

#### The Animals

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#### Introduction

- Originally called the Alan Price Combo
- The Animals formed in Newcastle-on-Tyne in the UK, moving to London in 1964
- Famous for gritty and American blues sound, led by singer Eric Burdon
  - Influenced by R&B and blues



### Introduction cont.

- In the mid 1960s, the band suffered from poor business management and numerous member changes
- Group began to break up in 1965
  - Renamed Burdon and the Animals
  - o psychedelic and hard rock band



#### Introduction cont.

- Band reunited in '68, '76 and '83
- Part of the British Invasion
- Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1994



## Members of The Animals: Alan Price

- Alan Price was born on April 19th, 1942 in England
- Keyboard/Organist
  - Self-taught musician
- Founded group known as Alan Price Rhythm and Blues Combo
  - Later renamed The Animals
- Was the first member to leave in 1965
  - Supposedly left due to fear of flying and incompatibility with other members
  - Pursued a solo career
    - Alan Price Set
- Has made appearances in films and on TV



#### Members of The Animals: Eric Burdon



- Born on May 11, 1941 in England
- Singer and songwriter best known for rock band The Animals, and funk band War
  - Ranked 57th in "100 Greatest Singers of All Time" (Rolling Stones)

#### More on Eric Burdon

- By 1966, all original members of The Animals left except Barry Jenkins
  - Renamed band as Eric
    Burdon and the
    Animals
    - psychedelic
- Eventually left and joined the band War (1969)
- Began solo career in 1971
  - o still performing



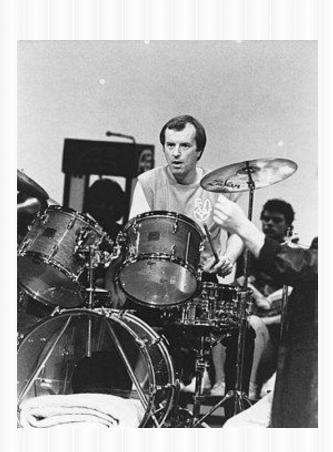
#### Members of The Animals: Chas Chandler

- Born December 18th, 1938 in England
- Was a record producer, bass guitarist, and manager of musical acts
- Joined the Alan Price Trio in 1962 as a bass player
- Manager of The Jimi Hendrix Experience, and Slade
- Died of an aortic aneurysm on July 17, 1996



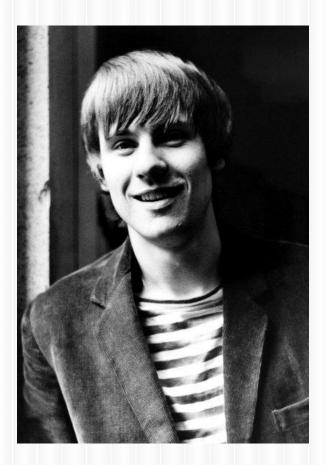
#### Members of The Animals: John Steel

- John Steele was born on February 4, 1941 in England
- His musical influences came from jazz
- Drummer for The Animals
- Left the band in March, 1966
- Occasionally performed up into the 2000's with guitarist Hilton Valentinek
- Returned to England and became a businessman
  - He owns "The Animals" name trademark



#### Members of The Animals: Hilton Valentine

- Born May 21, 1943 in North Shields, UK
- Played guitar
- Before joining The Animals, he was a member of The Wildcats
- After he joined, the band changed its name from The Alan Price Combo to The Animals.
- Has continued to perform and released an album in 2011



# Why This Topic was Selected

- Not studied as much as The Rolling Stones
  - Same influence, but different sound
- Their music is considered to be very influential on Rock & Roll
  - Also influential on R&B
  - They had numerous #1 hits in the '60s
  - An important part of the British Invasion





## Social Events of the 1960s

- One of the major movements of the 1960's occurring around the time The Animals were active was the counterculture movement
  - Consisted mainly of young, college-age students
  - Rebellious attitude towards society
  - "Hippie" lifestyle
    - Drug use common.
      - There was a division within The Animals between members who used drugs, such as LSD, and those that did not use drugs

