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Unit 11 Discussion

Charles Edward Anderson Berry, with another word Chuck Berry, comes from St Louis, Missouri, born on 18th October 1926. In his teenage years, he started learning how to play the guitar since he grew up in a musical family. Despite the challenges he went through as a young man, Chuck was able to release his first song, "Maybellene," from the Chess Label in 1955, which ranked as top five on pop charts for eleven weeks. This catapulted his musical career further since he kept releasing hit songs and performing in concerts (Italie, 2017). Chuck contributed to rock and roll by creating a combination of rhythm and blues and combining guitar sounds, which have inspired rock and roll groups like the Rolling Stone and the Beatles. Second, during one of his performances in 1956, Chuck invented "the duck walk." It is a dance move he used to hide wrinkles on his outfits since he did not have a change of clothes during his performance. The dance move became a big part of the rock and roll genre.

On 3rd February 1959 is considered "the day the music died" based on the American Pie song because it showcases the deaths of rock and roll musicians like ¹Buddy Holly, J.P Richardson, and Ritchie Valens. They died from a plane crash as they were leaving a show from Clear Lake, Iowa, to their next tour in Moorhead, Minnesota. The American Pie artist Don McLean wrote that song in memory of the young artist and his friends' tragic death at a young age (Eames, 2020). To further commemorate Holly's death, the Beatles chose their name as respect to his previous band name, the Crickets.

The Payola scandal in the music business refers to payment secretly handed out to disc jockey players to promote a song for airplay. In the 1950s, several disc jockey players admitted to having received money for record labels during the rock and roll era to evaluate the commercial viability of the produced records (Fagan, 2018). In 1960, the disc jockey role of

music selection was discontinued after the then-Congressman amended the Communications Act.

Mike Stoller and Jerry Leiber were rock and roll songwriters who created some of the rock and roll defining songs and sounds. They worked with artists such as Elvis Presley, The Drifters, and The Coasters. Their writing skills and creativity added an edge to rock and roll music making them enlisted in 1985 Songwriters Hall of Fame together with 1987 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (Teachrock, n.d). The duo combined the sound of rhythms and blues with pop lyrics to revolutionize rock and roll, including Stoller's hook melodies and piano skills towards blues. For instance, in 1956, the duo recomposed the "Hound Dog" song into a rock and roll song for Elvis Presley, which became a number one hit globally in 1956. Big Mama Thornton originally did the song in 1952; it was written and composed by the duo and became an instant hit in 1953.

Ray Charles Robinson, born on 23rd September 1930 in Georgia specifically in Albany was dubbed as a Genius since he was a composer, pianist, and singer who is credited for fusing rhythm and blues, jazz, and gospel music to create R&B (Mito, 2019). Despite his blindness, this did not stop him from pursuing his musical career since he grew up in a musical family. His gospel roots helped with his music composition, which also generated a new sound that revolutionized the soul music genre. A lot of musicians were influenced by his style of music that they adapted to using his sounds. In addition, despite influencing the R&B culture back in the 1960s, in his music, he also sensitized on the struggles of the African American citizens by taking a stand on segregation that was happening in the South through gospel-infused R&B songs.

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