

**It's All About the Song:
The Mount Olympus of American Pop-Rock Songwriters
Syllabus**

Instructor: Pete Elman

** suggested reading, listening, and viewing:*

--High quality DVD film clips of each songwriter or others artists performing that songwriter's material are listed here, by week, as youtube clips. Simply click on each url to access the video. Due to the large amount of broadband necessary to transmit full color, film-quality videos with audio, the quality of these videos would suffer if transmitted online through zoom. This way you can watch them at your leisure, as many times as you'd like—for free.

Week 1: Chuck Berry

Reading:

Chuck Berry: the Autobiography (2001)

Brown Eyed Handsome Man: The Life and Hard Times of Chuck Berry, by Bruce Pegg,

Listening:

The Great Twenty-Eight, Chuck Berry, (Chess, 1982)

Chuck Berry Is On Top (Chess, 1959)

St. Louis to Liverpool (Chess, 1964)

Viewing:

The Tami Show (1964)

Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' roll, Chuck Berry with Keith Richard, (1987)

video clips (youtube)

You can't catch me, 1956, from the film "rock, rock, rock"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jKrHzps0XM>

Sweet little sixteen, 1958 from *Bandstand*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLV4NGpoy_E

around and around, the Stones, 1964 *the TAMI show*

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

back in the USA, with Linda Ronstadt, from *Hail Hail Rock and Roll*, 1986

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERVLY-ltjHs>

Week 2: Buddy Holly:

Reading:

Remembering Buddy: The Definitive Biography Of Buddy Holly (2001), John Goldrosen

The Day the Music Died: The Last Tour Of Buddy Holly, The Big Bopper, And Richie Valens 2003 by Larry Lehmer

Listening:

20 Golden Greats, Buddy Holly and the Crickets (EMI, 1978)
Memorial Collection 2009 (Decca, Geffen)

Viewing:

The Buddy Holly Story, dir. by Steve Rash (1978)

video clips (youtube)

Peggy Sue, from *Arthur Murray Dance Party*, 1957

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

not fade away, *Mike Douglas*, 1964

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dZSOXZcQfQ>

oh boy, from *Ed Sullivan Show*, 1958

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j53OPR-cuYY>

words of love, Paul McCartney 1987

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNJHS7Y8LIA>

Week 3: Carole King and Gerry Goffin

Reading:

Always Magic in the Air: The Bomp and Brilliance of the Brill Building Era, Emerson
A Natural Woman: A Memoir: Carole King (2012)

Listening:

Pearls: Songs of Goffin and King, by Carole King 1980 Capitol Records

Tapestry, 1970 by Carole King

Viewing:

About Carole King: Natural Woman; American masters, PBS (2016)

Troubadours: Carole King / James Taylor & The Rise of the Singer-Songwriter: PBS

video clips (youtube)

I'm into something good, Herman's Hermits, 1965

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdfG6t6VL8s>

wasn't born to follow, Byrds, from *Easy Rider* 1969

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hEfcawx6Fc>

you've got a friend, James Taylor 1999

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WJ1cf3nrLE>

Natural Woman, Aretha Franklin, 2015 Kennedy Center awards

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHsnZT7Z2vQ>

Week 4: Brian Wilson

Reading:

Catch a Wave: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of Brian Wilson by Peter Ames Carlin
The Nearest Faraway Place, Timothy White, 1996

Listening:

Summer Days (And Summer Nights!!) The Beach Boys, (Capitol, 1965)

Pet Sounds, The Beach Boys (1966)

Viewing:

The TAMI show, 1964

Love and Mercy (feature film, 2014)

video clips (youtube)

I get around TAMI show, 1964

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

surfer girl TAMI show, 1964

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL25lgUvPgs>

The making of good vibrations

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

Pet Stories, from The making of Pet Sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0vAL8dHBxA>

Week 5: Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil

Reading:

Always Magic in the Air: The Bomp and Brilliance of the Brill Building Era, Emerson

Listening:

Born to Be Together: The Songs of Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil

Viewing:

“The Brill Building, a Documentary” 1999

video clips (youtube)

Barry and Cynthia on Theater talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmkYjn3DPh8>

Animals, We Gotta get out of this place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3mgapAcVdU>

Barry and Cynthia on songwriting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-9Q1ECAY4>

Week 6: Paul Simon

Reading:

Simon and Garfunkel: The Biography by Victoria Kingston

Listening:

Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M. (1964)

Sounds of Silence (1966)

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme (1966)

Bookends(1968)

Bridge over Troubled Water (1970)

Graceland 1986

There Goes Rhymin' Simon, 1973

Still Crazy after all These Years 1975

Graceland 1986

Viewing:

Rock Hall of Fame 25th anniversary concert, 2009

Concert in Central Park, DVD, 1982

video clips (youtube)

Homeward Bound, from BBC 1975

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yspg1R6pSal>

Me and julio official music video 1982

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6VrKro8djw>
diamonds on the soles of my shoes, with Ladysmith Black Mambazo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fmf9ZJ_Yn0A

Week 7: Jackson Browne

Reading:

Jackson Browne: The Story of a Hold Out Paperback – 1982, by Rich Wiseman

Listening:

The Very Best of Jackson Browne

video clips (youtube)

Before the Deluge 2006 with David Lindley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8y45mAGJRA>

The Load-out and Stay

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scsJZ67ssDY>

The Pretender, with Crosby and Nash, from the Rock Hall 25 anniversary concert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV03illYdTM>

Running on Empty, from No Nukes 1979

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNmIbSre7Tw>

Week 8: Joni Mitchell

Reading:

Joni Mitchell: In Her Own Words, by Malka Marom (2014)

Listening:

Clouds (1969)

Ladies of the Canyon (1970)

Blue (1971)

For the Roses (1972)

Court and Spark (1974)

The Hissing of Summer Lawns (1975)

Viewing:

The Last Waltz, 1977 “Coyote” with The Band

1991 Joni Mitchell VH1 interview

video clips (youtube)

I was born to take the highway 1965

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUNrZFreRx4>

Chelsea Morning from Dick Cavett show, 1969

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXe95iTtcI0>

Big yellow taxi, Both Sides Now, from BBC 1969

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFB-d-8_bvY