

KATE FAIRMAN

SOUND OF THE AGES EPISODE 2

I'M KATE FAIRMAN, AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO SOUND OF THE AGES. LAST EPISODE, I DISCUSSED THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL FROM IT'S INCEPTION IN THE 1930S TO THE ROCKABILLY ERA OF THE EARLY 1960S. THIS EPISODE WILL PICK UP WHERE I LEFT OFF AND EXTEND OUT TO THE MODERN ERA OF ROCK MUSIC THAT WE ALL KNOW TODAY.

THE ERA THAT CAME AFTER ROCKABILLY IN THE LATE 1960S IS SEEN BY MANY PEOPLE AS A HIATUS ERA FOR ROCK AND ROLL, MAKING WAY FOR GENRES SUCH AS SURF MUSIC, GARAGE ROCK, AND BRIT ROCK. THESE GENRES, WHILE STILL TECHNICALLY ROCK, DIDN'T HAVE THE SAME TRADITIONAL ROCK AND ROLL SOUND THAT HAD EMERGED IN PREVIOUS DECADES, OPTING FOR A MORE MELLOW, LAID BACK SOUND, SUCH AS THAT OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD.

[TRUCKIN' BY THE GRATEFUL DEAD IN/OUT]

IN THE LATE 1960S, GENRES SUCH AS FOLK ROCK AND PSYCHEDELIC ROCK BEGAN TO EMERGE. THESE GENRES BOTH BROUGHT WHAT WAS KNOWN AS "PROTEST SONGS" TO A LARGER AUDIENCE. HOWEVER WHILE BOTH COULD BE CONSIDERED PROTEST MUSIC AND SHARED SIMILAR AUDIENCES, THEY HAD SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SOUNDS. FOLK MUSIC WAS TYPICALLY PLAYED ON ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS AND INCLUDED ARTIST SUCH AS JOAN BAEZ AND BOB DYLAN, WHILE PSYCHEDELIC ROCK HAD WHAT YOU COULD CALL A MORE LSD INFLUENCED SOUND WITH GUITAR FEEDBACK AND OTHER SOUND EFFECTS TO GIVE IT MORE OF A TRIPPY SOUND. SOME POPULAR BANDS THAT EMERGED WITH THIS ERA OF NEW GENRES INCLUDE THE GRATEFUL DEAD AND PINK FLOYD.

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BANDS OF THIS DECADE, AND ARGUABLY ALL OF MUSIC HISTORY, WAS THE BEATLES. IN THE EARLY 60S, THEIR SOUND WAS VERY MELLOW AND LAID BACK AND GAVE OFF WHAT YOU COULD CALL A HIPPIE VIBE. WITH THE COMING OF THE PSYCHEDELIC ROCK MOVEMENT, THE BEATLES EVENTUALLY SHIFTED THEIR MELLOW, POP MUSIC TO A MORE PSYCHEDELIC SOUND WITH THE RELEASE OF THEIR ALBUM "SARGENT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND".

[LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS BY THE BEATLES]

NOW ENTER THE 1970S. THIS ERA OF ROCK, AT LEAST FOR MANY PEOPLE, IS ARGUABLY THE PEAK ERA OF ROCK MUSIC BECAUSE IT WAS DURING THIS ERA THAT SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS ROCK BANDS AND SUBGENRES BEGAN TO FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE MUSIC SCENE. IN THE ROOTS ROCK, OR COUNTRY ROCK GENRE, BANDS SUCH AS THE CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL AND THE EAGLES STARTED TO GAIN A LARGER FOLLOWING, AND LATER BECAME SOME OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ROCK ACTS OF ALL TIME.

[PLAY HOTEL CALIFORNIA BY THE EAGLES]

ANOTHER POPULAR SUBGENRE OF ROCK THAT FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE 70'S MUSIC SCENE WAS GLAM ROCK. THIS GENRE EMERGED PRIMARILY FROM THE PSYCHEDELIC ROCK MOVEMENT OF THE 1960S AND MADE WAY FOR MUSIC ICONS SUCH AS ALVIN STARDUST, ALICE COOPER, AND DAVID BOWIE.

