# Songs Of The 1950s: A Decade of Musical Revolution

The 1950s was a decade of musical revolution. The emergence of rock and roll, soul, and country music changed the face of popular music forever.

This article explores the most iconic songs of the era, from Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel" to Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode."



### Songs of the 1950's: The Decade Series

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ 1.2 out of 5

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#### **Rock and Roll**

Rock and roll emerged in the mid-1950s as a fusion of rhythm and blues, country music, and gospel music. The genre was characterized by its fast tempo, heavy use of electric guitars, and rebellious lyrics. Elvis Presley is widely considered to be the "King of Rock and Roll," and his 1956 single "Heartbreak Hotel" was one of the first major rock and roll hits.

Other notable rock and roll artists of the 1950s include Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Bill Haley, and Little Richard. Berry's 1958 single "Johnny B. Goode" is considered to be one of the greatest rock and roll songs of all time, while

Holly's 1957 single "Peggy Sue" was a major hit for the young singer-songwriter. Haley's 1954 single "Rock Around the Clock" was a worldwide smash hit, and helped to popularize rock and roll with teenagers.

#### **Soul Music**

Soul music emerged in the mid-1950s as a fusion of rhythm and blues, gospel music, and jazz. The genre was characterized by its soulful vocals, passionate lyrics, and driving rhythms. Ray Charles is considered to be one of the pioneers of soul music, and his 1955 single "I Got a Woman" was a major hit for the singer-pianist.

Other notable soul music artists of the 1950s include Otis Redding, Sam Cooke, and James Brown. Redding's 1965 single "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" was a posthumous hit for the singer, released after his tragic death in a plane crash. Cooke's 1964 single "A Change Is Gonna Come" was a powerful anthem for the Civil Rights Movement, and Brown's 1958 single "Try Me" was a major hit for the "Godfather of Soul."

## **Country Music**

Country music continued to be popular in the 1950s, with a number of new artists emerging during the decade. Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and Patsy Cline were among the most popular country music stars of the era. Cash's 1955 single "Folsom Prison Blues" was a major hit for the singer-songwriter, and Williams' 1949 single "Hey, Good Lookin" is considered to be one of the greatest country songs of all time. Cline's 1961 single "Crazy" was a major hit for the singer, and helped to popularize country music with a wider audience.

Other notable country music artists of the 1950s include Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Conway Twitty. Perkins' 1956 single "Blue Suede Shoes" was a major hit for the singer-songwriter, and Lewis' 1957 single "Great Balls of Fire" was a worldwide smash hit. Twitty's 1958 single "It's Only Make Believe" was a major hit for the singer, and helped to popularize country music with a wider audience.

The 1950s was a decade of musical revolution, with the emergence of rock and roll, soul, and country music. The iconic songs of the era continue to be enjoyed by people all over the world, and their influence can be heard in popular music today.



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