **Marshall Plan:** \$17 bill for Europe (another \$5.43 bill in 1949). The Berlin blockade and airlift
- State of Israel established
- Atlantic Records formed in USA
- **Columbia introduce 33.3 rpm LP microgroove. 12-inch unbreakable discs made from vinylite**
- 172,000 TV sets in USA
- Decline of national radio listeners USA
- **1st solid electric guitar (Fender, USA)**
- Les Paul **records** *Lover* (Porter) **layer on layer** mono (cf Leiber & Stoller 1954)
- ABC buys 24 Ampex tape machines. Also 2.5 m feet of tape, all from US distributors, Bing Crosby Entertainments Inc.
- Armstrong, still unable to sell VHF/FM radio ideas, throws himself out of a NYC skyscraper (cf 1923, 1935, 1953)
- **Lazarsfeld & Merton's Mass communication, popular taste and organized social action.** Critical radio research on Hitler & Stalin that becomes guiding star for Madison Avenue. cf Top 40 format 1955
- Franz Léhar (b. 1870) dies
- 1949** Apartheid established in South Africa (ends 1994)
- Chiang Kai-shek defeated: Peoples Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Tse-tung
- Netherlands transfer sovereignty to Indonesia;
- France to Vietnam
- State of Israel admitted to U.N.
- *The Third Man* (Carol Reed, Anton Karas)
- Rodgers and Hammerstein: *South Pacific* (New York) *Bali Hai, Some Enchanted Evening, I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy* (from *South Pacific*)
- *(Ghost) Riders In The Sky; Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend* and *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*
- **RCA introduce 45 rpm vinyl record in USA**
- Most record companies now use tape for recording
- *Billboard* starts C&W chart
- Film sound all magnetic technology
- Richard Strauss (b. 1864) dies

