



Eddy Arnold

Group 3

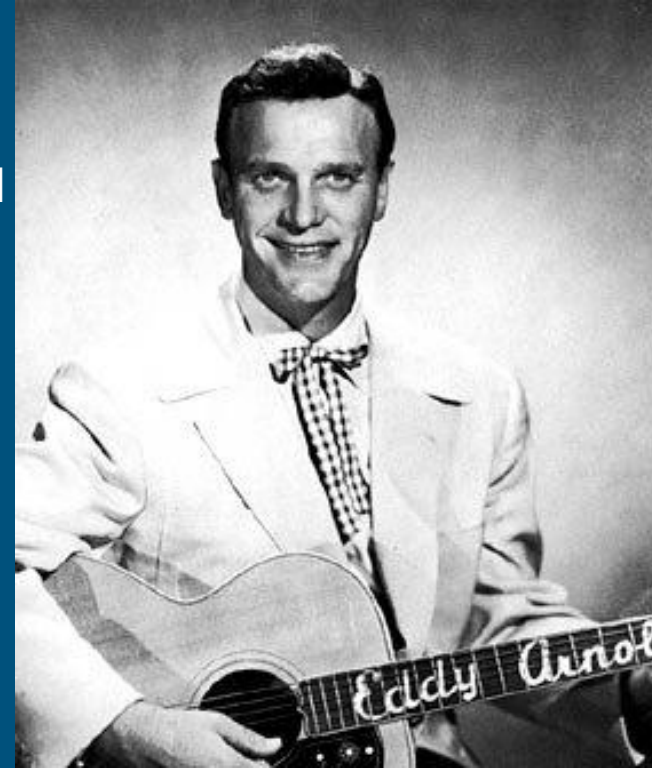
Kaitlin Gaedtke,
Lauren Lalumiere,
Maisey Pierce

Artist Biography: Early Years

- Born May 15th, 1918 on a farm in Henderson, Tennessee.
- First guitar was from his parents when he was 10.
- Mother played guitar.
- Father was a fiddle and bass player.
- In 1929, Arnold left school to help on the family farm after the death of his father.
- He began practicing songs when he had time.

Early Radio Appearances

- First radio appearance: 1934 at age 16 in Jackson, TN at WTJS-AM
- Obtained a regular spot at WMPS-Memphis in 1937
- 6 years at this station earned Arnold a dedicated following of fans.



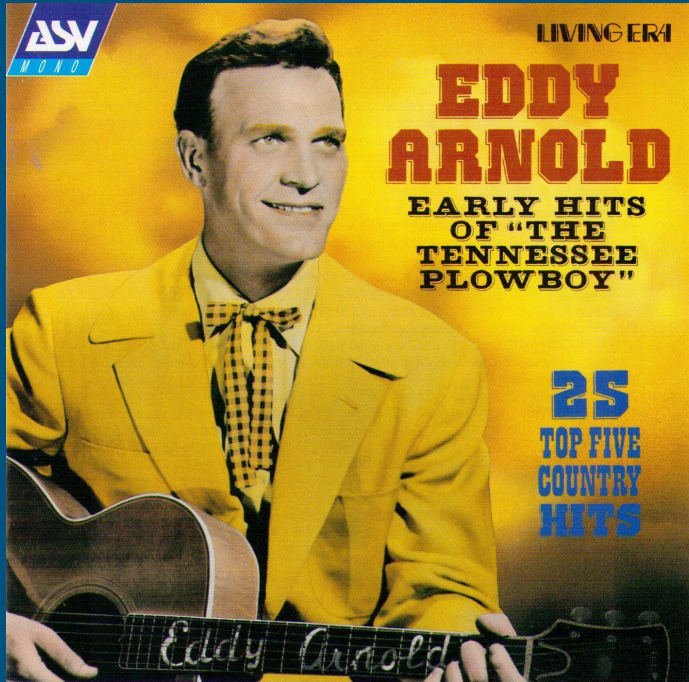
Early Success

- Performed on the **Grand Ole Opry** in 1943
- One year later, Arnold signed a contract with “**Colonel**” **Tom Parker**, who later managed Elvis Presley.
- First single: “Every Minute Seems a Million Years” in 1945
- His next 57 singles all scored in the top ten; with 19 scoring number one.
- In 1948 became #1 country star in America with 40+ weeks of songs in top 5

Artist Biography: Later Years

- Met wife, Sally Gayhart, in 1940 after a concert where she reportedly asked him for his autograph.
- Married on November 28, 1941.
- Married for nearly 66 years
- They both passed away a few months apart in 2008.
- Children: Jo Ann Arnold and Richard “Dickey” Edward Arnold Jr.

