



# Acoustic and Folk

History and  
Development

# Genres

- Country
- American Folk-Rock & Country-Rock
- Modern Folk & Acoustic



- Pictured: Jimmie Rodgers (early country)
- Genre spans from the early C20th to present day
- Influenced by European folk music (British and Irish especially) and Blues music

# Country

## Key Facts

- Originated from the **southern** states of the USA
- Lyrics commonly refer to a **rural lifestyle**
- The **Nashville** recording industry is one of the biggest in the world

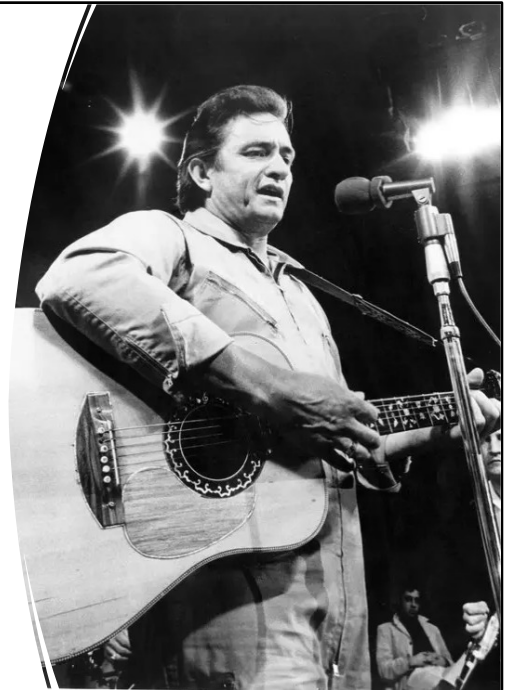


- Pictures: Dolly Parton
- Music was commonly played by settlers of European origin
- Numerous rock bands such as The Rolling Stones have recorded there

# Country

## Main Artists

- Jimmie Rodgers ('Blue Yodel' 1927)
- Hank Williams
- Jonny Cash ('I Walk The Line' 1956)
- Patsy Cline
- Jim Reeves
- Tammy Wynette
- Dolly Parton ('Jolene' 1973)
- Shania Twain
- Taylor Swift

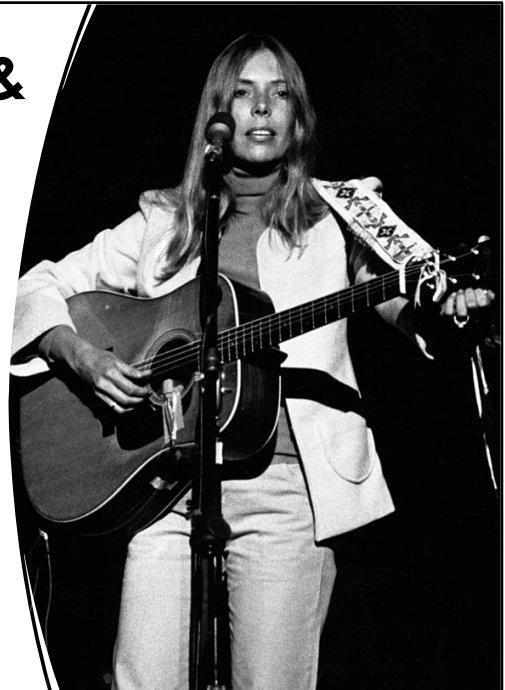


- Pictured: Jonny Cash

# American Folk-Rock & Country-Rock

## Key Facts

- **Rock'n'roll** had lost its popularity by the 60s and the US was looking for a new original sound
- What followed was the birth of **folk-rock** and **country-rock**

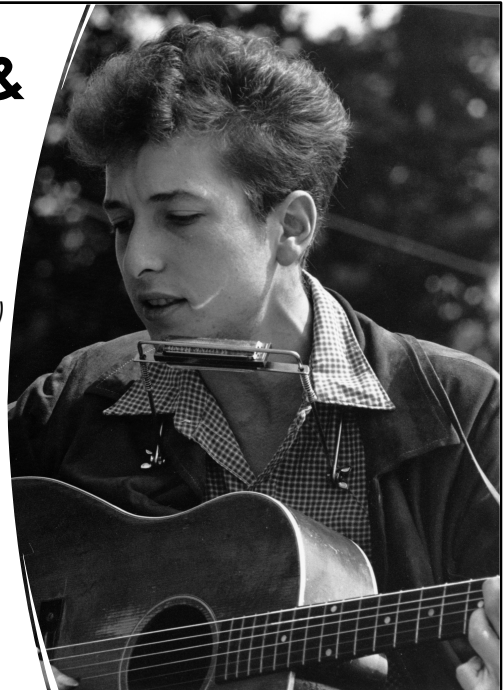


- Pictures: Joni Mitchell
- The music charts were dominated by the 'British invasion' of the 60s (The Beatles etc.) as well as the emergence of Soul music from the southern states

# American Folk-Rock & Country-Rock

## Main Artists

- Bob Dylan (*'Knockin' On Heaven's Door'* 1973)
- Neil Young
- Crosby, Stills and Nash
- Joni Mitchell (*'Both Sides Now'* 1966)
- The Allman Brothers
- The Eagles (*'Hotel California'* 1976)

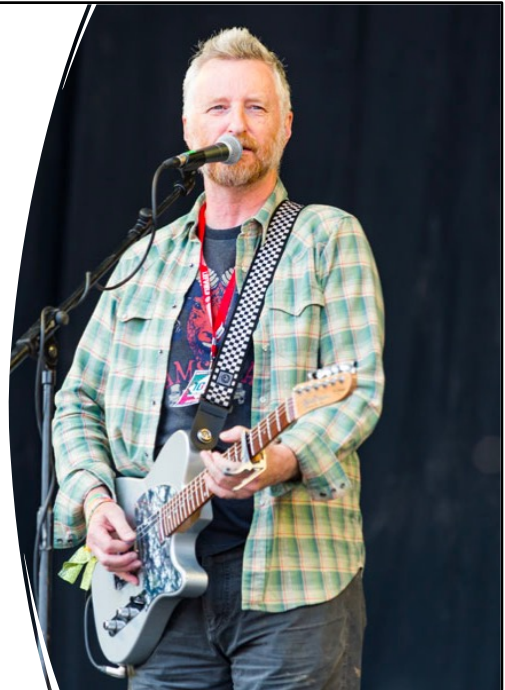


- Pictured: Bob Dylan

# Modern Folk & Acoustic

## Key Facts

- Starting in the **70s**, Folk music began to fuse with other styles
- Some solo singers stuck to more traditional folk songs
- In the early **00s** many pop artists would record 'acoustic' versions of their songs



- Pictures: Billie Bragg
- Genres include prog. Rock, punk etc.
- BBC Radio One Live Lounge gained popularity due to this

## Modern Folk & Acoustic Main Artists

- Capercaillie ('*Skye Waulking Song*' 2000)
- Billy Bragg
- Kate Rusby ('*Awkward Annie*' 2007)
- Noah and the Whale
- Mumford and Sons
- Bon Iver
- Laura Marling
- Ed Sheeran ('*The A Team*' 2011)



- Pictured: Ed Sheeran



# Technology and Production

- **Clean, clear** and **accurate** recordings of acoustic instruments
- **Electric guitar** is generally **clean** and **slightly twangy**
- **Less** focus on **production tricks**



- Pictured: Taylor Swift
- Many of the studios within the Nashville recording industry have been at the forefront of music production since the 1960s