

# Introduction

March 31, 2026

Ted H. Schaar

The following pages hold a draft my colleague and friend Paul T. Setser\* (1952—2020) wrote.

It's dated September 6, 1996, so probably that is about the time he gave it to me on a 3.5" x 3.5" floppy diskette. Image below.



We'd get together occasionally, and he often talked about this project. Though I'm not sure, I believe he continued adding to the story and refining what he had already written, hoping to publish a book.

After he died, I found the floppy and eventually decided I would try to make its content available to his family, friends, and anyone else who might be interested.

First stop was Editran in Brookfield, a service that specializes in retrieving content from various antiquated media and converting it to digital files. Personnel there were unable to open anything on the floppy. A business I found on the East Coast wanted more than \$700. Decided to keep looking.

Soon found RetroFloppy (<https://retrofloppy.com/>) in North Carolina. Quote was a little over \$50.00 including return shipping. The company was also easy to work with. I received Paul's data looking like following:

1990:

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APRIL 8: Andrew Lloyd Webber's ASPECTS OF LOVE opened at
          New York's Broadhurst Theatre for a run of 377
          performances.
MAY: ?? The Beach Boys took Brian Wilson to court in an
       attempt to wrest his $80 million fortune from
       him. They maintained he was insane and unable to
       look after himself. His medical condition was
       confirmed (extreme introversion, pathological
       shyness and manic depression). Wilson eventually
       accepted a settlement.
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\* For my remembrance of Paul, visit <https://tswrites.com/Setsurround.pdf>

I'm all but certain this isn't how he intended it to look. But it's how a 30 years newer system decoded and displayed it. I wanted to make the content easier to read so hired Md, a specialist at freelancer.com, to left justify the data and remove tabs. He did an excellent job.

Next I went through and applied standard italics and quotation marks to song, play, movie, etc. titles and reformatted the text. Question marks were left where I found them. I think they flag assertions Paul wanted to research further but that's just a guess.

Here and there I corrected spelling but did not edit the piece or do a fact check. I wanted Paul to shine through "...like the moon and the stars and the sun..." as John Lennon put it in "Instant Karma."

Much of the content is familiar to me having grown up in the same decades as Paul. But there are plenty of surprises, too. Younger people will find many interesting facts in Paul's draft.

He was a smart guy with a masters degree in music, a sharp songwriter, keyboardist (including accordion), guitarist, writer, and singer and always a cool, friendly, and well-meaning naked ape.

And certainly he was a perfectionist so if he were around, he'd have a slew of changes.

Those who knew him will always miss him...but that's life.



# The Rock Musical, Film, And Concept Album Diary/1877-1996

September 6, 1996: 1877-1950

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**Paul T. Setser 2018**

Image courtesy of  
*Riverwest Currents*  
Ellen C. Warren

## The Building Blocks Of Traditional Musical Theatre

**1877**

?? Alexander Graham Bell invented the speaking telephone.

December: ?? The 30-year-old Thomas Edison invented the "phonograph or speaking machine"; the sound being recorded on a hand-cranked cylinder wrapped in tin foil.

## 1878

February 19: Edison patented his "phonograph."

## 1882

June 17: Igor Stravinsky was born in Organienbaum, Russia. ?? Richard Wagner completed his last operatic work, *Parsifal* in Bayreuth, Germany. Wagner had sought a new fusion of music and drama in a form uniting all the arts, a "Gesamtkunstwerk." As both a librettist and composer, he was in a unique position to attain his aim. Primary emphasis was placed on dramatic continuity.

## 1883

February 13: Richard Wagner died in Venice, Italy.

## 1887

?? Emile Berliner's improvements on the phonograph included very breakable shellac platters with a single song on each side and revolving at 78 rpm (four minutes to a side). He called his version the "gramophone."

## 1896

?? Marconi patented radio. ?? French Playwright Alfred Jarry's iconoclastic play *Ubu Roi* ("Ubu the King") premiered in Paris, causing a riotously angry impact. Its grotesque confrontational slap at the arts establishment of the time helped define avant garde theatre in the next century. It influenced every modern art movement from dada to symbolism to surrealism to Artuad's Theatre of Cruelty (and maybe to hardcore shock punker, G.G. Allen also).

Jarry's play scandalized the French audience with the use of the word "merdre" ("shit"), intending to assault the sensibilities of the bourgeois society Jarry was parodying. At the same time, the playwright could not resist creating an entertaining show, making it a perfect jumping off point to Brecht-Weill's 1928 *The Three Penny Opera*. The tale followed the exploits of Pa Ubu, ex-king of Aragon and now chief of the Polish Dragoons and his vicious wife Ma Ubu, as they assassinated King Wenceslas and take over Poland. The Ubus turned their blatant evil into a mockery of society's pretensions. They were loud and obscene, gross and ugly, cowardly and greedy, but within these exaggerations they became absurd, like clowns poking holes in our existing taboos.

## 1898

September 26: George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn, New York.

**1899**

April 29: Edwards Kennedy (Duke) Ellington was born in Washington D.C.

**1900**

March 2: Kurt Weill was born in Dessau, Germany.

**1902**

June 28: Richard Rodgers was born in New York.

**1903**

?? Edwin Porter's film *The Great Train Robbery* became the first movie play.

**1904**

?? The first song recorded by an original cast was "Old Folks At Home" from the show *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* released by the Victor Talking Machine Company.

**1911**

?? Richard Strauss' opera *Der Rosenkavalier* premiered.

**1913**

?? Stravinsky's ballet *Rite Of Spring* premiered and provoked a near riot in Paris.

**1915**

?? Scott Joplin wrote the first "ragtime operas" *Treemonisha* and *A Guest Of Honor*; both stage productions.

**1921**

?? Alban Berg's operatic masterpiece *Wozzack* premiered, welding together atonal and tonal elements.

**1926**

?? NBC, the first radio network, signs on the air.

## The Birth Of The Integrated Musical

### 1927

October 6: *The Jazz Singer*, starring stage singer Al Jolson, opened in New York, and ushered in the era of "talkies" and motion picture sync sound. The film helped to double national movie attendance to 95 million people a week.

?? Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II created the landmark Broadway musical *Showboat*.

### 1928

December 18: Galt MacDermont was born in Montreal, Canada.

?? Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht wrote *The Three Penny Opera* in Berlin. ?? The theremin musical instrument was developed by Russian inventor Leon Theremin. The electronic fluctuant-pitch instrument made an eerie, wailing sound and was traditionally used in horror films.

### 1929

?? The first Oscar was awarded.

Other Events in the late 1920s: ?? Les Paul, a 13-year-old in Waukesha, Wisconsin, electrified his hollow body guitar by taking an electric pickup (the stylus from a phonograph) and jamming it into the top of his Sears instrument, feeding the output through a radio to amplify and monitor the sound.

### 1930

"High Fidelity" became a buzz phrase in the record business. ?? Color TV was demonstrated by Bell Labs.

### 1934

?? Robert Moog was born.

### 1935

January 8: Elvis Presley was born in East Tupelo, Mississippi.

June 24: Terry Riley was born in Colfax, California.

Other Events in 1935: ?? George Gershwin composed the score for the folk/jazz opera *Porgy And Bess*? Radio program *Your Hit Parade* took to the air in the U.S.

## 1938

July 11: George Gershwin died in Beverly Hills, California.?? An original cast album from the musical *The Cradle Will Rock* was released by Musicraft Records on seven 12-inch discs. The original musicians were not included on the recording however.

## 1940

December 25: Rodgers and Hart's musical *Pal Joey* opened at New York's Ethel Barrymore Theatre for a run of 374 performances. It was a major breakthrough in bringing about a more adult form of musical theatre. It featured a heel for the hero, a smokey nightclub ambiance, and true-to-life fictional characters. The show starred Gene Kelly and featured the classic song "Bewitched."

December 26: Phil Spector was born in the Bronx, New York.

## 1941

May 24: Bob Dylan was born.

?? Les Paul built his first solid body electric guitar which he called "the log."

## 1942

June 2: Brian Wilson was born at Centinela Hospital in Inglewood, California. ??

Capitol Records was founded by singer/songwriter Johnny Mercer, Broadway lyricist Buddy DeSylva, and Glenn Wallichs, an L.A. record store owner. They became the first label to provide DJs with free copies, opening a new era of record promotion.

## THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

### 1943

January 3: Van Dyke Parks was born in Mississippi.

March 31: Rodgers and Hammerstein II's musical *Oklahoma!* Opened at New York's St. James Theatre and had a run of 2,248 performances.

May 8: Toni Tennille was born in Montgomery, Alabama.

November 28: Randy Newman was born. He was the nephew of film composer Alfred Newman.

September 9: Roger Waters was born.

October 5: Steve Miller was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Les Paul was a friend of the family.

December 8: Jim Morrison was born in Melbourne, Florida.

Other Events in 1943: ?? *Oklahoma!* became the first musical to have an original cast and original musician recording of a whole show. The show was released by Decca Records on a series of 10-inch discs. ?? Leo Fender's concept of a "direct string pickup unit" for guitar electrification became a prototype that was rented to musicians.

### **1944**

November 1: Keith Emerson was born in Todmorden, Yorkshire, England.

November 10: Tim Rice was born in Amersham, England.

### **1945**

January 27: Nick Mason was born.

April 19: Rodgers and Hammerstein II's musical *Carousel* opened at New York's Majestic Theatre for a run of 890 performances. One notable song was "You'll Never Walk Alone."

May 19: Pete Townshend was born in Chiswick, London, England, the son of singer Betty Dennis and respected saxophonist Cliff Townshend.

June 14: Rod Argent was born in St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, England.

July 28: Richard Wright was born.

August 31: Van Morrison was born in Belfast, Ireland.

### **1946**

January 6: Roger Keith (Syd) Barret was born.

March 6: David Gilmour was born.

July 15: Linda Maria Ronstadt was born in Tucson, Arizona, daughter of a professional musician. ?? Leo Fender introduced the Fender Fine Line Electric Instruments, consisting of electrified steel guitars.

### **1947**

April 8: David Robert Jones (David Bowie) was born in Brixton, London, England.

August 10: Ian Anderson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. 23: Keith Moon was born in Wembley, London, England.

## 1948

March 22: Andrew Lloyd Webber was born in London, England.

MAY 15: Brian Eno was born in Woodbridge, Suffolk, England.

Other Events in 1948: Technology Marches On ?? Columbia Records introduced the 33 and 1/3 long playing, microgroove vinyl record, which became the new standard, eventually displacing the 78 rpm record. Cole Porter's musical *Kiss Me, Kate* was the first original cast album released in this format. ?? The 45 rpm record was introduced, and eventually became the preferred format among young audiences. ?? Capitol Records abandoned the cumbersome acetate-disc mode of recording in favor of the versatile new magnetic tape.

## 1949

April 7: Rodgers and Hammerstein II premiered the musical *South Pacific* at New York's Majestic Theatre. It had a run of 1,925 performances.

May 18: Rick Wakeman was born in London, England.

