



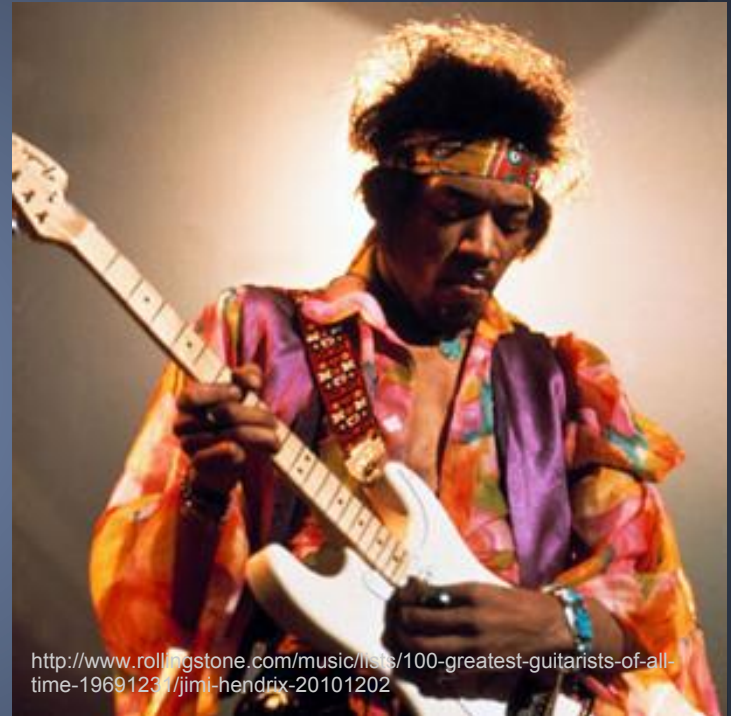
Jimi Hendrix

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Group #4

Overview

- Background
- Biography of Hendrix
- Musical Style
- Musical Influences
- Other Music of the Time



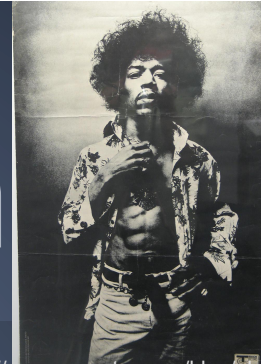
Background

- Our group chose Hendrix because he is recognized as one of the most creative and influential musicians of the 20th century.
- We are interested in learning more about his personal life as well as how his music was initially received.
- Hendrix is a fun artist to research due to his eccentric lifestyle and tremendous musical talent.

Biography- Childhood

- Jimi Hendrix, born Johnny Allen Hendrix on November 27, 1942, at Seattle's King County Hospital, was later renamed James Marshall by his father, James "Al" Hendrix.
- Young Jimmy took an interest in music, drawing influence from virtually every major artist at the time:
 - B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Buddy Holly, and Robert Johnson.
 - Entirely self-taught, Jimmy's inability to read music made him concentrate even harder on the music he heard.

Jimi's Youth



<http://www.acurator.com/blog/photographers/3.html>

- In 1961, Jimmy left home to enlist in the United States Army. While stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Jimmy formed The King Casuals with bassist Billy Cox.
- After being discharged due to an injury, Jimmy began working as a session guitarist under the name Jimmy James.
- By the end of 1965, Jimmy had played with several marquee acts,
 - "including Ike and Tina Turner, Sam Cooke, the Isley Brothers, and Little Richard. Jimmy parted ways with Little Richard to form his own band, Jimmy James and the Blue Flames, shedding the role of back-line guitarist for the spotlight of lead guitar."

Timeline Cont.

- October 15th 1965 Hendrix signs deal with Ed Chalpin
- May 12th 1967 releases "Are You Experienced"
- December 1st 1967 releases "Axis: Bold As Love"
- September 16th 1968 releases "Electric Landlady"



<http://www.soundcheckmusicblog.com/monday-blues-jimi-hendrix-red-house/>

Woodstock

- Woodstock Music & Art Fair in August 1969, Jimi joined forces with an eclectic ensemble called Gypsy Sun & Rainbows featuring Jimi Hendrix, Mitch Mitchell, Billy Cox, Juma Sultan, and Jerry Velez.



Jimi's Death

- Early on September 18, 1970, Jimi Hendrix died in London under circumstances which have never been fully explained.
- He had been out partying that night
- 1970 Love releases "False Start"



<http://lisajaeggi.com/site/01-16-13-jimi-hendrix/>

Early Musical Style

- In Hendrix's early days of band hopping, he played with mostly R&B and soul-style groups (Unterberger, n.d.)
- Without the ability to showcase his musical talents, he started seeking his own work
- His first album, "Are You Experienced", combined musical style elements of pop rock, soul, R&B, electric guitar rock, and even some hints of Bob Dylan.