## 1950

- 1950 Korean War starts (ends 1953)
- Anti-Communist witch hunt starts in USA under mentally instable senator Joseph R McCarthy, aided by FBI boss Hoover. US sends 'advisors' to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
  - Populations (mill): London 8.3; New York 7.8; Tokyo 5.3; Moscow 4.1
  - 'Hillbilly' accounts for one third of all US popular music sales
  - *Music! Music! Music!* (Teresa Brewer); *Good Night Irene*; *Mona Lisa*
  - 500,000 juke boxes in USA
- 1951** RIAA founded (Recording Industry Association of America)
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Brando, Leigh; mus Alex North)
  - *Hello Young Lovers* and *Getting To Know You* (fr Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*); *Kisses Sweeter Than Wine* (Perry Como); *Blue Tango* (Leroy Anderson)
  - **1st electric bass guitar (Fender, USA)**
  - Arnold Schönberg (b. 1874) dies
- 1952 RCA/Victor sell first pre-recorded reel-to-reel stereo tapes for \$12.95
- *New Musical Express* starts. 1st UK record charts: Top 14 (14 November)
  - *High Noon* (Zinnemann, Tiomkin; Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly); *Limelight* (Chaplin)
  - John Cage: *4'33"*
  - *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*; *Jambalaya* (Hank Williams)
  - 1st Gibson Les Paul solid electric guitar
- 1953 Korean War ends (started 1950)
- Joseph Stalin and my Gran (both born 1879) die
  - Commercial TV established in UK
  - US chain stores, supermarkets and major department stores start selling records, particularly children's records and LPs
  - VHF FM broadcasting starts in USA. cf 1923, 1935
  - Karlheinz Stockhausen: *Electronic Study I*
  - *How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?* (Patti Page); *I Believe*; *Stranger In Paradise* (Borodin); *I Love Paris* (Gershwin/Sinatra); *Ebb Tide* (Frank Chacksfield)
  - *Record Mirror* founded in UK
  - 1st black artist on 'Grand Ol Opry' show
- 1954** French defeated by Vietnamese socialist army at Dien Bien Phu: colonial loss of N Vietnam
- Senator J McCarthy in nationally televised hearing 'proving' communist infiltration in US army; McCarthy censured by US Senate
  - **US Supreme Court rules that segregation by colour in public schools is a violation** of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution
  - *The Man With The Golden Arm* (Sinatra / E. Bernstein); *On The Waterfront* (Brando / L. Bernstein)
  - [UK] *Oh Mein Papa* 9 weeks #1 UK (Eddie Calvert); *Hernando's Hideaway* (Archie Bleyer); *Mister Sandman* (4 versions incl 1955: Chordettes, Dickie Valentine, Four Aces, Max Bygraves); *Young At Heart*, *3 Coins In A Fountain*, *Hey There, You With The Stars In Your Eyes* (Sinatra). **Nevertheless**: 25 June, Ken Colyer **Skiffle Group**, incl **Alexis Korner**, record for Decca; 13 July **Chris Barber** Band record **skiffle** for Decca incl *Rock Island Line*; December: *Shake Rattle and Roll* (Bill Haley & his Comets) reaches UK #4
  - Olsen's RCA Mk II synthesizer
  - George Eashe invents tape cartridges (USA)
  - 45s overtake 78s sales in USA
  - Leiber & Stoller **overdub** on 2 mono machines? cf Les Paul 1948
  - **1st transistor radio available** on US market
- 1955** Most record companies use stereo
- Since 1942 I Berlin earned \$1 mill on *White Christmas*
  - 65% of US homes have a TV
  - **Bill Haley: *Rock Around The Clock*** #1 UK 3 weeks Nov 55, 2 weeks Jan 56. **Meanwhile** Slim Whitman 11 weeks UK #1 with *Rose Marie*. Also *The Yellow Rose Of Texas*, *Love Is A Many Splendoured Thing*, etc.
  - RCA introduce 'Electronic Music Synthesizer'
  - Top 100 singles, Top 15 albums charts. *Billboard* (USA)
  - Sales value of LPs overtakes singles in UK & USA
  - **Top 40 programming format introduced**. 1st Storz chain of radio stations (New Orleans). cf Lazarsfeld & Merton 1948
- 1956** BBC begins FM broadcasting
- 6 mill UK homes have a TV set
  - *Around the World in 80 Days*
  - Stockhausen: *Zeitmasse*
  - **Elvis Presley: *Hound Dog* (orig. Big Mama Thornton, 1952)**
  - **James Brown: *Please, Please, Please***
  - **Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe: *My Fair Lady*** (New York)
  - Ronnie Hilton *No Other Love*, Doris Day *Que será será*, Johnny Ray *Just Walking In the Rain* biggest UK hits
- 1957** Jack Kerouac: *On the Road*
- **Muddy Waters plays electric guitar** on UK tour
  - *Love Letters in the Sand* and *Young Love* (Pat Boone). *Diana* (Paul Anka). *Peggy Sue* (Holly); *Jailhouse Rock* (Presley)
  - 39 mill TV sets in USA
- 1958 Race riots in London and Nottingham
- School desegregation opposed in Little Rock (Arkansas)
  - TV licences exceed value of radio licences in UK
  - 45 sales overtake 78 sales in UK
  - *Melody Maker* publishes 1st UK album chart
  - Mass prod breakthrough for stereo (cf 1955)
  - World standard agreed for stereo records established
  - Formation of US Country Music Association
  - 1st RIAA gold record awards in USA. For Perry Como's *Catch a Falling Star* b/w *Magic Moments*
  - Domenico Modugno: *Volare*
  - 78s for dance and 'race' music only
  - 1st Shure Bros 4-track recorders in USA
  - Stereophonic discs introduced in USA
  - 1st pirate radio broadcasts in UK
- 1959** Cuban revolution
- **Motown Records founded** by Berry Gordy in Detroit
  - 500,000 juke boxes in USA use 47 million records
  - Miles Davis: *Milestones* (e.g. *So What?*)
  - *Walk, Don't Run* (Ventures); *Tom Dooley* (Kingston Trio); *Mack The Knife* (Weill / Bobby Darin)
  - **Richard Rodgers: *The Sound of Music***