December 7: Tom Waits was born in Pomona, California. ?? Capitol Records became the first label to begin manufacturing records in all three speeds—45, 33 and 1/3, and 78 rpm. ?? Nine-year-old Phil Spector moved with his mother and sister to the Fairfax section of Los Angeles after his father committed suicide in New York.

Other Events in the 1940s: Late 40s: ?? Les Paul added extra heads to his reel-to-reel magnetic tape recorder, creating sound on sound recording. ?? Mills Novelty Co. produced song-length, musical shorts called Panoram Soundies, tried in a jukebox style format, a forerunner of the the music video.

## 1950

February 13: Peter Gabriel was born at Woking Hospital, in Surrey, England.

April 3: Kurt Weill died in New York City.

May 13: Steveland Judkins (Stevie Wonder) was born in Saginaw, Michigan.

## 1951

March 29: Rodgers and Hammerstein II's musical *The King And I* opened at New York's St. James theatre, for a run of 1,246 performances.

December 29: Yvonne Elliman was born in Hawaii. ?? Bernard Herrmann used a theremin in his score for the science fiction classic *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. ?? Howard Ashman was born in Baltimore, Maryland.

## 1952

?? The invention of the transistor opened the door to the revolution in solid state electronics.

## 1953

?? Les Paul built a multitrack recorder with tape loop echo.

## ROCK 'N' ROLL IS HERE TO STAY

## 1954

April 12: Bill Haley and the Comets recorded the song "Rock Around The Clock" at Pythian Temple on Manhattan's west side.

July 5: Elvis Presley recorded his first single "That's All Right" at Sun Records studio in Memphis. Studio owner and producer Sam Phillips focused on the innovative use of tape echo rather than the cavernous, bath-roomy effect obtained by the over-lavish use of echo chamber so beloved of contemporary producers. Phillips' method gave Presley's records a larger-than-life quality, and a "presence" that gave the material an indefinable lift and vitality. This contributed in no small part to the successful introduction of the new rock and roll sound on a whole generation. Phillips was a true studio pioneer, and set the stage for such dominating producer personalities as Phil Spector. September: ?? Alan Freed began his controversial stint as a deejay at WINS in New York.

Other Events in 1954: ?? Les Paul and Ampex built an 8-track tape recorder with sound on sound.

## 1955

May 14: Bill Haley and his Comets released the single "Rock Around The Clock," from the movie *Blackboard Jungle*. The song went to Number 1, staying on the charts for 24 weeks. The film gave many teenagers their first chance to hear rock n' roll when the song played for the opening titles.

August 25: Declan McManus (Elvis Costello) was born in Paddington, London, England, the son of singer and bandleader Ross McManus, but brought up in Liverpool.

Other Events in 1955: ?? Electric and Musical Industries Ltd. of Great Britain (EMI Music) entered the American music market by purchasing a majority interest in Capitol Records for \$8.5 million.

Other Events in the Mid 1950's: ?? Stereo records were introduced. ?? Chuck Berry pioneered one of the earliest examples of rock and roll showmanship, with his onstage "duck walk."

## 1956

February 25: Louis Armstrong released the single "Mack The Knife" (theme from the *Three Penny Opera*), which hit Number 20 and stayed on the charts for seven weeks. This theme was first heard in Berlin in 1928, with music by Kurt Weill, and words in German by Bertholt Brecht. In 1956, Marc Blitzstein translated the Berlin slang effectively into American for the Broadway theater. About 20 different versions were issued in 1956, but Armstrong's single was credited to have first popularized the revival.

March 3: Dick Hyman's Trio's instrumental, "Moritat" (a theme from the *Three Penny Opera*) was released on MGM Records. The single climbed to Number 7 on the *Cashbox* Top 100, staying on the charts for five weeks. In *Billboard*, the disc reached Number 9, and made the charts for 20 weeks. Of all the different versions of "Mack The Knife" released in 1956, Dick Hyman's Trio version became the most successful instrumental and was a million seller.

April 6: Capitol Records had the grand opening of its new headquarters and recording studio complex in Hollywood, reportedly "the world's first circular office building." 7: Bill Haley and his Comets released "R.O.C.K." another selection from the *Blackboard Jungle* film. The song reached Number 16, and stayed on the charts for five weeks. 28: The original cast recording from the Broadway musical *My Fair Lady* was released on Columbia Records. Starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews, the album hit Number 1, staying on the charts for a then incredible amount of 292 weeks.

Other Events in 1956: ?? Les Paul began using a multitrack recorder during live stage shows with vocalist Mary Ford, to create the multiple voices on their commercial recordings (which were released on Capitol Records).

## 1957

September 26: Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Jerome Robbins and Arthur Laurent's landmark musical *West Side Story* opened at New York's Winter Garden for a run of 732 performances. It lost out to *The Music Man* for the Best Musical of the Year Tony Award.

Other Events in 1957: ?? Sputnik was launched by the U.S.S.R.

## 1958

February: ?? The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) began issuing Gold Record awards based on an album or single's sales of a million records; the gold record total was reduced by 1960 to 500,000 units sold and then revised in 1961 to denote factory billings of \$1 million.

March 17: The original cast recording from the Broadway musical *West Side Story* was released on Columbia Records. The album made it to Number 5, staying on

the charts for 120 weeks. 19: Warner Bros. Records was founded at 10:00 a.m. by Jack L. Warner, Sr., president of Warner Bros. Film Studios.

September 28: The Teddy Bears released the single "To Know Him Is To Love Him" on Dore Records. The song was written by 17-year-old band member Phil Spector, and reached Number 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart.

October 14: Thomas Morgan Robertson (Thomas Dolby) was born in Cairo, Egypt.

December 1: Rodgers and Hammerstein II's musical *Flower Drum Song* premiered at New York's St. James Theatre for a run of 602 performances.

Other Events in 1958: ?? The first stereo record stylus was invented and manufactured.

## 1959

February 7: Bobby Darin released the single "Mack The Knife," from the *Three Penny Opera*, which reached Number 20, and stayed on the charts for seven weeks.

April 24: *Your Hit Parade* broadcast its last show, implicitly demonstrating that rock n' roll had established itself as a dominant form in popular culture.

November 16: Rodgers and Hammerstein II's musical *The Sound Of Music* opened at New York's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre for a run of 1,433 performances.

Other Events in 1959: ?? The solid state era took hold with the invention of the first transistor-based digital computer.



## Part 2

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 1, 1996):1960-1964

#### 1960

May 10: Paul Hewson (Bono) was born in Dublin, Eire, Ireland. 30: Ella Fitzgerald released her version of "Mack The Knife," which went to Number 27 in *Billboard*, and hit the charts for seven weeks.

July 18: The original cast recording from the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* was released on RCA. The album reached Number 12, staying on the charts for 21 weeks.

December 15: Reprise Records was born after Frank Sinatra announced plans to leave Capitol Records as a result of simmering royalty disputes and start his own label.

#### 1961

January 9: The Miracles released the single "Shop Around," the first major pop hit for Motown Records. The record hit Number 2, staying on the *Billboard* chart for nine weeks.

November 6: The Marvelettes released the single "Please Mr. Postman" on Motown. It climbed to Number 1 and stayed 11 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 20: The soundtrack from the movie *West Side Story* was released. The movie starred Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Rita Moreno, and George Chakiris. The album hit Number 1, staying on the charts for an impressive 144 weeks.

December 31: The Beach Boys performed their first concert at the Richie Valens Memorial Hop in Long Beach, California on New Year's Eve.

Other Events in 1961: ?? Ben E. King released the single "Spanish Harlem." The record was a monster. It was co-written by Phil Spector and Jerry Leiber. The song was one of the first "message" pop songs to make it big on Top 40 radio.

#### 1962

January 1: The Beatles are rejected by Decca Records in London.

February 17: The Beach Boys released the single "Surfin'" on Candix Records. It peaked at Number 75 in *Billboard*. A demo of the song had been recorded during the Labor Day weekend in 1961.

August 11: The Beach Boys released the single "Surfin' Safari" on Capitol Records. It reached Number 14 on the *Billboard* Top 100 chart. The melody was lifted from Chuck Berry's "Sweet Little Sixteen." It became the start of what was to be called the "California Sound."

September 8: The Crystals released the single "He's A Rebel" on Philles Records. The record became 21-year-old producer/Philles label owner Phil Spector's first Number 1 production. The song was recorded at the Gold Star Studios in Hollywood, using session men who were much younger than those Phil had previously worked with in New York. Compared to the tightly closed shops out east, the West Coast musicians were far more amenable to his revolutionary ideas. (A saying Spector used defined this philosophy: "one mike over everything.") A group of his regular session players (which included Leon Russell, Glen Campbell, Sonny Bono, and arranger Jack Nitzsche) gained the nickname "The Wrecking Crew," because they had a new spontaneous spirit that went counter to the stricter, formal conventions of the established studio musicians, who thought this new breed of "youngsters" were wrecking the old music industry system they had instituted.

Spector recorded the Gene Pitney song in an R&B vein with a sexy shuffle tempo, and heavy tom-tom "heartbeat" accents. The production created a picturesque immediacy and sensuous charge which came to be known as "The Spector Sound," influencing hit records through the decade. In the process, he raised the technique of overdubbing to a new peak, creating a sound never heard before. Spector's methods led to an entirely new class of record producer: the producer as overall director, a combination of altruistic organizer, shrewd businessman, and studio innovator. He controlled everything. Spector picked the bands, wrote or chose the material, supervised the the arrangements, directed the singers, masterminded all phases of the recording process, and released the result on his own label, independent of the supposedly all-powerful major record companies.

September 8: He fought the system through his own company, ?? revolutionized the industry's attitude toward youth, which had previously exerted total control over the pop youth culture through the management of older men. He helped sow the seeds for a new self-determination, the birthright soon to be demanded by the new generation of rock musician/recording artist. On the other hand, Spector's obsession with proving he was the best would led to many excessive, overblown productions and a general commercial backlash that would continue to haunt him. Nonetheless, critics began using the word "auteur" to characterize his special vision, a term previously reserved for influential film directors.

October 13: The Beach Boys released the song "409" on Capitol. The "B" side of the single "Surfin' Safari" peaked at Number 76.

## **1963**

January 26: The Miracles released the single "You've Really Got A Hold On Me" on Motown. It reached Number 8 and spent seven weeks on the chart.

March 23: The Beach Boys released the single "Surfin' U.S.A." on Capitol. It peaked at Number 3.

April 27: The Beach Boys released the single "Shut Down" on Capitol. The "B" side

of "Surfin' Safari" peaked at Number 23 on the *Billboard* chart.

May 4: The Beach Boys released the album *Surfin' U.S.A.* on Capitol Records. The album was certified gold and climbed to Number 2, spending two weeks at that spot. Overall, it stayed on the *Billboard* chart 78 weeks. 11: The soundtrack from the the film *Bye Bye Birdie* is released on RCA. The film starred Ann-Margret, Janet Leigh, and Dick Van Dyke. The album reached Number 2, and stayed on the charts for 41 weeks.

