

Rock and Roll Then and Now

Some say Rock and Roll originated back in the 50s with Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, or Elvis Presley. Others say it goes back to the great Blues players before them. But for me, Rock and Roll started in the 60s with the British invasion.

Never has Rock and Roll experienced anything like what happened back in the 60s when the Beatles first stepped down on American soil. Although they are credited as THE group that changed Rock and Roll music, there were many great groups that came from the Isles. In fact, many people consider Led Zeppelin the greatest Rock band ever. The Stones, Deep Purple, The Who, The Zombies, The Kinks, The Moody Blues, just an incredible amount of talent from that era.

There is always great music out there thats worthy of a listen, and although I dont stay up with music the way I did when I was younger, I do like listening to groups such as Three Doors Down, Nickleback, Bush, Red Hot Chili Peppers, etc. Having said that, I think there are two points that are worth mentioning concerning Rock Music then, and now;

One, although there is always good music coming out, I think what sets the rock music of the 60s and 70s apart from today is not just the quality, but the quantity and quality of the music back then. It was not just that there was great music, but so much of it. And not just from the British invasion, but so many super groups that were located in the states. Groups like Grand Funk, Lynard Skynard, the Eagles, the Allman Brothers, Creedence, Hendrix, on and on. Today, I think you would be hard pressed to find the same number of super groups that you had back in that era.

The other thing that jumps out at me is, how come bands today cant or wont jam like bands back then? Back then it was nothing for groups to jam or extend or whatever you want to call it for 7, 8 minutes at a time. Is it that the people who control the record, or should I say CD business dont allow that kind of playing or is it just that bands today like it short and sweet for the most part? Or was it the drugs that most bands were using back then that produced that ability to jam? Maybe some or all of it, or none of it, but I just wonder why most Rock groups today with some exception just dont do long jams anymore.

Looking back, 60s and 70s Rock and Roll was a different breed of music. Although I like much of todays music, I just wish there was that same kind of quantity and quality of music, AND those long jams!

About the Author

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