Musical Style



<http://givemywalkman.tumblr.com/post/36289782968/vintagegal-jimi-hendrix-plays-his-fender>

- Hendrix's overall style falls into a wide array of rock categories (Marano, 2013)
 - blues, hard-rock, psychedelic, acid rock, soul rock, garage, and psychedelic soul rock
- Electric guitar helped established his musical style
 - Hendrix could create bizarre and unexpected sounds from his guitar, manipulating it in impressive and never-before-seen ways

Notable Elements to Hendrix's Style

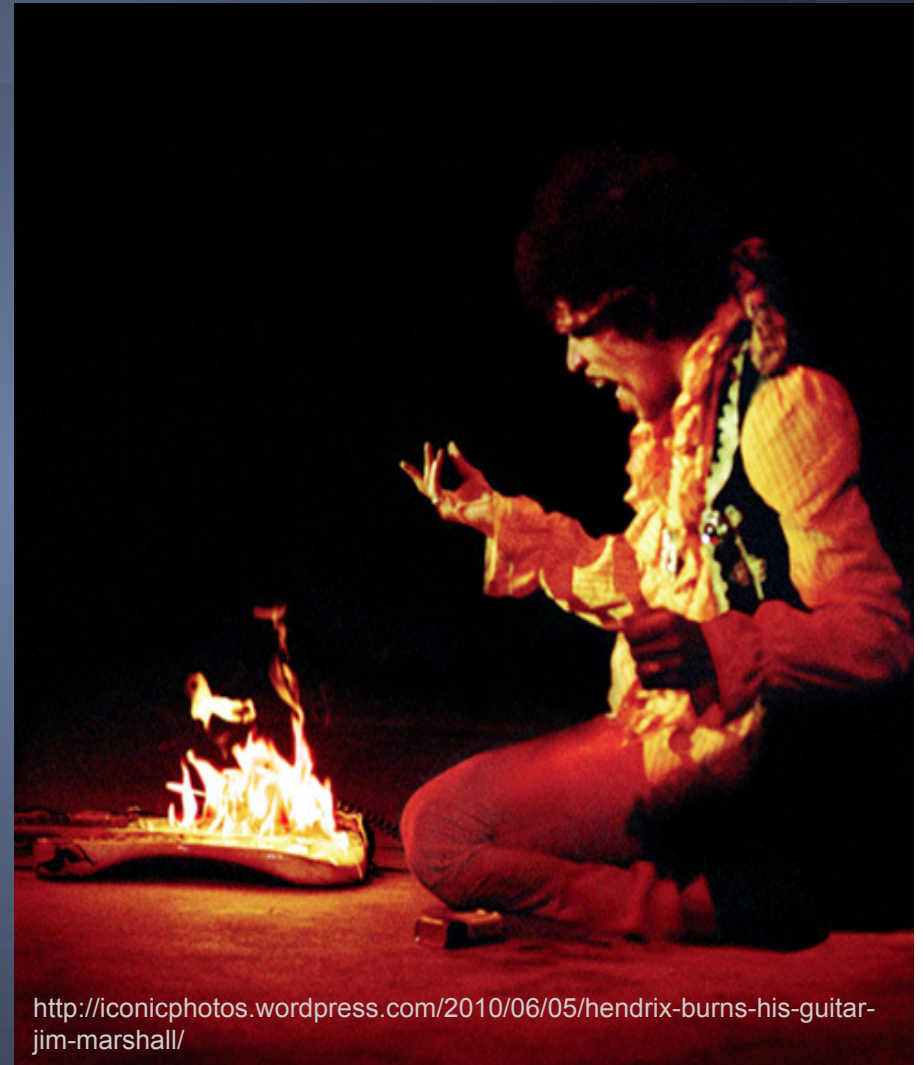
- Hendrix had a wide array of talents he utilized in making his music (Unterberger, n.d.)
 - He was a master of the guitar, and used a smorgasbord of devices such as buzzing feedback solos, distorted riffs, and wah-wah pedals
- He was a wonderfully creative songwriter, forming images with his lyrics while also creating a catchy 'hook'
- His voice was also engaging, albeit gruff and a little 'rough around the edges'
 - It's commonly thought that his vocals are not nearly as great of an asset as his skills with instruments