August 3: The Beach Boys released the single "Surfer Girl" on Capitol. It reached Number 7. The "B" side was "Little Deuce Coupe," released on August 17th. It peaked at Number 17 on the *Billboard* chart. 6: Little Stevie Wonder released the single "Fingertips-Part 2" on Motown. The song hit Number 1 and stayed 10 weeks on the chart. 24: Martha and the Vandellas released the single "Heatwave" on Motown Records. Starting with this record and others from the same period, the Motown label began exploring a much more energetic form of production, with an accent on a dense, undifferentiated backing track and a superb snare sound that was certainly heavily influenced by Phil Spector's signature style of instrumental overlaying and studio experimentation to enlarge the scope of the recording.

The song hit Number 4, and stayed on the *Billboard* chart for nine weeks. 31: The Crystals released the single "Be My Baby" on Philles Records. The Phil Spector-produced song climbed to Number 2 on the *Billboard* Top 100 chart. It became the song that finally brought about the Spector revolution. Using an outrageously gigantic orchestra, with multiple pianos, basses, and an immense militaristic percussion section, Spector attained his self-described vision of "writing little symphonies for the kids." As he stated: "I always went in for that Wagnerian approach to rock and roll." Spector's advance was in creating "the studio single formula," where he was trying to make something good, as well as rock and roll. An infatuated Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys (who idolized Phil) believed that "Be My Baby" was the best record Spector ever made, and was pivotal in Wilson's own development of the "complete statement" recording trend of the mid-1960s.

September 14: Jimmy Durante released the single "September Song" on Warner Brothers. The 1936 Kurt Weill song went to Number 50 in *Cashbox*, hanging around for seven weeks.

September 26: Brian Wilson was invited to play piano on Phil Spector's forthcoming "concept album," "A Christmas Gift For You" on Philles Records. A reworking of the traditional holiday songs using all of his vocal artists, it was nearly the all-time white elephant. The ambitious album took months to make because Spector was trying really hard not to make it an ordinary Christmas product: two hit singles plus ten pieces of junk. It was going to be "good, moving, and important" (Spector). This from a producer ostensibly geared to creating epic singles. Against all the odds, it turned out to an artistic success, now regarded as a classic, although not a contemporary success, and set the stage for the "studio album group" trend of the future.

October 12: The Beach Boys released the album *Surfer Girl* on Capitol Records. The record went gold, peaking at Number 7 and spending 56 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

November 11: The Beach Boys released the album *Little Deuce Coupe* on Capitol Records. It was quickly certified gold, and reached Number 4 over the holidays, spending 46 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

November 22: JFK was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, reportedly the work of lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald. ?? Capitol Records released the "rod and roll" novelty "concept album", *Hot Rod Hootenanny* by the fictional cartoon strip characters Mr. Gasser and the Weirdos. It used a studio group to create a set of tunes based on outrageous drag strip themes like "The Fastest Shift Alive" and "Eefen' It Don't Go—Chrome It."

The album made money.

December 26: Capitol Records finally bowed to British corporate pressure (EMI Music after all held a majority interest in the company) and issued the Beatles' single "I Want To Hold Your Hand" and "I Saw Her Standing There," and earmarked \$50,000 for domestic promotion. Within three days, a quarter of a million copies had been sold. ?? Capitol Records released the first "concept album" *Shut Down*, a car sampler featuring an assortment of cuts from various artists, including the Beach Boys' "409" and "Shut Down."

## **THE BRITISH INVASION HITS AMERICAN SHORES**

### **1964**

January 3: The Jack Paar Show presents the first film clip of The Beatles to be aired on U.S. TV, introducing America to the British spectacle of "Beatlemania."

10: The Beatles' single "I Want To Hold Your Hand" was the Number 1 song in the U.S., and sales were over a million copies, with purchases in New York stores progressing at a rate of 10,000 units an hour.

20: The Beatles released the album *Meet The Beatles* in the U.S. on Capitol, pushed up from its initial February release date. ?? Jim Morrison began classes at UCLA's film school.

February 7: The Beatles land in America for a two-week publicity tour. Four thousand screaming fans and hundreds of press were waiting at New York's Kennedy Airport for Pan American Flight 101. Sitting in first class with the lads when they landed was none other than Phil Spector.

January 9: The Beatles debut on the Sunday night *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

February 15: The Beach Boys released the single "Fun, Fun, Fun" on Capitol

Records. The band had recorded the song New Year's day and realizing they needed a quick response to The Beatles' phenomenon, hustled the song out. It later went to Number 5.

March 2: The Beatles begin work on their first feature film, *A Hard Day's Night*, shot on location in Liverpool.

March 14: Typifying the cult of Beatlemania, the group The Carefreeds released the novelty song "We Love You Beatles" on London International. It climbed to Number 36 in *Cashbox*, hanging around for six weeks. 18: Mary Wells released the song "My Guy" on Motown. It climbed to Number 1 and spent 11 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 23: John Lennon gets his first book *John Lennon In His Own Write*, published in England to rave reviews. 30: The British press reports the first "riots" of Mods and Rockers in Clacton.

April 11: The Beach Boys released the album *Shut Down, VOL. 2*, on Capitol Records. It peaked at Number 13 and spent 38 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. ?? Mr. Gasser and the Weirdos released a full-length sequel to their album *Hot Rod Hootenanny*, this time called *Rods N' Ratfinks*, on Capitol. The sequel once again made money. MAY 23: The Beach Boys single "I Get Around" was released on Capitol Records. It reached Number 1 and spent two weeks at the *Billboard* top spot. 30: The Beach Boys' song "Don't Worry Baby" entered the chart. The "B" side to "I Get Around" peaked at Number 24.

Mid-1964 ?? The Who (then known as The High Numbers) open up for The Beatles in Blackpool, England for a couple of dates. ?? Keith Moon joined the High Numbers as the drummer. ?? Pete Townshend unintentionally broke his first guitar during The Who's regular gig at London's Marquee Club. The idea caught on with their fans and the press, and soon the violent act of instrument smashing became a staple of their act's finale.

JUNE 2: The Rolling Stones began their first America tour. 26: The Beatles' album *A Hard Day's Night* was released in the U.S. by United Artists.

JULY 6: The Beatles' film *A Hard Day's Night* opened in Piccadilly Circus at the London Pavillion. 25: The Supremes' first single "Where Did Our Love Go?" was released on Motown. It hit Number 1 and stayed on the *Billboard* chart for 11 weeks.

AUGUST 1: The Beach Boys released the album *All Summer Long* on Capitol. It peaked at Number 4 and stayed on the *Billboard* chart for 49 weeks. 19: The Beatles second American tour began in San Francisco with a ticker-tape parade and a show at the Cow Palace, kicking off a cross-country tour. 23: *Melody Maker* headline: "Kinks—Ready for the New Wave." 30: Marianne Faithfull makes her first impression on the British charts with the custom-made Jagger-Richards song "As Tears Go By."

SEPTEMBER 5: The Beach Boys released the single "When I Grow Up (To Be A Man)" on Capitol. It peaked at Number 39. 12: The Kinks' "You Really Got Me" hit

Number 1 in Britain. 19: The Four Tops released the single "Baby I Need Your Loving" on Motown. It peaked at Number 11, and stayed on the *Billboard* chart for five weeks. Martha and the Vandellas released the single "Dancing In The Street" on Motown. It peaked at Number 2 and stayed on the chart for eight weeks.

OCTOBER 17: The Beach Boys released the single "Little Honda" on Capitol. It peaked at Number 65. : The Supremes released their second single "Baby Love" on Motown. It reached Number 1 and stayed on the chart for 10 weeks. 22: The Who are rejected by EMI Records. 24: The Rolling Stones launch their second U.S. tour with a riotous appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

NOVEMBER 7: The Beach Boys released the album *Beach Boys Concert* on Capitol. It climbed to Number 1 and spent four weeks at the top spot and 62 weeks overall on the *Billboard* chart. 11: The Beach Boys released the single "Dance, Dance, Dance" on Capitol. It peaked at Number 8. 24: *The Red Skelton Show* aired the Kinks' U.S. TV debut. 28: The Supremes released their third straight Number 1 single "Come See About Me" on Motown. It stayed on the *Billboard* chart for 11 weeks.

DECEMBER 2: The Righteous Brothers released their single "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" on Philles Records. Phil Spector produced the song which reached Number 1 by Christmas and kicked off the famous "wall of sound" that he had been looking for. To the first-time listener, the backing track existed as an undifferentiated mass of sound, impossible to break down and analyze into its separate components. It was called the most lavish, most perfect production ever conceived. Having spent months working on the record, Spector created a three minute and 45 second masterpiece that couldn't be stopped from succeeding on Top 40 radio despite its relatively long length. 5: The Beatles release their single "I Feel Fine," the first record to incorporate electric guitar feedback. The Beach Boys released *The Beach Boys Christmas Album* on Capitol. It peaked at Number 6.

Other Events in 1964: ?? Robert Moog introduced a voltage controlled synthesizer, featuring multiple waveform analog oscillators, and four-parameter (ADSR) envelope generators. ?? The solid state era grew with the development of integrated circuits (chips) in computer design, in which an array of microscopic transistors could do the work of a roomful of tube-based electronics. ?? Buddy Greco released the album *Buddy Greco Sings The Beatles*.



### Part 3

## THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1949-1996 (September 1, 1996)

### 1965

JANUARY 2: Marvin Gaye released the single "How Sweet It Is To Be Loved By You" on Motown. It hit Number 6, and stayed on the *Billboard* chart for seven weeks. 15: The Who's first single "I Can't Explain" was released in England by Brunswick Records, a Decca subsidiary, reaching Number 8 on the chart. 30: The Moody Blues' "Go Now" hit Number 1 in Britain.

FEBRUARY 20: The Kinks' "Tired Of Waiting For You" hit Number 1 in Britain.

FEBRUARY 22: The Beatles began work on *HELP!* in the Bahamas.

MARCH 6: The Supremes released their fourth straight Number 1 single "Stop! In The Name Of Love" on Motown. It hung around for 10 weeks.

MARCH 27: The Beach Boys released the album *The Beach Boys Today* on Capitol Records. It peaked at Number 4 and spent 50 weeks on the chart. ?? The Who's single "I Can't Explain" was released in the U.S.

APRIL 17: The Beach Boys released the single "Help Me, Rhonda" on Capitol. It peaked at Number 1 and stayed at the top spot for two weeks.

MAY 12: The Beatles finished the movie *HELP!*

MAY 15: The Supremes released their fifth straight Number 1 single "Back In My Arms Again" on Motown. It stayed eight weeks on the chart. 21: Release of The Who's single "Anyway Anyhow Anywhere"—who called it "the first Pop Art record"—in Britain. It made Number 10 on the charts.

JUNE 17: The Kinks arrived in New York for their first U.S. tour. 24: John Lennon's second book *A Spaniard In The Works* was published in Britain.

JULY 19: Capitol released The Beatle's single "Help!/I'm Down" in the U.S. 24: The Beach Boys released the single "California Girls" on Capitol. It climbed to Number 3: The Beach Boys released the album *Summer Days (And Summer Nights!!)* on Capitol. It reached Number 2.

JULY 29: The world premiere of the film *Help!* was attended by royalty and mob scenes in Piccadilly Circus.