Musical Style



- Country singer, embraced by the industry for his crooner singing style.
- Frequently crossed over to pop charts
- Nicknamed the “Tennessee Plowboy”

Eddy Arnold in Television

- As the television became popular, Eddy turned to it to maintain and increase his popularity.
- Host of The Eddy Arnold Show
 - July 14, 1952 - August 22, 1952.
 - Featured pop music stars of the time
- Eddy Arnold Time
 - Played lead roles that told a story through music



Social-Political Influences

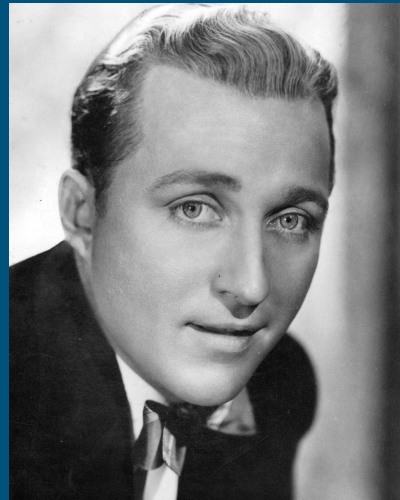
- At this time (the late 40s and early 50s), American society was filled with happiness because WWII was over (marriage and birth rates soared)
- The ideal suburban home life included new popular technology like television
 - Eddy appeared as a guest on many shows like; “Texaco Star Theatre” to promote his music

Eddy Arnold's Country Milieu

- Born two hours northeast of Nashville.
 - Home to the most influential C&W radio shows.
 - Attracted songwriters, performers, and publishers.
- Both his parents played string instruments.
 - He was bound to learn at a young age.

Musical Influences

- Gene Autry & Bing Crosby: Popular “crooning” style of the time allowed for crossover and to appeal to several genres and audiences outside of country & western
- Jimmie Rodgers
- Pete Cassell



How Eddy Arnold's Influence Lived On:

Popularly known as an “innovator of the ‘Nashville Sound’”

- His tenor country sound helped influenced Elvis Presley in his younger days
 - Also had the same manager
- Roy Wiggins
 - Formerly worked for Eddy before

his own career took off

- Formed a father-son like bond
- Incorporated his own steel guitar style

with Eddy's “choirboy vocals”



Music of the period (1940s & 50s)

- **Popular music of the 40s:** Country, Jazz, Big band, and Swing music
- **50s:** Rock and roll, Pop, Swing, Rhythm & blues, country, and rockabilly

Conclusion

Eddy Arnold represented the typical musical styles of the period in some ways, and in other ways he created his own style.

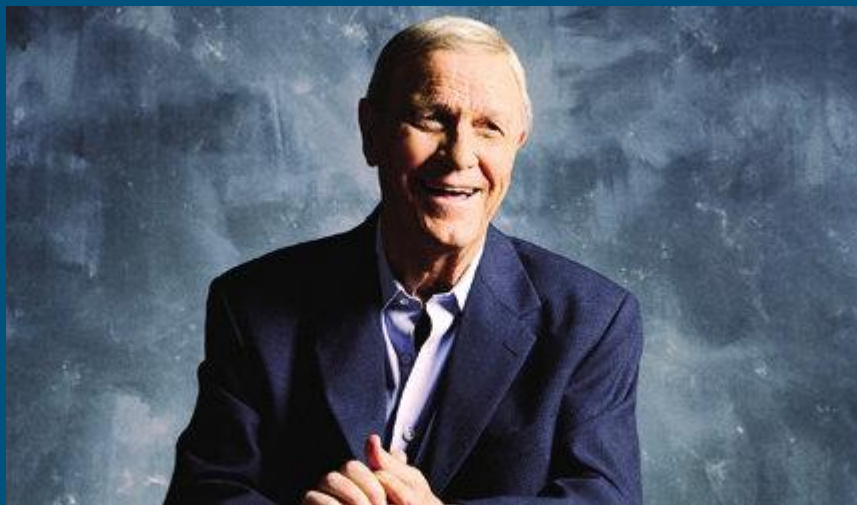
- He wanted to have his music appeal to everyone, not just white Southerners.
- He adapted his sound to popular trends during that time.
- He was a country star, and country music was popular in the 40s and 50s
- His crooner singing style helped him appeal to the masses and move into the pop industry. His songs were a combination of country and pop styles.

Eddy Arnold and the evolution of rock & roll

- Being a major influence for Rock and Roll legends like Elvis
- As country began to decrease in popularity, Eddy became the model for switching music styles from “country” to “city”

Achievements

- Brought country music to people that had previously not listened to it.
- Throughout his career, Arnold sold more than 85 million records.
- In 1966 he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.
- Performed for six decades.



Interesting Facts

- In his earlier years, Eddy would arrive to his gigs on the back of a mule.
- He had 9 top 10 singles in 1948 and 5 were at No.1 for 40 out of 52 weeks of that year.
- He was awarded the National Medal of the Arts in 2000.
- A final single was released after Eddy died, “To Life”, on May 31, 2008.
 - He was the oldest person to be on the Billboard chart.
 - It set the record for the longest span between his first single release to his final release: 62 years and 11 months.

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- Adapted from the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum's Encyclopedia of Country Music, published by Oxford University Press.

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