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)
— Teotihuacan Sun Pyramid (Mexico)
2200-525: dynasty of Pharaohs (god-kings)
c.1000 Indian Rigveda (Veda of Humns) and Samaveda (Veda of Chants) developed (forerunners to Jewish & Gregorian chants?)
— Phoenicians main traders in western Mediterranean
— Homer's Iliad and Odyssey
c.500 BC: Celts arrive in Britain
— Phoenicians main traders in western Mediterranean
— Homer's Iliad and Odyssey
— Sophocles' Theban trilogy
— Plato's Republic; Aristotole's Politics and Poetics
— Aristoxenos' Harmonics. Defines rhythm as tripartite: speech, melody, movement
55 Romans invade of Britain: end of Western Roman Empire
563 St Columba (Irish abbot) on Iona to convert Picts and Scots
570 Muhammed the prophet (b)
570 'Antiphonar' - Pope Gregory's collection of church chants.
— Book printing in China
570 Muhammed the prophet (d)
624 Arabs conquer Egypt (642), Byzantium (655), Crete (674), Tunis (700), most of Spain (718)
628 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)

1-999

30 Crucifixion of Christ
58 Buddhism introduced into China
324 Christianity official religion of Roman Empire
340 Definite split of Roman Empire
368 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
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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)
1047 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
— 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
1221 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
1351 1347-1351 Black Death kills 75,000,000
1348 Black death sweeps across Europe
1327 Aztecs establish Mexico City
1325 Tournai Mass - first polyphonic mass
1322 Pope forbids use of counterpoint in church music
1291 Arabs capture Acre. End of crusades
— Beginnings of development of clavichord and cembalo

1400
1414 Medici of Florence bankers to papacy (until 1476)
1431 Jeanne d’Arc burnt at stake
— First German peasants’ revolt (+ Eng 1380s)
1453 Turks take Constantinople, coverting 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 (Esvilleng, Germany)
1477 Torquemada (1420-1498) in full swing with the inquisition
1478 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 Prés (1450-1521) appointed organist at Cambrai
1498 Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator (1469-1524) reaches India
1500 Josquin des Prés at court of Louis XII
— da Vinci’s Camera Obscura
— Petrucci’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 Díaz de Solís 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 Gesangbuchlein’
1525 Juan Luis Vives demands state help for the poor
1528 Erasmus: ‘Ciceronianus’ - satire on Latin scholarship
— Attainant 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 Brueghel paints ‘The Tower of Babel’
1564 English Merchant Adventurers granted new royal charter
— Scots’ Psalter (Dunfermline?)
1565 Palestrina: ‘Missa Papae 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
— Vicenzo Gallilei (Galileo’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’
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 Partenica printed & published
1614 Virginian colonists prevent French from settling Nova Scotia, Maine and Maryland
1615 English fleet defeat Portuguese off coast of Bombay
— G. Galilei 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 (!)
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1705—1706 Ignácio Loyola canonised by Gregory XV (!)

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— 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 possession 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 begins 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

— 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 annex New Netherlands and rename New Amsterdam (surrendered by Peter Stuyvesant) New York
1665 Stradivari labels his first violin
1666 British gain control of Bombay
1667 Rembrandt van Rijn dies (b. 1606)
— Vermeer paints 'Girl at the Spinet'
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 Female professionals appear for first time in Paris Opera
1683 Turks, having helped Emeric Tókölő 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
1687 Roman Catholics readmitted to English army
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, 1840, 1850
1694 Bank of England founded
1696 Johann Kuhnau (1660-1722): Frische Clavier-Compositions (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)
1783 Britain recognises independence of US
— Johann Christian (‘London’) Bach (b. 1735) dies
1782 Bank of North America established in Philadelphia
— Serfdom abolished in Austrian dominions
1781 Franciscan monks settle at Los Angeles
—
1780
1765 British colonies in N America start organised resis-
tance against London
— 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

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
1758 George Washington and John Forbes take Fort Du-
quesne, 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 re-
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
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1782 Bank of North America established in Philadelphia
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1786 Robert Burns: Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect
1787 British settlement for freed slaves in Sierra Leone
1788 Bread riots in France
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 execut-
ed
— 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 - rom-
antic religious essays
— England starts exporting iron
— Lithogr mus printing - Germany
1800

— 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)

— (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 Napoleon 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 No 5 and 6
— Broadwood grand pianos