[PLAY HEROES BY DAVID BOWIE]

GLAM ROCK WAS ONE OF THE MANY ROCK SUBGENRES THAT COULD BE NOT ONLY SEEN IN MUSIC, BUT FASHION AND CULTURE. PRIMARILY POPULAR IN EUROPE, VERY FEW ARTIST OF THIS GENRE GAINED POPULARITY IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DAVID

BOWIE WHO BECAME ANOTHER ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS OF ALL TIME. ALSO WITH THIS GENRE, STYLES OF OUTRAGEOUS CLOTHES AND MAKEUP, AS WELL AS HAIRSTYLES AND SHOES WERE THE MOST PROMINENT TRENDS AMONG ARTISTS AND FANS ALIKE.

THE FINAL MAJOR SUBGENRES OF ROCK THAT CAME WITH THE 70'S WERE SOFT ROCK, HARD ROCK, AND HEAVY METAL. SOFT ROCK WAS MAINLY DERIVED FROM FOLK ROCK, AND LEANED MORE TOWARDS ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTALS WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON MELODIES AND HARMONIES. MAJOR ARTISTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GENRE INCLUDE CAROLE KING, BILLY JOEL, AND FLEETWOOD MAC.

[PLAY LANDSLIDE BY FLEETWOOD MAC]

IN CONTRAST, HARD ROCK WAS BRANCHED OFF MORE FROM BLUES ROCK AND WAS TYPICALLY PLAYED LOUDER WITH MORE INTENSITY. THIS BRANCH OF ROCK TYPICALLY USED MORE ELECTRIC INSTRUMENTS WITH GUITAR RIFFS AND USUALLY INCORPORATED MORE DISTORTION AND SOUND EFFECTS. SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR ARTIST FROM THIS ERA OF THE GENRE INCLUDE QUEEN, AEROSMITH, AC/DC, AND VAN HALEN.

[PLAY BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY BY QUEEN]

HEAVY METAL WAS TYPICALLY PLAYED WITH EVEN MORE VOLUME AND INTENSITY THAN HARD ROCK, AND TO THIS DAY IS STILL VIEWED AS A MORE "GOTHIC" FORM OF ROCK AND ROLL. TO ACHIEVE THIS, ARTISTS WROTE THEIR MUSIC USING MODAL HARMONIES TO GIVE IT A DARKER SOUND. SOME POPULAR BANDS FROM THIS GENRE INCLUDE MOTORHEAD, LED ZEPPELIN, AND RUSH.

[WHOLE LOTTA LOVE BY LED ZEPPELIN]

WHILE THESE GENRES STILL HOLD POPULARITY THROUGH THE NEXT FEW DECADES, AND EVEN STILL TODAY, THE LATE 1970S AND 1980S BROUGHT UPON A NEW WAVE OF ROCK THAT IS KNOWN AS THE PUNK ERA. WITH ROOTS IN GARAGE ROCK, THIS GENRE BROUGHT AN EDGIER SOUND TO MUSIC WITH STRIPPED DOWN INSTRUMENTALS AND OFTEN POLITICAL LYRICS AND MEANINGS. THIS GENRE BROUGHT FORTH ARTISTS SUCH AS PATTI SMITH, THE CLASH, AND THE RAMONES.

[PLAY POISON HEART BY THE RAMONES]

IN THE EARLY 1980S, THE SUBGENRE OF POST-PUNK BEGAN TO BECOME MORE ESTABLISHED IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY. THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PUNK AND POST-PUNK IS THAT POST-PUNK TAKES A MORE ARTISTIC, PERFORMANCE-CENTERED APPROACH TO THE MUSIC. SOME ARTISTS YOU MAY RECOGNIZE WHO EMERGED WITH THIS GENRE INCLUDE JOY DIVISION, THE TALKING HEADS, AND U2.

