

Daniel Smith

BLUES CONTEXTS : RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Firstly, the excellent BBC FOUR, 2-part series "BLUES AMERICA" looks at the BLUES narrative from the end of the American Civil War in 1865 right up to contemporary times.

Each part is just under 60 minutes.

** For an incredibly detailed bite-size history of the blues and its origins, from the 16th century(!) up to the 1950s, see the end of this document, on the next page**

BLUES AMERICA, Part 1 of 2: "Woke Up This Morning"

1865/1900 onwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hZMHLGMpzc>

BLUES AMERICA, Part 2 of 2: "Bright Lights, Big City"

1940s to contemporary blues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AoQqTYjFSA>

Next, the 6-part BBC production, "SOUL DEEP; THE STORY OF BLACK POPULAR MUSIC"

...is an impressive musical mapping exercise... from blues/gospel, through genres including rhythm'n'blues, soul, Motown, pop, hip-hop & modern r'n'b.

Each part is c60 minutes and I add <reference 'tags'> to each part for your information.

SOUL DEEP; THE STORY OF BLACK POPULAR MUSIC.

Episode1 THE BIRTH OF SOUL <1930s, Ray Charles, rhythm'n'blues and onwards>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9gzhDst918&t=247s>

Episode2 THE GOSPEL HIGHWAY <The 1960s and the Legacy of Sam Cooke>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfPMjIPm4x4>

Episode3 THE SOUND OF YOUNG AMERICA <Berry Gordy, Smokey Robinson, Detroit and Motown>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBtB8W2bf3E>

Episode4 SOUTHERN SOUL <Otis Redding, The Coming Together of Black & White and Stax>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMhuUaSpwSU>

Episode5 AIN'T IT FUNKY <James Brown, Funk, Primetime to Hip-Hop and Fighting The Power>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LufrTX0lIVY>

Episode6 FROM G-HETTO TO FABULOUS <Hip-Hop Soul, Mary J. Blige, Modern R'n'B & Today's Predominant Sound>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7dA5m5X_Fg&t=1755s

Accessed, reviewed and compiled by Daniel Smith 22/08/22

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An incredibly detailed bite-size history of the blues and its origins, from the 16th century(!) up to the 1950s, written by **Panos Charalampidis** - blues guitarist from Athens www.facebook.com/panos.haralampidis/music
Each of the 10 parts is 'between 7 and 12 minutes, and I log them below...

THE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE BLUES

1	16th-17th century	<i>The life & musical traditions of African-Americans during the first two centuries of the colonization of the New World. We see the role of Work Songs and Field Hollers during slavery, and how these musical expressions helped keep some African traditions alive.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv7MBTK7kpw&t=234s
2	18th-19th century	<i>The birth of Negro Spirituals after the Christianization of many slaves in the end of 18th century. We see how the unavoidable musical exchange between different peoples during these centuries, caused black and white 'folk music' to evolve hand-in-hand.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7z4pRaZNIM&t=632s
3	Gospel, Minstrelsy and Vaudeville	<i>This episode, investigates the period after the Civil War (when former slaves, restricted by Jim Crow laws, cut off from white society) began to revitalize their own culture. We see how Gospel music got popularized by the "Fisk Jubilee Singers", while other African American artists found a way into the entertainment business participating in Minstrel shows and Vaudeville shows.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4HJp5BpKCA
4	Pop, Ragtime & Jazz	<i>This episode talks about the rise of new music styles at the end of 19th century. We see how Ragtime music in the South and Midwest, and Jazz Bands in New Orleans, were evolving in parallel to the Pop tunes of Tin Pan Alley in New York.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILEg_qPs8x0
5	Proto-Blues	<i>This episode, talks about the first Blues-like music that developed in the South at the end of the 19th century, leading to the birth of Vaudeville and Downhome Blues. This Proto-Blues style had both African and European characteristics... a true American creation.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liRv81g7xw
6	1900 - 1920	<i>African-American music after the turn of the 20th century. The rise of Ragtime and Dixieland Jazz led to the first recordings of that kind of music. Meanwhile female singers began incorporating Blues tunes in their Vaudeville routines, and songsters were playing "Downhome" Blues songs accompanied by their guitar.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0YypXWoRaE
7	1920s	<i>The social and technological developments in the '20s and their influence on the American music. We see how technological developments helped the expansion of Folk music & meet some of the first & most influential Blues figures of that decade.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lnoy1qazCUw
8	1930s	<i>The decade of the Great Depression where the first national Pop stars were born. We see how Blues music changed after the migration of many blues artists to the cities of the North to find work and make records. We see the parallel evolution of Country music and we meet some important artists that began their career in this decade.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afhziOQ8IVQ&t=271s
9	1940s	<i>American music in the '40s, when electrically amplified instruments replaced the acoustic ones, and new genres, like Rhythm 'n' Blues and Jump Blues, emerged. We also meet some more important blues artists that began their career in that decade.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWQzLYckVsk&t=16s
10	1950s	<i>Electric Chicago Blues, the rise of Rock 'n' Roll, and the "Nashville" sound in the '50s. We also meet some of the most important Blues artists of that decade.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzJtxVIIpno

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