## 1960

- 1960 17 ex-colonies in Africa become independent
- John F Kennedy elected US president
  - USA send military 'advisors' to Vietnam
  - 20% of US domestic record sales are singles
  - *Psycho* (Hitchcock, B. Herrmann)
  - Bing Crosby sells 20 millionth record, his version of *White Christmas* (I Berlin) since 1942
  - *Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini* (Brian Hyland); *The Twist* (Chubby Checker); *Never on a Sunday* (Manos Hadjidakis)
  - Transistor radios widely available
- 1961 Berlin wall
- Bay of Pigs (USA tries to invade Cuba)
  - Populations (mill): World 3,100; China 660; India 435; USSR 209; USA 179; Japan 95; Pakistan 94; Brazil 66; W Germany 54; UK 53. World adult population 1.6 bill (44% illiterate)
  - **6000 'independent' record companies in USA**
- 1962 Cuba Crisis: Khrushchev offers to withdraw Soviet bases if USA moves bases in Turkey; Kennedy refuses
- Algeria independent of France after bitter war of liberation
  - *Dr. No* (Barry)
  - Marilyn Monroe (b. 1926) dies
  - Beatles: *Love Me Do*
  - Blowin' in the Wind (Peter, Paul & Mary)
  - Wurlitzer EP 200 into production
- 1963 Racist police and white civilian attacks on civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham (Ala)
- Kennedy assassinated (Nov) in Dallas
  - Andy Warhol & Co exhibit soup cans, comic strips, etc. at Guggenheim Museum in New York
  - Dutch-owned electronics firm Philips demonstrates its compact audio cassette tape
  - **Beatles: *She Loves You* and 1st album.** 1st album costs £400 to make in UK
  - Album ***The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan***
  - Stereo 8-track cartridge introduced
  - Paul Hindemith (b. 1895) dies
- 1964 Tonkin incident: a US destroyer allegedly attacked off N Vietnam; US aircraft attack Vietnamese territory; escalation
- Beatles: *A Hard Day's Night* (film/LP)
  - The Watusi, Frug, Monkey, Funky Chicken and other Twist variants lure many to discothèques where go-go girls set the pace
  - *Hello Dolly!* (L Armstrong); *I Want To Hold Your Hand* (Beatles); *Where Did Our Love Go?* (Supremes)
  - Mellotron Mark I
  - Beatles at Shea Stadium - 50 watt Vox PA
  - Cole Porter (b.) dies
- 1965 Martin Luther King (w Nobel Peace Prize 1964) leads procession of 4,000 civil rights marchers from Selma (fired on by KKK) to Montgomery (Ala)
- Dylan booted for going electric at Newport Jazz/Folk Festival
  - First network experiment in which two computers 'talk' to each other and the first time data packets are used to communicate between computers. This paves the way for the Arpanet in 1969, a physical network linking academics at 4 US universities. This in turn becomes the internet
  - *Dr Zhivago* (film: David Lean / Maurice Jarre)
  - Beatles: *Help!* (film/LP)
  - **Yardbirds: *Heart Full of Soul* (use of distortion - fuzz)**
  - **Rolling Stones: *Satisfaction***
  - **Who: *My Generation***
  - *King of the Road* (Roger Miller); *Downtown* (Petula Clark / Tony Hatch)
  - Los Incas version of *El condor pasa*
  - Philips musicassettes at Berlin Radio Show
- 1966 US cars equipped with 8-track stereo cartridge players, developed by William (Learjet) Lear, Ampex and RCA/Victor
- **Beatles: *Revolver***
  - Frank Zappa produces the **first** commercially successful **double album** of popular music - ***Freak Out*** by *The Mothers of Invention*
  - **Moog's voltage control synth into prod (UK)**
  - **Fender Rhodes piano into mass production**
  - **Jim Marshall's "stacks" (50 watt PAs)**
- 1967 6-Day War: Israel occupies West Bank (incl Jerusalem), Sinai and Gaza strip
- 50,000 demonstrate in Washington against US war in Vietnam
  - African Americans riot in the ghettos of Cleveland, Newark and Detroit
  - **Small Faces: *Itchycoo Park* (use of phaser)**
  - **Beatles: *Sergeant Pepper*.** Album recorded on 4-track machine for £25,000
  - **Jimi Hendrix: *Are You Experienced?***
  - **Aretha Franklin: *Respect***
  - WEM 1000 watt PA system
  - 8-track recording becomes standard
- 1968 Student riots in Paris.
- Robert Kennedy assassinated in Los Angeles
  - US forces in Vietnam use napalm and Agent Orange - human and ecological disaster
  - Martin Luther King assassinated (5 April)
  - **Woodstock festival with 300,000 present**
  - Walter Carlos: *Switched On Bach*
  - *Congratulations* (Cliff Richard); *Hey Jude* (Beatles); *Mrs Robinson* (Simon & Garfunkel)
  - *I Say A Little Prayer For You* (Bacharach / Aretha Franklin)
  - Quadrophony first developed
  - More LPs than singles produced in the UK
  - 1st home video system produced
- 1969 British troupes sent to Ulster
- UK singles sales bottom out at 46.8m
  - Development begins in Holland on the compact disc (CD). See 1971, 1972, 1979, 1980
  - *Easy Rider* (film w rock soundtrack)
  - Hair
  - *Tommy* (Who) 1st full-length rock opera
  - Led Zeppelin: *Whole Lotta Love*
  - *Aquarius* from *Hair* (rock musical)
  - 16-track recording standard
  - Dolby noise reduction system adapted for pre-recorded tapes and cassettes