Musical Style

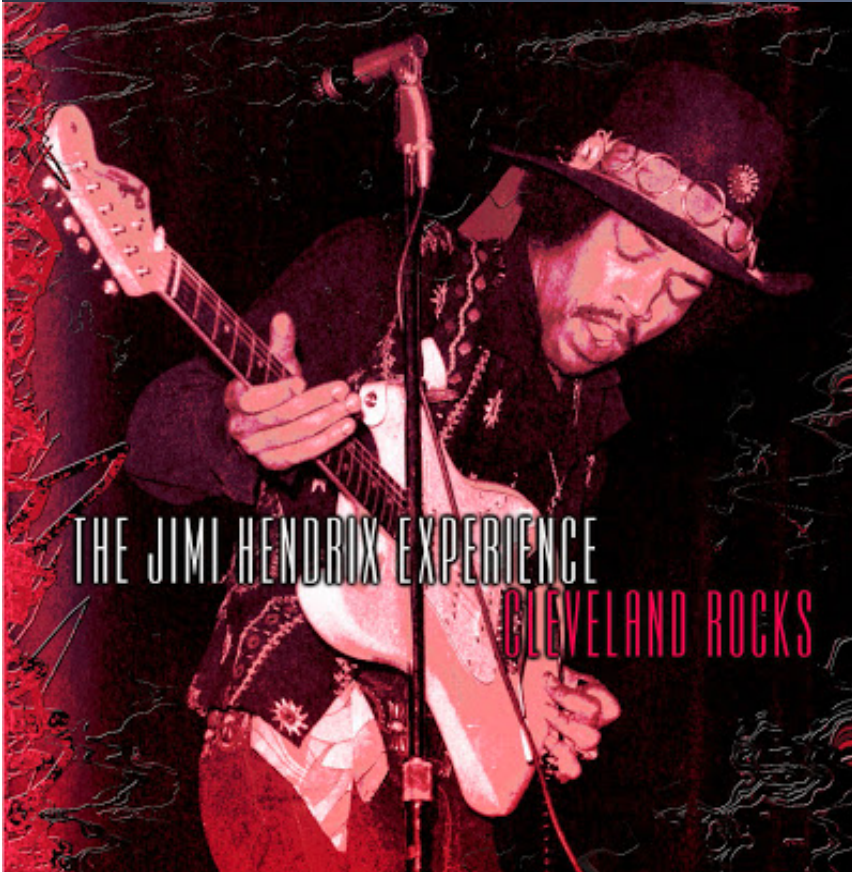
- "Hendrix's innovative style of combining fuzz, feedback and controlled distortion created a new musical form" (James Marshall Hendrix, n.d.)
- "The music of Jimi Hendrix embraced the influences of blues, ballads, rock, R&B, and jazz, a collection of styles that continue to make Hendrix one of the most popular figures in the history of rock music"
(James Marshall Hendrix, n.d.)

Hendrix's 'Flair'

- Hendrix was more than just a musician; he put on a spectacular show for the audience
- His acts included crazy antics such as playing his guitar behind his back and with his teeth, or lighting the guitar on fire (Unterberger, n.d.)
 - The first flaming guitar ended up burning Hendrix, but this didn't stop him from continuing to try (Selwyn-Holmes, 2010)



Attire On Stage



<http://musictravellerstwo.blogspot.com/2011/10/jimi-hendrix-1968-03-26-cleveland.html>

- His clothes have been described as "pure hippie Latin American bandido" (Wild, Woolly & Wicked, 1968).
- As an example, at a concert in Cleveland his outfit consisted of a Navajo vest, purple gaucho hat, black boots, and denims with a silver belt
- Hendrix's attire added to his eccentric stage presence

Musical Influences

-**The Beatles**-He acknowledged their album

-**Bob Dylan**- Huge Bob Dylan fan, would record two cover versions of Dylans song

-**Muddy Waters**--"The first guitarist I was aware of was Muddy Waters. I heard one of his records when I was a little boy and it scared me to death because I heard all of these sounds. Wow! What is that all about? It was great." - Jimi Hendrix

- Used to play one of Muddy Waters' songs called "Mannish Boy" (McMurry & Parker, 2012)

Musical Influences

- The Free Spirits**--Jazz fusion band that Jimi played at the same venues with
- Cream**--Jammed with Eric Clapton, who was one of the best guitarists in Britain, and Cream
- Little Richard** --part of his backing band
- Elmore James**-- Jammed with him in London, he was part of the British Blues scene. (McMurry & Parker, 2012)