AUGUST 13: Capitol released the album *Help!* in America.

AUGUST 28: The Miracles released the single "Track Of My Tears" on Motown. It reached Number 16 and stuck around for four weeks on the chart.

EARLY FALL '65: ?? The Who recorded "My Generation" in only three takes, a tribute to their many live "rehearsals."

OCTOBER 29: The Who released their first big British hit, "My Generation," reaching Number 3 on the charts. Townshend later disclosed that the hard pop song initially started off as a Dylan-inspired four- to five-minute folk song single.

NOVEMBER 6: The Supremes released their sixth straight Number 1 single "I Hear A Symphony" on Motown. It stayed eight weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

NOVEMBER 17: Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys completed recording music tracks for the instrumental that would eventually become the title song from the next Beach Boys LP, *Pet Sounds*.

NOVEMBER 27: The Beach Boys released the single "The Little Girl I Once Knew" on Capitol. It reached Number 20. : The Beach Boys released their album *Beach Boys' Party!* on Capitol. It peaked at Number 6 and spent 24 weeks on the chart. ?? The Who released their first album *My Generation* in Britain.

### **THE EMERGENCE OF THE ALBUM GROUP**

DECEMBER 1: British release of The Beatle's album *Rubber Soul* introduced pop audiences to the sitar, and other subtleties and complications. In doing so, The Beatles graduated from being primarily a singles band to one of rock's pioneering album groups.

DECEMBER 3: The Kinks released the single "A Well Respected Man," a Dylan-inspired "social commentary," with a satirical twist.

DECEMBER 6: The American release of the Beatles' *Rubber Soul* by Capitol in the U.S. immediately broke all previous sales records for an album: 1.2 million copies were purchased in nine days. When Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys heard the album, he immediately went to work on the remaining songs for *Pet Sounds*, definitely feeling the need to compete with The Beatles. As Wilson told friends, "*Rubber Soul* is a complete statement, damn it, and I want to make a complete statement, too!" ?? Jim Morrison and Ray Manzarek formed The Doors in L.A. Originally conceived as an intelligent, volatile fusion of theater, poetry, and well-executed, explorative music, eventually the throes of their success and fame changed this into a distortion of Morrison's charismatic image as a rock-star and a sex-idol icon.



## Part 4

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 1, 1996)

#### 1967

JANUARY 3: Brian Wilson and Van Dyke Parks began various sections and fragments of the song "Heroes And Villains" for the *Smile* project. At least eight different sessions were conducted through March 1st. 14: The Jimi Hendrix Experience released the single "Hey Joe" in Britain. 30: The Beatles attended a concert given by The Who and The Jimi Hendrix Experience.

#### THE ROCK CONCERT AS PERFORMANCE THEATRE

?? The Doors' first album, called *The Doors*, was released on Elektra Records. One of the cuts, "Alabama Song (Whiskey Bar)," was taken from the 1929 Bertolt Brecht-Kurt Weill musical *The Rise And Fall Of The City Of Mahagonny*, about the glory and decadence of pre-war Nazi Germany. Another cut off the album was the chilling 11-minute-plus Oedipal epic drama, "The End." In performance, the song embodied The Doors' concept of rock theater. The big hit of the album was "Light My Fire," which when trimmed down from its original seven minutes, became a Number 1 single in the U.S.

FEBRUARY 1: Pink Floyd "went professional," shelving their academic careers to focus full time on the band. 11: The Supremes released yet another Number 1 hit "Love Is Here And Now You're Gone" on Motown. It stayed on the charts eight weeks.

MARCH 4: The Rolling Stones' single "Ruby Tuesday" hit Number 1 in the U.S. 25: The Who kicked off their U.S. concert debut as part of Murray the K's Easter Show in New York, by detonating the first smoke bombs ever to be exploded on a New York concert stage, and proceeding on to smash their guitars during their coup de grace closing piece, "My Generation." America also took note of Townshend's own contribution to rock theatrical showmanship, the distinctive flailing of his arm before it came crashing down for another high-powered guitar chord.

APRIL 12: Brian Wilson and Van Dyke Parks recorded a version of "Vegetables" for the *Smile* project. 15: The Supremes released another Number 1 single "The Happening" on Motown. It stayed eight weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 22: Pink Floyd released their first single in Britain, "Arnold Layne." Recounting the tale of a transvestite and his "strange hobby," stealing ladies clothes from washing lines; this infectious pop song escaped the BBC ban and rose to Number 20: The Jimi Hendrix Experience were signed by Reprise Records' for \$40,000. The Who's first mini-opera. ??

The Who released their single "Happy Jack" in the U.S., making it to Number 24 on the *Billboard* chart. On side two of the their album *A Quick One (Happy Jack)*, Townshend contributed his first "mini-opera", "A Quick One While He's Away," a (9:10) piece which strung six different songs together to create pop's first extended narrative, (with a preposterous storyline, however. For example, one of the main characters was named Ivan the Engine Driver. It helped set the stage for the idea that a rock artist/storyteller could create a full length concept album based on a single theme. The album peaked at Number 67 in *Billboard*.

MAY 12: Pink Floyd's multimedia concert *Games For May* was presented at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. 16: Brian Wilson recorded the song "I Love To Say Da Da" for the *Smile* album.

### **THE CONCEPT ALBUM REVOLUTION**

JUNE 2: The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was released in the U.S. on Capitol Records. All the ground rules for rock and roll were now changed for good. The concept of an album was created, and good, bad, or indifferent, and everyone started making records that sounded like Sgt. Pepper's. 10: Procol Harum's Bach-inspired "A Whiter Shade Of Pale" hit Number 1 in Britain. 16: The Monterey Pop Festival opened its three-day run. The event was co-produced by John Phillips of the singing group, The Mamas and the Papas, who also were headliners. The final bill included Johnny Rivers, Simon and Garfunkel, Canned Heat, Big Brother and the Holding Company featuring Janis Joplin, The Who, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, Buffalo Springfield, The Steve Miller Blues Band, Otis Redding, Eric Burton and the Animals, Jefferson Airplane, and The Byrds, among others. The Beach Boys were due to play the second night of the festival, but they didn't show. 50,000 fans attended the historic event. 19: The Who and The Jimi Hendrix Experience played the Monterey Pop Festival; The Who smashed their instruments: Hendrix did them one better, not only smashing his guitar but burning it as well. 25: Forty million people in 24 countries watched The Beatles on the *Our World* TV program as they recorded "All You Need Is Love."

JULY 1: The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper* hit Number 1 in the U.S.: Procol Harem's "A Whiter Shade Of Pale" was released in the U.S. It peaked at Number 5, and stayed on the charts for 10 weeks. 15: Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell released the single "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" on Motown. It reached Number 19 and stayed two weeks on the chart. 29: Pink Floyd played at Alexandra Palace, opening for Eric Burton and the Animals, during their San Francisco Nights hippie period. ?? The Moody Blues released a single "Tuesday Afternoon" from their forthcoming concept album *Days Of Future Passed*. The LP, released later in 1967, helped to create a whole new genre, and for The Moody Blues, a safe, commercial formula.

AUGUST 1: Pink Floyd's first album, *Piper At The Gates Of Dawn*, was released in Britain. It contained the extended free form psychedelic piece, "Interstellar Overdrive," arguably the first "space-rock" song, the explosive main riff of which Syd Barrett had reportedly "borrowed" from the California band, Love, and a song written by its leader Arthur Lee. The LP reached Number 9 on the U.K. charts. 5: The Beach Boys released the single "Heroes And Villains" on Brother Records. It

peaked at Number 12. 12: The Beach Boys released the album *Best Of The Beach Boys, Vol. 2* on Capitol. It reached Number 50 and spent 22 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 19: Diana Ross and the Supremes released the single "Reflections" on Motown. It hit Number 2 and stayed eight weeks on the chart.

SEPTEMBER 5: The Beach Boys released their album *Smiley Smile*, a reconstituted incarnation of the aborted *Smile* project, on their own label, Brother Records. In an attempt to salvage the overwhelming amount of raw tape into something comprehensible, new songs were created by Brian Wilson and Mike Love to fill the yawning gaps left by the gutted material. The single "Good Vibrations" was added to the record over Brian's wishes. Also, the re-edited version of the single "Heroes And Villains" featuring vocals by the whole group was included. Unable to match the advance hype generated for a full-length epic the equal of "Good Vibrations," the album became the poorest chart showing up until then of any Beach Boys LP, rising no higher than Number 40; it spent 21 weeks on the chart.

The trite, stillborn tracks were taken by the band's hardcore fans as a break of faith. 11: The Beatles began filming their *Magical Mystery Tour* bus trip. ?? The Doors released the single "People Are Strange" on Elektra. The song made it into the U.S. Top 20. ?? Pink Floyd's album *Piper At The Gates Of Dawn*, was released in the U.S. on Tower Records. It went to Number 131.

OCTOBER 17: Gerome Ragni, James Rado, and Galt MacDermont's *Hair* opened off-Broadway in New York's Anspacher Theater, as part of producer Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare festival. It completed its predetermined run of 50 performances. 18: The film *How I Won The War*, featuring John Lennon, premiered. Some of Lennon's instrumentals were included on the soundtrack.

OCTOBER 26: Pink Floyd—with leader Syd Barrett—commenced its first American tour at San Francisco's Fillmore West. Unfortunately, Syd's heavy pot consumption began to take its toll; Barrett was often comatose on stage and incoherent with interviewers. For example, during an appearance on Dick Clark's American Bandstand, where Floyd was supposed to lip sync their "See Emily Play" single, the band found that "Syd wasn't into moving his lips that day." The press called it "suffering from 'nervous exhaustion,'" but the band's manager eventually cancelled all the remaining dates and the group went home. ?? The Who's single "I Can See For Miles" was released in the U.S., reaching Number 9 in *Billboard*. ?? The Doors released their second album, *Strange Days*, on Elektra Records. One of the cuts was a Morrison high school poem, "Horse Latitudes," in which engineer Bruce Botnick experimented with a backdrop of "musique concrete" electronically tampering with organic sounds to create different times and effects. On the title track, keyboardist Ray Manzarek recorded one of the earliest uses of a Moog synthesizer in rock. The showcase of the LP was "When The Music's Over," another extended piece destined to become a tour de force within the group's live canon.

NOVEMBER 9: *Rolling Stone* magazine began publishing. A free roach clip was included in its first issue. Donovan was featured in its first interview. 11: The Small Faces' single "Itchycoo Park" was released in the U.S. on Immediate Records. It

climbed to Number 13, and stayed on the charts for 19 weeks.

NOVEMBER 21: *The Who Sell Out* was released. One of the cuts on side two was called "Rael," a fragment from another potential pop opera, which contained guitar progressions later adapted for the songs "Sparks" and the "Underture" on their concept album *Tommy*. In addition, the concept album's individual tracks were built around an antic radio broadcast, linked together by actual Radio London jingles, or by Townshend and Entwistle's own sardonic parodies of commercials for Heinz Baked Beans, pimple cream, and a Charles Atlas body-building course. The album made it to Number 48 in the U.S. 25: Gladys Knight and the Pips released the single "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" on Motown. It peaked at Number 2, and stayed on the chart for 11 weeks. ?? Back east, New York City's WNEW-FM began a "progressive" format with a 250-title album track playlist.