## 1970

- 1970 Unidad Popular elected in Chile under Allende
- 'White Christmas' (Berlin/Bing Crosby) sells 30 millionth disc
  - A Man Called Horse (Rosenmann)
  - **Commercial breakthrough for cassettes**
  - Jimi Hendrix dies
- 1971 USA bombs also Laos & Cambodia. Heavy bombing of Hanoi

- Lt W Calley found guilty of premeditated murder at Mylai (Song My), Vietnam
- Intel produces large-scale integrated circuits which feature in digital audio processors and the Philips compact disc (see 1969, 1972, 1980)
- Popular Music in Higher Education starts in Gothenburg (SÄMUS) and in Boston (Berklee)
- *Shaft* (I. Hayes)
- Igor Stravinsky & Max Steiner die
- 1972 Watergate. Nixon's landslide re-election
- UK record sales value tops £100m
- First CD prototype tested in Holland (see 1969, 1980)
- US Copyright Act covers now sound recordings
- **Bowie: *Rise & Fall of Ziggy Stardust***
- **Deep Purple: *Smoke on the Water*** (from *Machinehead*)
- *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Time Rice / Andrew Lloyd-Webber)
- 24-track becoming standard (early 1970s)
- 1973 USA kicked out of Vietnam. c. 55,000 US deaths, 303,640 wounded. Vietnamese losses: 2 million deaths of which 1 million civilians
- Fascist military coup in Chile (3 September)
- 'American Graffiti'
- **Pink Floyd: *Dark Side of the Moon***
- 1974 ABBA win Eurovision contest: *Waterloo*
- *Bitches Brew* (Miles Davis)
- Chorus pedals (e.g. Boss, MXR, Ibanez) on market
- Duke (Edward Kennedy) Ellington (b. 1974) dies
- 1975 Margaret Thatcher succeeds Edward Heath as Tory leader
- *White Christmas* has now sold 135m units
- Japanese record market overtakes UK's
- **Bob Marley: *No Woman No Cry***
- **Kraftwerk: *Autobahn***
- **Promotional videos start** (e.g. Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*)
- 1976 Military coup in Argentina
- West German record market overtakes UK's
- US Copyright Act covers published & unpublished sound
- **Polyphonic synthesizers first available**
- 1977 ***Saturday Night Fever*** (J Travolta / Bee Gees)
- Vinyl sales peak at 344 mill units in USA
- **Sex Pistols: *God Save The Queen***
- Philips show CDs at Tokyo Audio Fair
- 3M's 32-track digital recorder \$15,000 (USA)
- Musician's Union organiser for rock artists. UK 1st time
- 1978 UK vinyl LP production peaks
- 1979 Worldwide decline starts in vinyl sales
- *The Wall* (Parker, Pink Floyd)
- Ry Cooder: *Bop till you Drop* (digital recording)