Who Hendrix Influenced

- Almost any guitarist after Jimi Hendrix have been influenced in some way (O'Connor, 2010)
- But many guitarists still play or did play strongly in Jimi's spirit including:
 - Lenny Kravitz
 - Eddie Van Halen
 - John Frusciante
 - Richard Lloyd
 - Prince
 - Robin Trower
 - Frank Marino
 - Stevie Ray Vaughan
 - Leigh Stephens
 - Eddie Hazel

Stevie Ray Vaughan

- One of the many guitar players influenced by Jimi.
- In the 1980's he covered Jimi Hendrix's "Voodoo Child (Slight Return)."
- This made Stevie Ray Vaughan noticeable because people noticed he could play the guitar really well. (O'Connor, 2010)



<http://fineartamerica.com/featured/stevie-ray-vaughan-dean-russo.html>

Leigh Stephens

- Leigh could make it sound like it was "raining bombs" like Hendrix
- Both used fuzzboxes and wah-wah pedals frequently when making magical noises.

(O'Connor, 2010)



<http://www.taringa.net/posts/imagenes/14596021/Los-100-mejores-guitarristas.html>

Eddie Hazel

- Very intense guitar player like Jimi Hendrix.
- Jimi Hendrix paved the way for Eddie Hazel with his style with the guitar.
- It is said that if you loved Jimi's music, you would also love Eddies.

(O'Connor, 2010)



<http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/eddie%20hazel?before=20>

Other Music

- In Hendrix's time, there were many other artists that were popular that fed off of his style
- A few artists that performed with him at Woodstock were:
 - Janis Joplin, Grateful Dead, and the Who

Janis Joplin

http://fc02.deviantart.net/fs32/f/2008/208/e/2/Janis_Joplin_by_artco

- 1943-1970
- known as the groundbreaker for women in rock
- also had a four year career like Hendrix
- performances left audiences "stunned and speechless"



Grateful Dead

<http://shard1.1stdibs.us.com/archivesE/art/upload/10/103/Grat>

- The group was influenced by jazz, which lead to their improvisational style
- also heavily influenced by folk music and Rhythm & Blues
- Never had a Top 40 single



The Who

<http://theseconddisc.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/the-who-logo.png?w>



- Originally The Detours
- In 1965, "My Generation" reaches Number 2 on the UK charts
- Their performances at concerts such as Woodstock, with Hendrix, helped to increase their fame and marketability
- Combined original rock style with psychedelic elements.

Political events from 1963-1970

1963- Martin Luther King, Jr. I have a dream.

- President Kennedy assassinated

1964- Beatles become popular

- Civil Rights passed

1968- Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated

1969- Apollo 11 landed on the moon

Song: Purple Haze

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP-Q9vmwK1U>



Purple Haze: Musical Elements

Instrumentation: intro notable for its use of a distinctive dissonant tritone interval, known for its "Hendrix Chord" (first chord after intro); electric and bass guitar are prominent, as well as drums.

Meter: simple quadruple 4/4 (duple meter)

Beat subdivision: duple subdivision

Texture: Homophonic melody & accompaniment

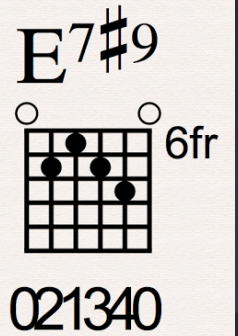
Form: strophic AAA

Structure: intro, verse 1, verse 2, guitar solo, verse 3, guitar solo.

Purple Haze

- According to Hendrix, this piece was inspired by a dream he had where he was underwater going for a stroll (Purple Haze Meaning, 2008)
 - This may explain the 'floating', hazy sound his voice takes on throughout the song
- The effects used in the piece create a lot of feedback and distortion from the guitar
- Many link the song to being inspired by a 'drug trip'
 - However, Hendrix had not tried LSD at this point in his musical career

Hendrix Chord



<http://artclass.guitar.com/2007/04/taxman-cometh-jimi-hendrix-chord-chord.html>

- The 'Hendrix Chord' was something used in rock before Hendrix came around (Marano, 2013)
 - Example: The Beatles in 'Taxman'
- Hendrix made the chord well-recognized
- Noted for his use of it in 'Purple Haze'
- Many artists in a varying array of musical styles began to utilize the 'Hendrix Chord'
- Consists of an E7#9 chordal structure
 - Includes a 'blue note' at the sharp ninth
- Has a 'bluesy' feel to it

Hendrix's Role in Rock & Roll

- Hendrix's style was unique compared to anything seen before in rock and roll, greatly due to his boldness with the electric guitar
- Hendrix is still known today as one of the best guitarists that have ever lived
- Artists today still are influenced by his unique style

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