DECEMBER 4: The Beach Boys released the album *Wild Honey* on Brothers. It reached Number 24 in *Billboard* and spent 15 weeks on the chart. The title cut was released as a single the same day and reached Number 31. 22: *Hair* reopened at New York's Cheetah nightclub, but lasted only until January 28, 1968. 23: The Beach Boys released the single "Darlin'" on Brothers Records. The song, also from *Wild Honey*, was a better production and peaked at Number 19. 26: The Beatles film, *Magical Mystery Tour*, premiered on BBC-TV, flopped to bad critical reviews. 27: The Beatles' album *Magical Mystery Tour* was released in the U.S. on Capitol Records. ?? The Rolling Stones released their concept album, *Their Satanic Majesties Request*, complete with a 3-D image on the cover.

DECEMBER: ?? *Rolling Stone* founder and editor Jann Wenner wrote in an article about the music scene: "In person, The Beach Boys are a totally disappointing group. (At the last minute, presumably afraid of a sophisticated audience, they pulled out of the Monterey Pop Festival....Brian Wilson actually is an excellent writer and composer, and a superb producer, however his genius is essentially a promotional shuck...The Beach Boys are just one prominent example of a group that has gotten hung up in trying to catch The Beatles. It's a pointless pursuit. A lot of people talked about it, but The Beatles have so far been the only group to come up with a fully orchestrated and interiorly cohesive symphonic or operatic piece." Wenner, of course, was unfairly ignoring *Pet Sounds* and the single "Good Vibrations."

Other Events in 1967: ?? A rock musical of sorts, *Your Own Thing*, opened off-Broadway. ?? Jim Morrison's interview in *Time* magazine was published. Morrison commented about the concept of rock theater, of mixing music with "the structure of a poetic drama." He added: "We hide ourselves in the music to reveal ourselves." Summer '67: ?? Pink Floyd's second single, "See Emily Play" was released in the U.K., reaching Number 6 on the charts. As Roger Waters stated in *NME*: "We are simply a pop group. But because we use light and color in our act, a lot of people seem to imagine we are trying to put across some message with nasty, evil overtones." ?? The San Francisco Be-In becomes the embodiment of the hippie community as theater experience: part costume ball, part jam session, and part anarchic free-for-all. On glorious sunny Sundays, Golden Gate Park was the site for

these free concerts and mass love gatherings. Mid-'67: ?? Disc Jockey Tom Donahue created a free-form, 8-to-midnight program on KMPX-FM in Oakland, a foreign language station on its last legs. Listeners loved the evening menu of unedited rock. Donahue developed programming that featured historical, thematic, and flow-oriented "sets" of album tracks and launched the free-form radio format that became the new standard by the fall of 1967. ?? The Beatles filmed promotional TV/movie theater clips in 1967-68 for "Hello Goodbye," "Hey Jude," and "Revolution." These were forerunners of the music video. ?? The rock musical *Now Is The Time For All Good Men* was published, with music by Nancy Ford, and book and lyrics by Gretchen Cryer. It was based on the story of a small-town teacher found to be a conscientious objector. ?? The musical *Peace*, with music by Al Carmines and book and lyrics by Tim Reynolds was published. It was an anti-war play based on the works of Aristophanes.



## Part 5

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 6, 1996) 1968-1969

#### 1968

JANUARY 9: George Harrison left for 10 days in Bombay, composing and recording soundtrack music for his upcoming film *Wonderwall*. 13: Hal Hester and Danny Apolinar's rock musical *Your Own Thing* opened off-Broadway at the Orpheum Theatre for a run of 933 performances.

FEBRUARY 18: David Gilmore joined Pink Floyd, ostensibly to play second fiddle to the increasingly unsteady Syd Barrett. ?? Genesis released its first single "The Silent Sun" on Decca Records. The group had formed in the winter of 1967, and contained classmates Peter Gabriel and Tony Banks, along with Anthony Phillips and Mike Rutherford.

MARCH 2: Syd Barrett quit Pink Floyd. 16: Tom Donahue staged a strike at KMPX-FM, which led to his defection to Metromedia's former classical station, KSFR, which was rechristened KSAN. In emulation of KSAN, rock music on FM radio and the album-oriented format would become a formidable broadcasting force of the next decade.

Increased rumblings of the first full pop opera: ?? Pete Townshend informed *Melody Maker* that The Who was creating an opera called *The Amazing Journey*, although the hero was still unnamed. The title came from a previous thousand-word poem and a "Hesse-like novel" Townshend had written earlier. The song "Amazing Journey" was one of the first songs for what would eventually become *Tommy* that was written in its more or less final version. Another title Townshend kicked around at this time was *Brain Opera*.

#### THE ROCK MUSICAL HITS THE BIG TIME

MARCH 29: Jerome Ragni, James Rado and Galt MacDermont's *Hair* opened on Broadway at New York's Biltmore Theater. It established a fine 1,742 performance run prior to a long series of tours around the world.

MAY 18: Eric Burton and the Animals released the single "Sky Pilot (Parts 1 & 2)" on MGM. The single climbed to Number 6 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 16 weeks. 25: The Rolling Stones released "Jumping Jack Flash" in the U.K.

JUNE 18: A one-act play based on Lennon's book *In His Own Write* opened at London's Royal National Theatre. 19: The Small Faces released the album *Ogdens' Nut Gone Flake* in Britain, one side of which consisted of songs linked with an incomprehensible narrative in British doubletalk, reaching Number 1. ?? The Doors

released the single "Hello, I Love You," which became Number 1 in the U.S. The song was also the group's first major UK hit, although some of this luster was lost following legal action by Ray Davies of The Kinks, who claimed infringement with his own composition, "All Day And All Of The Night." ?? Pink Floyd launched a new London tradition by staging Hyde Park's first free rock concert.

JULY 6: The Beach Boys released the album *Friends* on Brothers Records. It peaked at Number 126 and spent 10 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 17: John, Paul, and Ringo attended the world premiere of the animated film *Yellow Submarine* at the London Pavillion. 26: The Rolling Stones released the album *Beggars Banquet*. 27: The Beach Boys released the single "Do It Again." It reached Number 20.

JULY: ?? The Doors released their third album *Waiting For The Sun* on Elektra. One of the cuts, a fierce protest song, "The Unknown Soldier," had developed into the band's most successful theater pieces up to that time. Another cut, "Not To Touch The Earth," was excerpted from a much longer composition, the song-poem "Celebration Of The Lizard," which in its rough form had run 24 minutes, but was discarded. Morrison viewed the extended work as "pure drama," the poetic lyrics containing many of his favorite themes, including prison, insanity, dreams, and death. Unfortunately, only two of the 133 lines in the poem would be remembered: "I am the Lizard King/I can do anything." This self-titled character was but one of numerous personas Morrison would reenact onstage during his career with The Doors. ?? Pink Floyd's second album *A Saucerful Of Secrets*, was released in the U.S. on Tower Records. While Syd Barrett contributed one song, Roger Waters and Richard Wright took up the songwriting slack, with considerable stylistic differences. For example, on the extended instrumental title track, the disjointed freak-outs of the "Interstellar Overdrive" sound had, under Gilmore's stewardship, given way to a more ethereal and refined brand of Space Rock. And Wright's keyboards alternated his Farfisa organ, with the much churchier-sounding Hammond. The album reached Number 9 in the U.K. ?? The Byrds released the album *Sweethearts Of The Rodeo* on Columbia Records, helping to usher in the era of country rock.

AUGUST 2: The Doors are billed with The Who at the Singer Bowl at the old World's Fair grounds in New York. 11: George Harrison's album *Wonderwall* was released.

### **THE ROCK CONCERT AS THEATER**

AUGUST 17: The single "Fire," by the band The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, hit Number 1 in Britain. In concert, Brown combined rock music with traditional vaudeville routines, special effects like appearing onstage with burning hair and illuminated clothes and other theater-of-the-absurd antics, strobe lights and costume changes. He pioneered a blend of theatre and rock. The music was produced by Pete Townshend, who began talking to Brown about singing a part in an actual opera he was creating ("a proper opera, not a 'rock opera'"), because Townshend believed Brown possessed "an amazing rock/operatic voice." ??

The Doors are featured in *Vogue* magazine, in an article about rock theater.

SEPTEMBER 7: The Beach Boys released the album *Best Of The Beach Boys, Vol 3* on Capitol. It peaked at Number 153 and spent six weeks on the Billboard chart. 21: The Crazy World of Arthur Brown's "Fire" was released in the U.S., reaching Number 2, and staying on the singles charts for eleven weeks. 27: The British version of *Hair* opened in London's Shaftesbury Theatre for a run of 1,998 performances.

SEPTEMBER 28: The Who's Pete Townshend interview with Rolling Stone's Jann Wenner was released. Townshend announced the the latest title of his next extended story/concert piece: "The album concept in general is complex...But it's derived as a result of quite a few things. We've been talking about doing an opera, we've been talking about doing like albums...And what has basically happened is that we've condensed all these ideas, all this energy, and all these gimmicks, and whatever we've decided on for future albums, into one juicy package. The package I hope is going to be called *Deaf, Dumb, And Blind Boy*. The deaf, dumb, and blind boy is played by The Who, the musical entity. He's represented musically, represented by a theme which we play, which starts off the opera itself...That's what we want to do: create this feeling that when you listen to the music you can actually become aware of the boy, and aware of what he is all about, because we are creating him as we play." (Townshend) The boy's name had been set as Tommy, but that was not as yet the final title of the piece. The thematically related song cycle ?? The Kinks released *The Village Green Preservation Society*, an album loosely modeled after the Dylan Thomas verse drama *Under Milk Wood*, about the inhabitants of a sleepy Welsh village. The LP was perhaps the first rock album on which all the songs are related in a way, being either portraits of that little world's residents or descriptions of popular local attractions, in a style of predominantly short, sparse acoustic guitar vignettes.

OCTOBER 5: The soundtrack from the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* was released on MGM. Stanley Kubrick's influential and mind-provoking science fiction film featured a score of classical music by various composers, both traditional and avant garde, reaching Number 24, and staying on the charts for 11 weeks.

OCTOBER 26: Diana Ross and the Supremes released the single "Love Child" on Motown. It reached Number 1 and stayed on the chart for 14 weeks.

NOVEMBER 23: The original cast recording from the Broadway version of *Hair* was released on RCA Records. The album went to Number 1, staying on the charts for 59 weeks. 25: *The Beatles* (also known as "The White Album") was released by Apple in the U.S. as a double album. One piece, "Revolution 9" was less a rock song than an avant garde sound montage. 28: The Beatles' *Yellow Submarine* album was released by Apple in the U.K. 30: Marvin Gaye released the single "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" on Motown. His version hit Number 1, staying on the chart for 13 weeks.