## 1980

- 1980 EU retail music business sales overtake US temporarily. i.e. countries either in or later to join EEC
- **Philips/Sony CD standard finalised** after 11 years of development (see 1969), 1 year after production of second CD prototype
- US juke box count down to 300,000
- Digitally recorded albums available in USA
- Peter Gabriel III
- Police: *Zenyatta Mondatta*
- **commercial breakthrough for video**
- Simmons SDS V electronic drum kit
- 12-inch single introduced to UK
- Tape cartridges obsolete in UK
- **Sony Walkman sells 5 mill units in 1st yr (USA)**
- **Tascam 4-track portastudio \$1,500 in USA**
- 1981 **MTV starts in USA with \$20 mill capital**
- IASPM (International Association for the Study of Popular Music) formed
- Journal *Popular Music* started by Cambridge University Press
- 1982 Grand Master Flash: *The Message*
- **MIDI sequencers available**
- Philips introduce CDs on to market
- 1983 Cassette sales peak at 78.2m units in Japan
- World market bottoms out at \$9.35m
- 'Flashdance' (Moroder)
- CDs launched in USA and UK. World's then only pressing plant at Hannover (D)
- 1984 Worldwide cassette LP sales overtake vinyl LPs
- Sony introduce the first portable CD player, the D-S
- UK record sales top \$500 mill
- MTV (US) earning \$1 mill a week
- **Michael Jackson: *Thriller*** (cf 1992)
- **Madonna: *Like A Virgin***
- 1985 Gorbachev party secretary (Soviet Union)
- 'Paris Texas' (Wim Wenders / Ry Cooder)
- Sony and Philips produce standard for CD-ROM which uses same laser technology as audio CD
- Dire Straits album "Brothers in Arms" helps boost popularity of the CD format
- Steve Case funds America Online as Quantum Computer Services, an online service for owners of Commodore computers. Subsequently introduced for other computers, AOL's stock is listed on the Nasdaq index in 1992
- Sales value of UK singles peaks at £82.1 mill
- Beatles disc & tape sales estim at 1 billion units
- 1st Home Taping Audio Bill defeated in USA
- **commercial breakthrough for CDs**
- **Fostex reel-to-reel 8-track costs \$1,600**
- Still only 2 CD pressing plants in operation
- 1986 Sales value of cassette LPs overtake vinyl LPs (UK)
- US Immigration Reform and Control Act tightens up granting of temporary work permits to overseas artists who do not qualify as 'pre-eminent'
- **Samplers readily available on market.** Casio model costs \$100 in US
- 1987 *White Christmas* sales now over 170m units
- 1988 Personics Corp launches in-store custom taping system, attracting backers including Thorn-EMI. Despite being rolled out to retail stores, four years later it files for bankruptcy protection
- Sony and Philips produce the standard for the recordable compact disc
- More cassette LPs produced than vinyl in UK
- CD LP sales value overtake vinyl LPs in UK
- **Sony buys CBS**
- Worldwide CD sales overtake vinyl LPs
- EU market overtakes US (retail sales value)
- Sales value of UK record business tops £1bn
- Cassette single introduced in UK
- CD single introduced in UK
- **DAT recorders available** (Casio and JVC)
- 1989 Fall of Berlin wall
- US cassette LP sales peak at 446.2m units
- No vinyl single sales in Greece, Singapore
- Sales value of UK albums tops £1bn
- More CD than vinyl LPs produced in UK
- Recordable CDs available

