



Carthage

**Foster to The Beatles:
America's History
through Music.**

**A JUNIOR SYMPOSIUM
RECITAL**

**Alissa Baylen
&
Katie Biank**

Revolution 1: Birth of American Popular Music

The Grandfather's Clock

Henry C. Work
(1832-1884)

Katie Biank, Soprano Scott Jones, Tenor
Alissa Baylen, Alto Anthony 'Chunk' Gullo, Bass

The Amorous Goldfish from The Geisha

Lyrics, Harry Greenbank
(1865-1899)
Music, Sidney Jones
(1861-1946)

Alissa Baylen

Revolution 2: New Things, New Thoughts

Let's Call the Whole Thing Off

George and Ira Gershwin
(1898-1937) (1896-1983)

Katie Biank and Alissa Baylen

Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man from Showboat

Lyrics, Oscar Hammerstein II
(1895-1960)
Music, Jerome Kern
(1885-1945)

Alissa Baylen

Revolution 3: Testing the Limits

Imagine

John Lennon
(1940-1980)

Katie Biank

Take Me or Leave Me from Rent

Jonathan Larson
(1960-1996)

Katie Biank

Revolution #1

History:

America fought for and won its independence from England in 1776. Politically, America was free from European control, however, the European influence was still strongly felt in America through the arts and other mediums. American popular music arose through the influence of President Andrew Jackson after he was elected in 1829. Jackson was the first president from the middle class, and therefore, his tastes were much like the common man, down-to-earth and less sophisticated. Much of the music written during this time reflected these characteristics. Music was written for the amateur musician as well as the professional performer. One of the foremost American composers of the time was Stephen Foster. He helped to create a truly American style with songs like "Camptown Races" and "Oh Susanna." These upbeat simple minstrel songs focus on contemporary American life. They are still widely known today, over a hundred years after their height of popularity.

Literature:

Washington Irving

Washington Irving, a breakthrough American author, was one of the first American writers to be known internationally; he worked as a writer, publicist, editor, and a diplomat. His books became instant classics. Irving wrote many satires and he used German folktales as his source for such well-known works as *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*. The story *Rip Van Winkle* is based on a folktale that tells the account of an unhappily married yet amiable fellow. He goes off into the mountains, falls asleep for twenty years, and comes back to find his wife dead which allows him to pursue a life he truly enjoys. The following excerpt is from the conclusion of Washington Irving's story *Rip Van Winkle*.

The story of Rip Van Winkle may seem incredible to many, but nevertheless I give it my full belief, for I know the vicinity or our old Dutch settlements to have been very subject to marvelous events and appearances. Indeed, I have heard many stranger stories than this, in the villages along the Hudson; all of which were too well authenticated to admit of a doubt.

I have even talked with Rip Van Winkle myself, who, when last I saw him, was a very venerable old man, and so perfectly rational and consistent on every other point, that I think no conscientious person could refuse to take this into the bargain; nay, I have seen a certificate on the subject taken before a country justice, and signed with a cross, in the justice's own hand writing. The story, therefore, is beyond the possibility of doubt.

Revolution #2

History:

During World War I, the U.S. was a large supplier to the allied forces in Europe. This caused the U.S. to experience an economic boom, which allowed more money to be spent on the entertainment industry. Nightclubs boomed with the sounds of dance music, and it was here that jazz found its fans. These nightclubs were the centers of racial integration where African-American musicians provided dance music for whites. African-Americans also excelled in other artistic mediums. An entire movement called the Harlem Renaissance was devoted to the outburst of creative production in art, literature and music. This movement contributed to the revolt against racism and recognized, not only creativity, but the intelligence of musicians and writers such as Louie Armstrong, Duke Ellington, W.E.B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes.

Not only did the 1920s experience social evolutions, but it also experienced technological inventions. One such advancement that shaped the music industry was amplification. With the ability to amplify the voice, musicians with softer voices could now be heard in any venue. Crooning became a popular vocal style through singers like Russ Columbo and Bing Crosby. These "crooners" had a sweet expressive sound that utilized the fox-trot style and slower tempos.

Literature:

Langston Hughes- *Theme for English B*

While attending college, Hughes was assigned to write an essay that defined or described who he was.

Knowing he was the only African-American in the class, he chose to describe himself in comparison to the white man and more specifically to his professor. Hughes is a modernist writer and utilizes characteristics of modern literature. His poetic charm can be seen in *Theme for English B* through the use of various points of view and a 'twoness' technique. Through the words of his essay, you can see his struggle to survive in a white man's world, yet the determination he shared with fellow New York City artists and leaders of the Harlem Renaissance. The follow is an excerpt from the essay.

I guess being colored doesn't make me NOT like
the same things other folks like who are other races.
So will my page be colored that I write?
Being me, it will not be white.
But it will be
a part of you, instructor.
You are white---
yet a part of me, as I am a part of you.
That's American.

Revolution #3

History:

This final revolution of American History begins at the end of World War II. It was a prosperous and happy time, the "Leave it to Beaver" era. However, America soon found itself in the Cold War and an underlying tension and fear pervaded the nation. During this era a new style of music emerged which combined several diverse genres of Rhythm and Blues, Gospel, Country, and Jazz. This new style was termed "Rock and Roll". Rock and Roll was one of the first musical styles to be aimed at teenagers. Elvis Presley helped to solidify this teen-related, upbeat, danceable music. Rock and Roll lost it's "Roll" and became known as "Rock." As the genre developed, Rock maintained its rebellious roots, but slowed down the tempo and a subdivided the beat. The Beatles led the new "Rock" movement.

Rock music became the language of protests during the Vietnam War. Today, Rock continues to contain a constant seed of rebellion. Rock musicians wish to push the envelope of what is and isn't allowed. People like Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Madonna, and Jonathan Larson have helped to pave the way for expanding the controversial into the acceptable.

Literature:

Ernest Hemmingway- In Our Time-#3

An incredible author, Ernest Hemmingway won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. He was a journalist and a former ambulance driver during World War I. Hemmingway did not sugar coat life; he sometimes went into horrific detailed accounts of traumatic events. In his short story cycle "In Our Time," Hemmingway gives a dramatic account of American life and war. The following is a passage short story #3.

Everybody was drunk. The whole battery was drunk going along the road in the dark. We were going to the Champagne. The lieutenant kept riding his horse out into the fields and saying to him, "I'm drunk, I tell you, mon viuex. Oh, I am so soused." We went along the road all night in the dark and the adjutant kept riding up alongside my kitchen and saying, "You must put it out. It is dangerous. It will be observed." We were fifty kilometers from the front but the adjutant worried about the fire in my kitchen. It was funny going along that road. That was when I was a kitchen corporeal.

*A Great big "thank you" to Greg Berg who is accompanying us tonight and also to Amy Haines and Corrine Ness for helping us prepare our music! Thanks to Scott and Chunk for singing tonight. We, of course, want to thank our families; without them we wouldn't be the music-loving people we are today. We also want to thank our friends for their support and encouragement. Most importantly, we would like to thank YOU for coming tonight, we hope you enjoy our recital! ☺