NOVEMBER: ?? Van Dyke Parks released his first solo album, *Song Cycle*, on Warner Brothers Records. The concept album contained a complex array of sounds and ideas abounding with musical puns, Tin Pan Alley themes and exhaustive, elaborate

arrangements. Lovely pastiche-antic, affecting, lullingly surreal, it became one of the most acclaimed albums in pop history. *The New Yorker* called it "a milestone of American pop music." *HiFi/Stereo Review* named it "Record of the Year." Parks had worked with Brian Wilson on the ambitious "Heroes And Villains" single, as well as the doomed *Smile* project. Unfortunately, despite the glowing hype, commercial indifference to Parks' ambitious solo project was such that the label took out a series of ads under the banner "The once-in-a-lifetime Van Dyke Parks 1 cent sale," offering buyers the chance to trade a second-hand copy for two new albums, one of which was to be passed on to a "poor, but open friend." In 12 years, the album only sold 14,411 units. Another Warner Brothers ad read: "How we lost \$35,509.50 on 'The Album of the Year' (dammit.)"

DECEMBER 1: Burt Bacharach, Hal David and Neil Simon's musical *Promises, Promises* opened at New York's Shubert Theatre for a run of 1,281 performances. Its soft pop music score featured the song "I'll Never Fall In Love Again," which later became a hit for Dianne Warwick. 11: Filming for The Rolling Stones' *Rock 'N' Roll Circus* was completed, but the movie was never commercially released. Also featured were The Who, Eric Clapton, and John and Yoko. End DEC.: ?? The film *Rape* was produced by John Lennon and Yoko Ono for Austrian TV.

Other Events in 1968: ?? Ampex manufactured its first 8-track tape recorder. ?? A prototype 16-track tape recorder is unveiled. A 24-track version soon followed. ?? Brian Eno wrote the limited edition theoretical handbook *Music For Non Musicians*, in England, stressing his background with the manipulation of multi-track tape recorders. ?? A duo called Simon and Pi released the single "Sha La La Lee" in the U.K. on Parlophone Records. The song had previously been a hit for The Small Faces, but for this offering it was masterminded by a young man named Mark Wirtz, notable for his composition of a "teenage opera" which was much hyped but apparently never recorded. For this single, Wirtz had arranged a tribute to the style of Phil Spector, copying the string and rhythm section tricks of his mentor. Early '68 ?? The Who's Pete Townshend announced in the Britain rock publication *NME* that the group's next single was to be a Pop Art operetta called "Glow Girl," about: "a boy and a girl in a plane crash, and as the plane goes down they begin to talk about the things they value in life...There's a reincarnation angle to it." (Townshend) When the song finally surfaced on the Who's *Odds And Sods* compilation in 1974, it contained chords that were to sound hauntingly familiar. The song ended with the cry: "It's a girl, Mrs. Walker, it's a girl!" ?? The avant-pop group the United States of America released their self-titled first and only LP. Formed in 1967 by New York-born electronics composer Joseph Byrd, the band created a biting-satire on contemporary life in America, and featured several haunting pieces like "Love Song For The Dead Che" and "The Garden Of Earthly Delights." The innovative use of effects gave the collection its chilling mood and it remained one of the era's most lasting works. ?? Phil Ochs' composed the powerful song "Pleasures of the Harbour." Joseph Byrd (from the United States of America) was the arranger.

1969: January 1: The Beatles plus film crew began work on a "back-to-the-roots" album and documentary on its making, both to be called *Get Back*. The "concept" of the album was to be its rough take, jam session-type, no-frills production style.

FEBRUARY 8: The Move's "Blackberry Way" hit Number 1 in Britain. 28: Jim Morrison attended The Living Theatre's revolutionary "tour de force," *Paradise Now*, at the USC theater. The play opened with *The Rite Of Guerilla Theater*, in which the actors mingled with the spectators, engaging them in dialogue, baiting them if necessary to get a response, shouting slogans, complaints, and finally proceeding to strip off their clothes, until the cops moved in and stopped the play from continuing. For Morrison, the play had a dramatic result. At The Doors next show a few days later in Miami, Florida, a drunken Morrison was barely prevented from stripping to his underwear onstage by the other band members, starting a new phase of excessive performances by the volatile vocalist.

MARCH 5: The Beach Boys released the album *20/20*, which peaked at Number 68 and spent 11 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 8: The singing group The Fifth Dimension released the single "Aquarius/Let The Sun Shine In," a medley derived from two songs from the Broadway production *Hair*, on Soul City Records. The hit reached Number 1 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 16 weeks. Mick Jagger became a "Friend of the Covent Garden Opera House."

MARCH 22: The singing group The Cowsills released the single "Hair" on MGM, which went to Number 1 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 14 weeks. ?? Genesis released its first album *From Genesis To Revelation* on Decca Records. Record buyers found the quasi-Biblical boast a bore and stayed away.

APRIL: ?? The Who's single "Pinball Wizard," from their double album, *Tommy*, was released in the U.S., reaching Number 19 on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

## 1969

SPRING: ?? Limited editions of 100 copies of Jim Morrison's poetry were privately published in two volumes, *The Lords* and *The New Creatures*, by Western Lithographers in L.A.

MAY 3: George Harrison's album *Electronic Sounds* was released by Apple, on its new Zapple label, in Britain. 4: Ringo Starr and Peter Sellers threw a party to celebrate the completion of the film *The Magic Christian*, in which Ringo was a featured actor. Concert theatre as "rock opera" 10: The Who gave the first performance of their "rock opera" *Tommy*, dispensing with Pete's acoustic guitars and John's French horn, along with slower numbers "Christmas," "Cousin Kevin," "Sensation," and "Welcome," to form a hour-long barrage of Power Pop.

### THE ERA OF THE "ROCK OPERA" TAKES HOLD

Late May: ?? The Who's album *Tommy*, billed as the world's first full scale "rock opera," was released. The 90-minute double album told the story of a boy who goes deaf, dumb, and blind after witnessing a murder in his family, then becomes a "pinball wizard" through sheer intuition, and eventually regains his senses to be transformed into a dictatorial messiah, only to be rejected by his legions of fanatical

followers. The album became one of the most acclaimed records since The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's*. It eventually went gold ten times over, turning The Who into worldwide superstars. Over the summer, *Tommy* peaked at Number 7 in *Billboard*, and one year later reascended to Number 4. Initially written as a joke, Townshend had crafted it into a series of thematically linked songs (a song cycle). However, serious music critics scowled at its "rock opera" billing.

JUNE 7: Oliver's single "Good Morning Starshine," from the musical *Hair*, was released, and reached Number 3, staying on the charts for 11 weeks. 11: David Bowie's *Space Oddity* was released in Britain, having been held back to coincide with the American moon landing.

JULY 9: Mick Jagger was in Australia to begin work on the film *Ned Kelly*, a "rock musical," along with Marianne Faithful. 20: Neil Armstrong took the first step on the Moon. ?? The Who released the single "I'm Free," also from their *Tommy* album. It peaked at Number 37 on *Billboard's* Hot 100. ?? The Doors released the album *The Soft Parade*, on Elektra. Despite the success of the tongue-in-cheek song "Touch Me," which went to Number 3 in the U.S., the album, was a disappointment, a horn section masking several unremarkable songs. The song "Wishful Sinful" was a Top 50 hit.

AUGUST 15: The historic Woodstock rock festival in upstate New York began its three-day run through August 17th. 17: At the Woodstock Festival, The Who performed *Tommy*, at 3:30 a.m. in the morning. This performance, as documented in the movie and recording releases of the festival, were in part responsible for bringing *Tommy* into the charts again to its second life. Pete Townshend also clubbed Yippie activist Abbie Hoffman with his guitar...effectively cutting short Hoffman's attempt to usurp the stage to harangue the crowd with a political speech, by throwing him offstage. 18: Marianne Faithful attempted suicide in Australia, causing her to lose her role in *Ned Kelly*.

SEPTEMBER 13: The group Checkmates Ltd. released their album *Love Is All We Have To Give* on A&M Records. One cut was titled "The *Hair* Anthology Suite," a medley of songs from the musical *Hair*. The producer was Phil Spector. 20: Country singer Roy Clark released his version of Kurt Weill's "September Song" on Dot Records. It reached Number 67 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for three weeks. 26: The Beatles' *Abby Road* was released in Britain by Apple. Side two featured a song cycle of linked material. ?? London's New Cinema Club held "An Evening with John and Yoko," and featured four of their films. ?? The soundtrack from the film *More* was released, on Tower Records, featuring space music by Pink Floyd.

OCTOBER 18: The soundtrack from the film *Easy Rider* was released. The movie starred Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper, and Jack Nicholson and featured songs by The Byrds, Jimi Hendrix, and Steppenwolf ("Born To Be Wild"). The album reached Number 6, staying on the charts for 41 weeks. 20: The Who played *Tommy* in New York's Filmore East six nights in a row.

NOVEMBER 9: It is reported that John and Yoko had made a film of themselves

floating through the sky in a hot-air balloon. The film was called *Apotheosis*. 29: Diana Ross and the Supremes released the single "Someday We'll Be Together" on Motown. It peaked at Number 1 and stayed 12 weeks on the chart. ?? Pink Floyd released its double album *Ummagumma* on Harvest Records in the U.S. The record reached Number 74 on the charts. By today's standards the album appears self-indulgent and dated, but at the time it was a vanguard of "space-rock." One album captured live rehashes of such sci-fi works as "Set The Controls For The Heart Of The Sun," while the other gave each member of the group half a side to experiment in solo pieces.

DECEMBER 6: Meredith Hunter was murdered by Hell's Angels during the Rolling Stones' free concert at Altamont Speedway in northern California. 13: The Jackson Five released their first single "I Want You Back" on Motown. It hit Number 1 and stayed 13 weeks on the chart. 27: The album *Led Zeppelin II* hit Number 1 in the U.S. ?? It is reported that "Murray Head and the Trinidad Singers are about to issue (in time for Christmas) a rock opera titled *Jesus Christ*, which bears the endorsement of no less a personage than the Dean of St. Paul's in London." (Albert Goldman in the *New York Times*, 1969).

JULY 6: The Beach Boys released the album on Brothers Records. It peaked at Number 126 and spent 10 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 17: John, Paul, and Ringo attended the world premiere of the animated film *Yellow Submarine* at the London Pavillion. 26: The Rolling Stones released the album *Beggars Banquet*. 27: The Beach Boys released the single "Do It Again." It reached Number 20.

JULY: ?? The Doors released their third album *Waiting For The Sun* on Elektra. One of the cuts, a fierce protest song, "The Unknown Soldier," had developed into the band's most successful theater pieces up to that time. Another cut, "Not To Touch The Earth," was excerpted from a much longer composition, the song-poem "Celebration Of The Lizard," which in its rough form had run 24 minutes, but was discarded. Morrison viewed the extended work as "pure drama", the poetic lyrics containing many of his favorite themes, including prison, insanity, dreams, and death. Unfortunately, only two of the 133 lines in the poem would be remembered: "I am the Lizard King/ I can do anything." This self-titled character was but one of numerous persona Morrison would reenact onstage during his career with the Doors.