1810 Napoleon at zenith
— Venezuela breaks away from Spain
— Durham coal miners’ strike
— US population 7.3 million

1811 1.5 mill slaves in USA (cf. 1690, 1780, 1850)
— Maximum 12-hr day for juveniles in England
— Bolivar becomes President of independent Colombia

1812 USA declares war on Britain
— French army retreat from Moscow (20,000 of 55,000 survive Russian campaign)
— London Philharmonic Society founded

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)
— John Macadam makes roads of crushed stone
— Vienna Congress and Battle of Waterloo
— Restauration 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
— Beethoven: *Symphony No 6* (Pastoral, revised version)

1817 Ch M von Weber (1786-1826): ‘Der Freischütz’ (Berlin)
— Factories production of harmonicas by Buschmann (Germany)

1818 Chili declares itself independent
— 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
— Venezuela definitively independent. Peru, Guatemala, Panama proclaimed independent
— Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) demonstrates sound reproduction
— London Cooperative Society founded

1821 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)

1822 Brazil totally independent of Portugal

1823 Monroe Doctrine (closes American continent to settlement by European powers)
— Henry Bishop writes *Home Sweet Home*
— Beethoven: *Symphony No 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 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
— 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)
— Dauguerre’s Daguerreotypes
— France captures Algeria
— Mendelssohn: *Songs Without Words* and *Hebrides Overture*

1830 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)

1831 Blaïna works brass band (Wales)
— Hector Berlioz (1803-1869): *Symphonie Fantastique* (revised version)

1832 Abolition of slavery in British Empire
— Spanish Inquisition (begun C13) finally suppressed
— Cyrus Hall invents reaping machine (USA)
— Schubert & Weber 1st publ in USA

1833 Abolition of slavery in British Empire
— Texas wins independence from Mexico
— Colt’s pistol (for praries!)

1834 Spanish Inquisition (begun C13) finally suppressed
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1835 Woodman Spare That Tree

1836 France captures Algeria
— Mendelssohn: *Songs Without Words* and *Hebrides Overture*

1837 Abolition of slavery in British Empire
— Texas wins independence from Mexico
— Colt’s pistol (for praries!)

1838 Queen Victoria crowned
— The *Minstrel’s Return’d* (USA)
— Prussian army band reorganised
— Morse’s telegraph patent

1839 Travel 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

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— Populations in mill: UK 18.5; US 17; Ireland 8

1846 Texas and Florida join the USA
— Potato famine in Ireland
— US defeats Mexicans at Palo Alto, enter Santa Fé and annex New Mexico territories. Spanish—
1872 Claude Monet doing impressionism

1869 The Congo becomes personal possession of Belgian King Leopold II

1859 Charles Darwin publishes *On the Origin of the Species by Natural Selection*

1851 Populations in mill: China 430; Germany 34; France 33; UK 20.8; USA 23

1850 California becomes US state

1789 American Music Publishers’ Association founded in New York


1860 Since 1850 424,000 British and 914,000 Irish emigrants to USA

1857 London’s main sewerage system completed

1861 Civil War starts (USA) (ends 1865)

1856 The Salvation Army founded

1862 Electric generators in production

1860 7 mill slaves and 0.3 mill slave owners in USA

1862 Wagner: *Rienzi*

1855 Franz Liszt: *Dante* (first full length symphony in a single movement)

1847 Factory Act (UK) - 10 hrs/day women and children

1861 Pianola first demonstrated at the Philadelphia Exhibition. USA

1860 Civil War (USA) ends (started 1861). Lincoln assassinated. 13th amendment abolishes slavery

1850 Electric arc lighting at the Royal Albert Hall, London

1862 Freedom of the Press Act (USA)

1850-55 Borodin (1833-1887)

1858 *Dictionnaire de l’Opéra* published by Leblanc

1858 George M. Pullman invents the first sleeping car

1862 Maxim invents machine gun (UK)

1858 Beethoven completes his 9th Symphony

1857 *Mein Kampf* comes a model of racial supremacy for Hitler in ‘Mein Kampf’

1860 Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) founded in London

1858 SACEM starts (France)

1861 Pianola first demonstrated at the Philadelphia Exhibition. USA

1858 Siemens electrical firm founded

1861 *Das Kapital* published

1859 Charles Darwin: *On the Origin of the Species by Natural Selection*

1862 *Droits de l’homme* proclaimed by France

1860 Jenny Lind tours USA

1858 Longines starts making watches in Switzerland

1860 The Congo becomes personal possession of Belgian King Leopold II

1859 *Tristan & Isolde* by Richard Wagner

1861 *Das Kapital* published

1858 *I'll Take You Home Kath-
1890

- 1896 Kentucky Babe (music by Adam Geibel) is hit as sung by Isadore Rush
- Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924): La Bohème (Tokyo)
- Schönberg: Erwartung