[PLAY TALKING HEADS ROAD TO NOWHERE]

ANOTHER POPULAR SUBGENRE THAT IS STILL PROMINENT IN TODAY'S ROCK MUSIC SCENE IS ALTERNATIVE ROCK. THE TERM ALTERNATIVE WAS CREATED TO GIVE A TITLE TO ALL OF THE BANDS THAT DID NOT FIT INTO THE MAINSTREAM GENRES OF THE TIME. SOME KEY ARTISTS FROM THIS TIME PERIOD OF THE GENRE INCLUDE R.E.M, JANE'S ADDICTION, AND THE CURE.

[PLAY IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT BY REM]

IN THE 1990S, ROCK BEGAN TO LOSE ITS SINGULAR ESTABLISHED SOUND AND BEGAN TO BRANCH OUT MORE INTO VARIOUS DIFFERENT SUBGENRES SUCH AS GRUNGE, POP PUNK, AND INDIE ROCK, ALL OF WHICH HAD VERY DIFFERENT SOUNDS. WITHIN THE GRUNGE SUBGENRE, ARTISTS AND BANDS FUSED ELEMENTS OF HEAVY METAL AND PUNK INTO A SINGLE SOUND

WITH LOTS OF GUITAR DISTORTION, FUZZ AND FEEDBACK. THE LYRICS WERE TYPICALLY MORE APATHETIC AND ANGSTY, OFTEN CONTAINING THEMES SUCH AS SOCIAL ISOLATION AND DARK HUMOR. POPULAR BANDS FROM THIS GENRE INCLUDE PEARL JAM, ALICE IN CHAINS, SMASHING PUMPKINS, AND NIRVANA, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

[PLAY SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT BY NIRVANA]

POP PUNK WAS ALSO A VERY POPULAR GENRE OF ROCK IN THE 90'S. WITH POWERFUL MELODIES, LOUD GUITARS, AND FAST TEMPOS, THIS GENRE LEAD TO THE EMERGENCE OF MANY BANDS THAT YOU MAY RECOGNIZE SUCH AS GREEN DAY, WEEZER, AND BLINK 182. THESE GENRES STILL REMAINED PROMINENT IN THE EARLY 2000'S, BUT WITH THE NEW MILLENNIUM CAME A NEW MAINSTREAM FORM OF ROCK. THIS ROCK SUBGENRE WAS KNOWN AS POST-HARDCORE OR "EMO". THESE BANDS AND ARTISTS WERE MOSTLY INFLUENCED BY THE POST-PUNK MOVEMENT AND FAVORED MORE COMPLEX MUSICAL STRUCTURES AND MORE EXPRESSIVE VOCALS. BANDS THAT GAINED POPULARITY WITHIN THIS GENRE INCLUDE BANDS LIKE MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE, PANIC AT THE DISCO, AND FALL OUT BOY.

[EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES BY PANIC AT THE DISCO]

FROM THE EARLY 2000'S ON, IT BECAME MORE COMMON FOR BANDS AND ARTIST TO IDENTIFY WITH MORE THAN ONE SUB GENRE OF ROCK, GIVING US THE DIVERSE, LOOSELY DEFINED GENRE THAT WE HAVE TODAY. NOT ONLY DID ROCK AS A GENRE IMPACT THE MUSIC SCENE OVER TIME, BUT IT ALSO IMPACTED AMERICAN CULTURE DIFFERENTLY FROM DECADE TO DECADE, AND IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE IMPACTS AND MOVEMENTS OF MUSIC THAT OUR MUSIC IS THE WAY IT IS TODAY.

OVER THE COURSE OF THIS EPISODE, I USED A LOT OF MUSIC FROM A LOT OF DIFFERENT ARTISTS. THE ARTISTS AND SONGS I USED ARE IN ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

[LIST SONGS USED IN ORDER]

FOR 91.3 WHJE, I'M KATE FAIRMAN AND THIS HAS BEEN EPISODE 2 OF SOUND OF THE AGES.

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