## 1990

- 1990 Germany reunited
- Iraq invades Kuwait
- No identifiable singles sales in 19 nations. No identifiable vinyl LP sales in 9 countries, no CD sales in 5 countries
- Vinyl LPs obsolete in Japan
- Enigma: *Sadeness*
- 1991 Gulf War I
- **M Jackson: 15-yr contract** w Sony for \$890 mill
- Philips market Digital Compact Cassette DCC
- Sony market recordable mini-CD, the MD
- 1992 America Online stock listed on Nasdaq index
- Sony Corporation makes first ever trading loss of £86m
- DCC marketed by Philips. BASF close US tape-manufacturing plant. MD marketed by Sony
- Thorn-EMI buys Virgin Records for o560m
- Sony begin selling MiniDiscs, Philips launches Digital Compact Cassette
- Sales of **Michael Jackson's Thriller** album reach 40m units after 10 years. **World record sales** estimated to be worth **\$28.7bn**. Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* sells 16m over 20 years - still selling 100,000 a year
- **Madonna's** Maverick Entertainment Group signs a **contract** with Time-Warner estimated to be worth **\$700m over seven years**
- John Cage (b.) dies
- 1994 Viacom buy Paramount (including MTV) for almost \$10bn
- German inventor sues Sony over patent rights to Walkman
- CD-Interactive launched in UK
- 100m walkmans sold worldwide to date (10% in UK), valued at £3bn
- **Pavarotti's audio + video sales top 50m units**
- Philips makes 4,800 more workers redundant
- MTV opens in Russia
- Thorn-EMI sells defence business to Thomson-CSF of France. Thorn-EMI buys Intercord Tonggesellschaft for £53.2m
- Cerberus Sound and Vision strike deal with Mechanical Copyright Protection Society to market music on the Internet
- Three surviving Beatles refuse £2.5m for one concert appearance on the Isle of Wight
- Video Hits One (VH-1) launched by MTV Network Europe as 'adult MTV'
- Ageing US 'rock' stars sue for millions of dollars in unpaid back-royalties
- George Michael loses case against Sony for release from his contract, and pays £3m costs
- Paul McCartney estimated to be worth £420m, Tom Jones £252m
- Virgin open first national 'rock' radio station in UK
- Factory Records closes in Manchester, UK
- Philips announce plans to sack 15,000 more employees. Thorn-EMI lighting sold to Investcorp for £162m
- Pink Floyd sell 2.2m tickets before tour begins
- Sales of *Thriller* reach 48m
- CDs outsell cassettes in UK
- Polygram buys Motown for \$300m.
- EMI pays £50 to manage Michael Jackson's Northern Songs for five years
- IBM opens CD-on-demand kiosk in Florida, USA
- Grateful Dead concert in Ohio grossed over \$1.242m
- 1995 Thorn-EMI close Rumbelows UK high street chain with loss of 2,900 jobs. W H Smith announces 1,000 job losses. Thorn EMI sells £100m stake in SGS-Thomson of France.
- Country 1035, first UK 'country music' radio station, opened in London
- Michael Jackson sells Beatles' song rights to Sony for £60m
- 1996 President Clinton threatens \$3bn sanctions (and a possible trade war) over China's alleged piracy of US-owned video and CD material
- Janet Jackson signs \$80m contract with Virgin Records. REM sign £50m, five-year deal with Warner Brothers
- EMI (worth £7.3bn) demerged from Thorn.
- Cliff Richard knighted by UK Tory government
- George Martin knighted and Van Morrison awarded OBE by UK Tory government
- 1997 Blair's "New Labour" government elected in UK
- Philips launch affordable CD-recorder
- **MP3.com founded by Michael Robertson**
- **Elton John's *Candle In The Wind* becomes best-selling single of all time: 31.8 m copies.** Pre-orders of 1.5m copies for Elton John's *Candle in the wind* single in UK, 8m in USA
- *Be Here Now* by Oasis sells between 800,000 and 1m copies in first four days
- Andrew Lloyd Webber made a lord and Paul McCartney knighted by UK Tory government
- Noel Gallagher's annual income estimated at over £25m. Richard Branson estimated to be worth £1.7bn
- Elvis Presley remains RCA's best-selling artist, with annual earnings estimated at \$40m
- 1998 "New Labour" government sets up the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in UK
- Specifications for DVD-Audio agreed
- Reginald Dwight (Elton John) knighted by UK "Labour" government
- 1999 The World Trade Organisation meets in Seattle. Delegates are met with lively demonstrations against the unchallenged global power and unethical arrogance of international corporations whose interests are represented by the WTO
- CA\*net3 fibre optic network in Canada becomes the world's fastest computer network, capable of transmitting all nine of Beethoven's symphonies in 0.065 seconds
- Source Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) - designed to protect music downloaded via the internet - finally established. Major record companies join the rush to commercially release tracks via the internet

## 2000

- 2000 AOL announces purchase of Time Warner in the biggest deal in business history. AOL Time Warner's businesses will include: Warner Music Group, Warner Bros., CNN, Time Warner Cable, HBO, America Online, CompuServe, Netscape, AOL MovieFone, Winamp, Spinner