?? Pink Floyd's second album *A Saucerful Of Secrets*, was released in the U.S. on Tower Records. While Syd Barrett contributed one song, Roger Waters and Richard Wright took up the songwriting slack, with considerable stylistic differences. For example, on the extended instrumental title track, the disjointed freak-outs of the "Interstellar Overdrive" sound had, under Gilmore's stewardship, given way to a more ethereal and refined brand of Space Rock. And Wright's keyboards alternated his Farfisa organ, with the much churchier-sounding Hammond. The album reached Number 9 in the U.K. ?? The Byrds released the album *Sweethearts Of The Rodeo* on Columbia Records, helping to usher in the era of country rock.

AUGUST 2: The Doors are billed with The Who at the Singer Bowl at the old World's Fair grounds in New York. 11: George Harrison's album *Wonderwall* was released.

NOVEMBER 23: The original cast recording from the Broadway version of HAIR was released on RCA Records. The album went to Number 1, staying on the charts for 59 weeks. 25: *The Beatles* (also known as the *White Album*) was released by Apple in the U.S. as a double album. One piece, "Revolution Number Nine" was less a rock song than an avant garde sound montage. 28: The Beatles' *Yellow Submarine* album was released by Apple in the U.K. 30: Marvin Gaye released the single "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" on Motown. His version hit Number 1, staying on the chart for 13 weeks.

SEPTEMBER 13: The group Checkmates Ltd. released their album "Love Is All We Have To Give" on A&M Records. One cut was titled "The 'Hair' Anthology Suite," a medley of songs from the musical *Hair*. The producer was Phil Spector. 20: Country singer Roy Clark released his version of Kurt Weill's "September Song" on Dot Records. It reached Number 67 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 3 weeks. 26: The Beatles' *Abbey Road* was released in Britain by Apple. Side two featured a song cycle of linked material.?? London's New Cinema Club held "An Evening with John and Yoko", and featured four of their films.?? The soundtrack from the film *More* was released, on Tower Records, featuring spacy music by Pink Floyd.

?? The Kinks released *Arthur (Or The Decline And Fall Of The British Empire)*, an album which featured a storyline by the novelist Julian Mitchell, about a simple working man and his relationships with the various generations of his family.

?? Van Morrison released the solo album *Astral Weeks*, on Warner Brothers Records. It contained a visionary song cycle, in which he confronted "that mansion on the hill," the repose of dreams and phantasms, a mystery swayed and lightened by jazz-flavored voicings, set against the grainy texture of his voice and lyrics. The record was named by *Rolling Stone* as 1969's Album of the Year.

?? Teac introduced a low cost 4-track tape deck using 1/4" tape.

?? The musical *Salvation*, written by Peter Link and C.C. Courtney, was published.

?? Joseph Byrd and the Field Hippies released the album *The American Metaphysical Circus*. The record lacked the discipline of Byrd's first effort in 1968 with the United States of America. ?? The 29-year-old Phil Spector was interviewed in *Rolling Stone*. When asked about recording with Bob Dylan, he said "I'd like to do a Dylan opera with him. I'd produce him. You see, he's never been produced....he's never really made a production. He doesn't really have to." When asked about the current music scene, he said: "Many of the artists today just sing, they don't interpret anything. I mean The Doors don't interpret. They're not interpreters of music. They sing ideas. The Beach Boys have always sung ideas—they've never been interpreters. The Beatles interpret; "Yesterday" meant something. Whereas "Good Vibrations" was a nice idea on which everybody sort of grooved."



## Part 6

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 6, 1996): 1970-1971

#### 1970

JANUARY 24: Murray Head released the single "Superstar" on Decca. Having missed the Christmas season by an entire month, the first "test demo" from the upcoming concept album *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, shrugged up to only Number 67 in *Cashbox*, and stayed on the charts for seven weeks. "The 'Rock Opera' Goes Legit" ?? The Who began their European Tour of *Tommy*. Eventually the band would perform the "rock opera" at the Royal Opera at Copenhagen, as well as the grand opera houses of Munich, Hamburg, and Berlin, Germany.

FEBRUARY 9: John Lennon and the Plastic Ono Band released the single "Instant Karma" on Apple Records in the U.K. The song was produced by Phil Spector at EMI's Abbey Road studio. The British version was slightly rougher than the subsequent American recording, harsher and more direct. ?? The Doors released their album *Morrison Hotel*, on Elektra. The album was a tough R&B collection, and matched the best of their early releases and featured seminal performances in "Roadhouse Blues" and "You Make Me Feel Real."

MARCH 2: John Lennon's single "Instant Karma" was released in the U.S. on Apple. Phil Spector secretly remixed this version back in the U.S. with a fuller arrangement including strings. As Lennon later disclosed: "He put a cleaner version out, without telling me. It's the only time anyone's done that." 21: The Jackson Five released their single "ABC" on Motown. The song reached Number 1 and stayed on the *Billboard* chart 11 weeks.

APRIL 4: The Supremes (minus Diana Ross) released the single "Up The Ladder To The Roof" on Motown. The record made it to Number 10, and stayed on the chart for six weeks. ?? The Who released their single, "The Seeker" in the U.S., peaking at number 44 in *Billboard*. The song was inspired by Townshend's spiritual guru Meher Baba.

SPRING '70: ?? The Who performed in the mill towns of Leicester and Leeds, England. A live recording was made of their "back-to-the-roots" musical set, a good sign that the group was beginning to tire of the *Tommy* hype.

MAY 5: The Beatles released *Let It Be* on Apple Records. The album was produced by Phil Spector, who put his usual thick production on the original tracks, which had all been purposefully left a bit rough, like rehearsals or demo tapes, or just good old jam sessions. Under Spector's modifications, most of the major songs received a complete re-production job. On the song "Let It Be," he had beefed up the whole take, creating a bigger voice sound to emphasize the churchy feel of the

tune. He also added some fantastic out-take guitar from George and tape echo on the hi-hat and some brass in the background. Spector saved his best job for "Across The Universe," where he slowed the whole tape down and added strings. However, the media did not treat Spector's "improvements" very kindly.

MAY 9: Rare Earth released the single "Get Ready" on Motown. It climbed to Number 4, and stayed 11 weeks on the chart.

MAY 13: The Beatles' documentary film *Let It Be*, formerly titled *Get Back*, premiered in New York. The film was recorded in the first two weeks of January, 1969. ?? The Who's album *Live At Leeds* was released, peaking at Number 4 in the U.S.

JUNE 6: The soundtrack from the film *Woodstock* was released on Cotillion. The album featured the live performances of Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Ten Years After, among others, including "We're Not Going To Take It" from The Who's *Tommy*. The triple album hit Number 1, staying on the charts for 36 weeks. Diana Ross released the single "Reach Out And Touch Somebody's Hand" on Motown. It climbed to Number 20 and stayed on the chart for one week.

JUNE 7: The Who performed *Tommy* at the New York Metropolitan Opera House for two shows. It was the first time rock music had ever been performed at the Met.  
13: The group Assembled Multitude released the song "Overture From Tommy (A Rock Opera)" on Atlantic Records. The song made it to Number 16 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 15 weeks. : The Temptations released the single "Ball Of Confusion" on Motown. It climbed to Number 3, and stayed on the chart 11 weeks.

SUMMER 1970: ?? Jim Morrison's poetry book, *An American Prayer*, was privately published by Western Lithographers of Los Angeles, in a limited edition of 500 copies.

JULY 18: Stevie Wonder released the single "Signed, Sealed, And Delivered—I'm Yours" on Motown. It climbed to Number 3 and stayed on the chart for 10 weeks. ?? The Who released the single "Summertime Blues" in the U.S. from their album *Live At Leeds*. The single reached Number 27. ?? The Doors released the double album, *Absolutely Live*, on Elektra. An in-concert set culled from a variety of sources, one side contained an extended live version of Morrison's song-poem, "Celebration Of The Lizard."

AUGUST 1: The film *Performance*—featuring Mick Jagger in his first major dramatic role—was shown after a one-year delay. Edwin Starr released the single "War" on Motown. It hit Number 1, staying on the chart for 11 weeks.

AUGUST 15: Smokey Robinson and the Miracles released the single "The Tears Of A Clown" on Motown. It peaked at Number 1 and stayed 10 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

AUGUST 22: Diana Ross released the single "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" on

Motown. It went to Number 1 and stayed 11 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 26: The second Isle of Wight Festival was highlighted by The Who and Jimi Hendrix, in what was Hendrix's final performance.

AUGUST 29: Van Dyke Parks was appointed director of audiovisual services at the Warner Brothers Records Television Films Companies. His job was to create 10-minute promotional films for Warner-Reprise acts, shorts that could be shown in first-run movie theaters and/or on late night TV. No record company had ever established an in-house department for the production of what would prove to be the forerunner of music videos. Parks convinced some of the top advertising directors and camera crews in the business to shoot 16-millimeter concert, documentary, and theme promos for Ry Cooder; Joni Mitchell; Earth, Wind and Fire; and Randy Newman; among others. A year after Parks assumed his post, Warner dissolved the department because it couldn't justify expenses of a half-million dollars for music films with no viable means of distribution. The era of MTV was still over a decade away.

AUGUST 31: The Beach Boys released the album *Sunflower* on Warner Brothers Records. Although one of their finest works, the album sold a piddling number. It was noted that a 3M 16-track tape deck was used during its production. One cut, "This Whole World," was another Brian Wilson mini-opus, and traversed a half-dozen separate moods and settings in an evolution of less than two minutes. The LP peaked at Number 151 and spent four weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

SEPTEMBER 12: Rare Earth released the single "(I Know) I'm Losing You" on Motown. It went to Number 7 and stayed on the chart for six weeks.

SEPTEMBER 18: Jimi Hendrix died in London, reportedly from inhalation of vomit following barbiturate intoxication.

SEPTEMBER 26: The Jackson Five released the single "I'll Be There" on Motown. It peaked at Number 1 and stayed on the chart for 14 weeks. ?? The Who released the single "See Me, Feel Me" in the U.S. from the *Tommy* album, peaking at Number 12 in *Billboard*.

OCTOBER 4: Janis Joplin died from a heroin overdose, alone in her motel room in Los Angeles at the age of 27.

### **THE EMERGENCE OF CLASSICAL ROCK**

OCTOBER: ?? Pink Floyd released their album *Atom Heart Mother* in the U.S. on Harvest. The album went to Number 55 on the *Billboard* album charts. The title cut was an ambitious extended piece contained on an entire side by Floyd and electronic experimenter Ron Geesin that wedded classical music and rock through the inclusion of a large brass section and choir. Side two included a tribute to Ray Davies called "Fat Old Sun" (which even opened with the same tolling bells used by the Kinks' "Big Black Smoke"). The album gave them their first British Number 1. The band brought the whole show, including orchestra and choir, to America for

a tour in late 1970.

NOVEMBER 13: George Harrison released the two-sided single "My Sweet Lord/Isn't It A Pity" on Apple Records. The songs were produced by Phil Spector.

NOVEMBER 17: George Harrison's album *All Things Must Pass* was released on Apple Records. The three-record set was produced by Phil Spector.