## Social Events of the 1960s

#### British Invasion

- Rock and pop musical groups from the United Kingdom became popular within the United States
  - The Beatles
  - The Rolling Stones
  - The Who
- Ended popularity of instrumental surf music



## Political Events of the 1960s

- The Vietnam War
  - During the time The Animals were active, the US was at war
  - Many of the members of The Animals were part of the counterculture movement
    - Anti-war
  - Eric Burdon stated he was in favor of peace for all



## **Musical Style**

- Music based on Rhythm and Blues style
  - Burdon could make good use of the "shouting" method in his singing
  - Strong rhythms maintained by consistent drums and bass
  - Band used guitar, bass, drums, vocals, and keys
  - Could write folk songs from this influence

## **Evolution and Innovation**

- Much like the Rolling Stones in performance
  - Wild and chaotic routines
- Strengthened R&B influence on rock
  - Rock followed the split created by the British Invasion



## Other Music of the Time

- 1960's British Invasion on music
  - Bands generalized into two categories
    - Softer Beatles style
    - Blues influenced Rolling Stones style

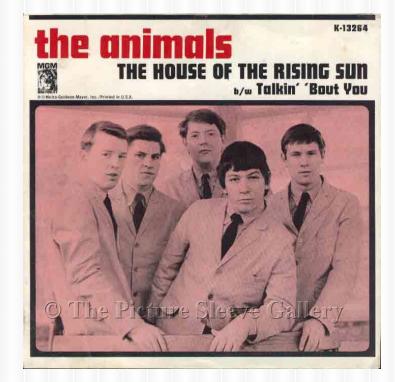
VS

- The Animals fit under this category
- Allowed for changes in style and structure of rock

THE

## Analysis of "House of the Rising Sun"

- Traditional Folk song
  - Covered by The Animals in 1964
  - Origins of the song are unknown
    - Roots in Appalachian folk music
- Lyrics are about a brothel in New Orleans
  - Called the House of the Rising Sun



## Analysis cont.

#### • Form

- Follows AAAA strophic form
- Meter and Subdivision
  - Duple meter with quadruple subdivisions
- Dynamics
  - Wide range of volumes, especially in the vocals
- Range
  - High pitch variation with low-pitched bass notes and high-pitched keyboard notes

## Analysis cont.

- Timbre
  - o Vocals, drums, guitar, bass, and keyboard
    - vocals in shouting style
- Texture
  - Homophonic Melody and Accompaniment
    - Vocals as lead melody, everything else is accompaniment
- Song Link
  - o <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwAw9ThDQmk</u>

### **Musical Influences**

- Initially found inspiration for their music from American blues and R&B (early 1960s)
  - balanced tough, rock edged pop against rhythm
    and blues
  - Known as rebellious, confidently unique
  - Music was gritty and raw



#### **Musical Influences**



- Alan Price provided a blues-jazz feel with his organ playing
- As the newly formed band progressed, their music began to imitate a psychedelic hard rock sound (late 1960s)

## Who Influenced Their Work

- Jimmy Witherspoon
- Bo Diddley
- Chuck Berry
- Bob Dylan



**Chuck Berry** 



Bob Dylan

#### More Influences

- Muddy Waters
- Sam Cooke
- The Beatles
- Elvis Presley
- Ray Charles



Muddy Waters



**Ray Charles** 

# Who They Influenced

- Blue Oyster Cult
- Bon Jovi
- Tom Petty
- Bruce Springsteen
- Jim Morrison
- Robert Plan

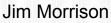


Blue Oyster Cult



Bon Jovi







**Bruce Springsteen** 

### Conclusion

- The group The Animals were highly successful for a brief period of time in the 1960's
  - They had a large influence on later artists in R&B and rock
- Their song, "House of the Rising Sun", is an example of a folk rock song
- The Animals were a part of the British Invasion as well as the counterculture movement of the 1960's



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