1910

- 1911 Irving Berlin: Alexander’s Ragtime Band
- Scott Joplin (1868-1917): Treemonisha
- Stravinsky: Pétrouchka

1890

- 1895 Auguste and Louis Lumière invent a motion picture camera
- 1895 US film industry $10 mill; UK $4.3 mill

1900

- 1900 London population 4.5 mill (1800: 1 mill, 1960 8 mill)
- Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams
- Bloomingdale’s Gramophone Department (NYC).

1910

- 1910 First dance marathon organised by Sid Graumann
- 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 First coin-operated piano successfully marketed by the Wurlitzer Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- First regular cinema established in Pittsburgh

- 1912 British coal strike, London dock strike, transport workers’ strike

- 1910 Coca Cola stops marketing itself as a medicine and is advertised as a soft drink
- 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

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- 1910 First moving picture shows appear in New York
- First dance marathon organised by Sid Graumann

- 1890 Sherman Act (Esso, Carnegie)
- More than 50% of US immigrants Slavonic, Mediterranean (cf. 1800, 1840)
- First moving picture shows appear in New York
- Edward Grieg (1843-1907): Per Gytnt

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- 1890 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
- Edward Grieg (1843-1907): Per Gytnt
— 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 W Griffiths, mus J Breil)
1916 Dada mvt 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*

**1920**
— Government of Ireland Act (UK): N & S Ireland each to have own Parliament
— Hitler announces his 25-point programme at 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, USA 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
— 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
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 Triergon 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 Pfeumer invents magnetic tape (D)

— Record Company of America (RCA) merges with Victor

1930

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
— 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

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

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 million radio sets in USA
— 90% of US homes have a radio set

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 ffr (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 Attlee, 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

1948

— 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)
— Marshall Plan: $17 billion for Europe (another $5.43 billion in 1949). The Berlin blockade and airlift
— State of Israel established
— State of Israel admitted to U.N.
— Marshall艺 and Morton’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
  — 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

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 overtake singles in UK & USA
  — Top 40 programming format introduced. 1st Storz chain of radio stations (New Orleans). cf Laszfeld & Merton 1948

1956

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 serás será, Johnny Ray Just Walking In the Rain biggest UK hits

1957

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

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

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

- 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* (1 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

- 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 US 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!* (Barry); *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 booed 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 musiccassettes 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 troops sent to Ulster
- UK singles sales bottom out at 46.8m
- *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

- Unidad Popular elected in Chile under Allende
- ‘White Christmas’ (Berlin/Bing Crosby) sells 30 millionth disc
- A Man Called Horse (Rosenmann)

1971

- USA bombs also Laos & Cambodia. Heavy bombing of Hanoi
1974
- ABBA win Eurovision contest
- 'American Graffiti'
- 24-track becoming standard (early 1970s)
- Deep Purple
- Bowie
- US Copyright Act covers now sound recordings
- First CD prototype tested in Holland (see 1969, 1972)
- UK record sales value tops £100m

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)
- 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
- ABBA win Eurovision contest: Waterloo

1979
- Worldwide decline starts in vinyl sales
- The Wall (Parker, Pink Floyd)
- Ry Cooder: Bop till you Drop (digital recording)

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
- Grand Master Flash: The Message
- MIDI sequencers available
- Philips introduce CDs on to market
- 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
- 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 170 units
- 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: Sadness'

1991 Gulf War I
— M Jackson: 15-yr contract w Sony for $980 mill
— Philips market Digital Compact Cassette DCC
— Sony market recordable mini-C, the MD

1992 America Online stock listed on Nasdaq Index
— Sony Corporation makes first ever trading loss of £86m
— DCC marketted by Philips. BASF close US tape-manufacturing plant. MD marketed by Sony
— Thorn-EMI buys Virgin Records for £560m
— 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
— 10m 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 loses in Manchester, UK
— Philips announce plans to sack 15,000 more employees. Thorn-EMI lighting sold to Investcorp for £53.2m
— Pink Floyd sell 2.2m tickets before tour begins

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

— 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
— 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