### **POPULARIZING THE EASTER STORY AS "ROCK OPERA"**

NOVEMBER 21: The concept album *Jesus Christ Superstar*, subtitled a "rock opera," was released by Decca, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, and lyrics by Tim Rice. The recording caught on in the U.S. where the double album topped the American charts three different times. Murray Head sang the part of Judas, Ian Gilliam (of Deep Purple) was Jesus, and Yvonne Elliman sang the part of Mary Magdalene. The popularity of the recording resulted in a slew of concert performances of the show's music in the U.S., some authorized, some not.

DECEMBER 6: *Gimme Shelter*, the Maysles Brothers' documentary of the Rolling Stones' 1969 U.S. tour and Altamont debacle, opened in New York.

DECEMBER 7: John Lennon released his solo album *John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band* on Apple Records. Phil Spector produced the record.

DECEMBER 14: The Supremes and the Four Tops released the single "River Deep—Mountain High" on Motown. The song made it to Number 14, and stayed on the chart for five weeks, somewhat vindicating Phil Spector faith in his 1966 epic production with Ike and Tina Turner.

Other Events in 1970: Summer '70: ?? The movie, *Woodstock* was released. ?? The film *Zabriskie Point*, by director Antonioni was released. He wound up using three numbers from Pink Floyd's original full-length score. ?? Genesis jumped to Charisma Records and recorded the album *Trespass*. Then Anthony Phillips quit.

## **1971**

FEBRUARY 27: The Temptations released the single "Just My Imagination (Running Away From Me)" on Motown. The song climbed to Number 1 and stayed 11 weeks on the chart. MARCH 6: Helen Reddy released the single "I Don't Know How To Love Him" on Capitol, from the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which reached Number 13 in *Billboard*, and stayed on the chart for nine weeks. In *Cashbox* it hit Number 19, making the charts for 17 weeks.

MAY 21: Marvin Gaye released the song "What's Going On" on Motown. The single reached Number 2 and stayed on the chart 11 weeks.

APRIL 3: Jethro Tull's album *Aqualung* was released in the U.K. Basically two song cycles on one recording; side one was subtitled "Aqualung", featuring six numbers

thematically tied together around the character of a "poor old sod" and a small cast of other descriptive personalities such as Cross-Eyed Mary, Johnny Scarecrow, and Mother Goose. Side two had a more religious theme, and was appropriately subtitled "God." The album reached Number 4.

APRIL 6: Igor Stravinsky died in New York. 10: The Jackson Five released the single "Never Can Say Goodbye" on Motown. It peaked at Number 2 and stayed ten weeks on the *Billboard* chart. *Woodstock Two*, featuring more songs from the festival, was released on Cotillion. The double album had performances from Joan Baez, Melanie, Jefferson Airplane, and Mountain, among others. It reached Number 7, and stayed on the charts for nine weeks.

APRIL 17: Original cast member Yvonne Ellman released the single "I Don't Know How To Love Him" from the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Decca Records. The song reached Number 28 in *Billboard*, and stayed on the charts for six weeks. The song reached Number 30 in *Cashbox*, staying on its chart for 11 weeks.

APRIL 24: Stevie Wonder released the single "We Can Work It Out" on Motown. The Beatles cover song made it to Number 13 and stayed three weeks on the chart.

APRIL 28: The Seattle Opera Association conducted the first professional staging of *Tommy* at that city's Moore Theater, with a local rock band handling the musical duties, all without the usual prewritten score from which to conduct the "rock opera." ?? The Doors' album *LA Woman* is released on Elektra. The song "Riders On The Storm," whose haunting imagery and stealthy accompaniment was mixed with sound effects is regarded as a timeless classic.

MAY 8: The song "Superstar" by Murray Head was reissued, reaching Number 14 in *Billboard*, and staying on the charts for eight weeks. 15: The Filmmaker's Fortnight Festival in Cannes, France, featured two films done by John and Yoko, *Apotheosis (Balloon)* and *Fly*. 17: The musical *Godspell* opened off-Broadway. It had previously been staged on off-off-Broadway. The book, by John-Michael Tebelak, was based upon the Gospel according to St. Matthew, and the music was mostly composed by Stephen Schwartz. The best known of the show's songs was "Day By Day." This, plus favorable critical response, helped to move the show uptown, where it had an enduring run into 1977.

MAY 22: Jethro Tull's album *Aqualung* was released in the U.S. on Reprise Records. It hit a high of Number 7 in *Billboard*, staying on the charts for 16 weeks.

JULY 3: Jim Morrison died in Paris, France, recorded officially as a heart attack caused by heroin and alcohol.

JULY 10: The Who released the single "Won't Get Fooled Again" in the U.S. on Decca, from their upcoming album *Who's Next*. The single peaked at Number 15 in *Billboard*, while it reached Number 9 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 14 weeks. 24: Jethro Tull released the single "Hymn 43" in the U.S. from their concept album *Aqualung* on Reprise Records. It only made it to Number 77 in *Cashbox*,

staying on the charts for 3 weeks.

JULY 27: John Guarre and Mel Shapiro's rock musical *Two Gentlemen Of Verona*, with lyrics by Guarre and music by *Hair* composer Galt MacDermont, opened at New York's off-Broadway Delacorte Theater. As part of the New York Shakespeare Festival, it had a two-week run of free performances before being sent uptown to its Broadway version.

The show was Shakespeare transformed into a 1970s post-*Hair* American musical play with post-*Hair* music and some "for-the-people" chunks of semi-adult vulgar humor mixed in with bits of The Bard, creating an otherwise unaggressively modern and rather long production. ?? Pink Floyd released their retrospective album *Relics* in the U.S. on Harvest. It went to Number 152 in *Billboard*.

AUGUST 1: *The Concert for Bangladesh* was held at Madison Square Garden in New York, costarring George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr, and Ravi Shankar. The concert album raised raised \$1,200,000 for UNICEF. 21: The Who released their album, *Who's Next*, in the U.S. on Decca. It reached Number 4 in *Billboard*, staying on the charts for 11 weeks, and received enormous airplay, which helped to make the record a multimillion-seller. While the album generally seemed to be an old-fashioned grab-bag of unrelated songs, it contained four songs intended for another Townshend story concept: "Baba O'Riley," "Behind Blue Eyes," "Won't Get Fooled Again," and "The Song Is Over." These were to be part of the aborted theatrical event/concept album/film project to have been called *Lifehouse*... "Originally a science fiction concept with a concert at the heart of it and a story about an approaching army heading towards this concert and busting in at the climax...at one point I was imagining a ten-week concert, not just with The Who but with lots of other musicians as well...we were...investigating a new kind of rock theater." —Townshend

AUGUST 28: Rare Earth released the single "I Just Want To Celebrate" on Motown. It peaked at Number 7 and stayed on the chart for six weeks.

SEPTEMBER 8: Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*, a theatre Piece for singers, players and dancers, opened at the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, D.C. for a limited engagement. Based on the Liturgy of the Roman Mass, it had additional lyrics from Stephen Schwartz. The nature of the work gave the composer freedom to create in all styles, ranging from modal to atonal to rock. The spectacular scope and size of *Mass*: soloists, chorus, dance company, boy's choir, full orchestra, etc., took the better part of an afternoon to perform.

SE[TEMBER 11: The Who's album *Who's Next* is released in Britain. It reached Number 1 and stayed on the charts for 10 weeks. : The Beach Boys released the album *Surf's Up* on Warner. The title cut was salvaged from the ill-fated *Smile* sessions that Brian wrote with Van Dyke Parks back in 1966. The album failed to reach gold, peaking at Number 29 and spending 17 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 13: John Lennon released his album *Imagine* on Apple Records. It was produced by Phil Spector. 18: Pink Floyd performed *Atom Heart Mother* in the first

appearance of a rock group at the Classical Music Festival in Montreux, Switzerland.

OCTOBER 2: Yvonne Elliman released the single "Everything's Alright," also from the *Jesus Christ Superstar* concept album, on Decca. The song only climbed to Number 95 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for three weeks.

### **FROM CONCEPT ALBUM TO CONCERT THEATER TO BROADWAY**

OCTOBER 12: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar* opened at the Mark Hellinger Theater in New York. Producer Robert Stigwood had taken the final steps towards getting the show from the concert stage to the theater and brought on director Tom O'Horgan, who had also directed the Biltmore Theater's production of *Hair*. The show starred Ben Vereen as Judas, Jeff Fenholt as Jesus, and Yvonne Elliman once again as Mary Magdalene. It had a run of 711 performances.

OCTOBER 30: The Who released the single "Behind Blue Eyes" in the U.S. on Decca. It went to Number 24 in *Cashbox*, and stayed on the charts for 12 weeks. ?? The soundtrack for Frank Zappa's film *200 Motels* was released as a double album. The movie cast included an appearance from Ringo Starr. ?? Pink Floyd released their album *Meddle* in the U.S. on Harvest. Side two contained the extended atmospheric work, the epic "Echoes." Another piece, "Fearless" used an excerpt from the Rodger and Hammerstein II song "You'll Never Walk Alone," from their 1945 musical *Carousel*. The album went to Number 70 in *Billboard*.

NOVEMBER 9: The single "Superstar" by Murray Head was reissued in time for the Christmas holidays. This time it reached Number 8, staying on the *Cashbox* charts for 23 weeks.

DECEMBER 1: John Guarre, Mel Shapiro and Galt MacDermot's *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* opened in New York's St. James Theater. Transferred down to Broadway, the show picked up Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Libretto that the same voters didn't see fit to give to *Hair*. The cast starred Raul Julia and Clifton Davis. It had a run of 614 performances before going out on the road. An original cast recording was also released. ?? The Who released the single "Let's See Action" in the U.K., peaking at Number 16 on the charts. This was to have been another song from the aborted concert/film/theatre project, *Lifthouse*.

Other Events in 1971: ?? Phil Collins and Steve Hackett joined Genesis. They went on to record the album *Nursery Cryme* on Charisma Records. The album contained such rambling story songs as "The Musical Box," "The Fountain Of Salmacis," and "The Return Of The Giant Hogweed." The band dipped heavily into the "classical rock" genre with a sound that combined brooding, Mellotron-drenched mythical suites with a Monty Pythonesque British whimsy, all revolving around Gabriel's distinctive high-ranging tenor voice.



## Part 7

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 6, 1996) 1972-1975

#### 1972

JANUARY 8: The original cast recording from the Broadway version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* was released in the U.S. It reached a high of Number 31, staying on the charts for 12 weeks in *Billboard*.

FEBRUARY 14: Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey's rock and roll musical *Grease!* opened at New York's off-Broadway Eden Theatre, for a run of 3,388 performances. ?? Pink Floyd began composing an extended work called *Eclipse*, as a song cycle they'd installed as a concert centerpiece. As Gilmour related in NME, "We'd all written (melodies) beforehand, and then Roger got the theme and the words together." It took them over a year to perfect, record, and release as their next album.

MARCH 8: The soundtrack for the Stanley Kubrick film *A Clockwork Orange* was released, featuring classical music of Beethoven, Rossini, and Purcel, along with new electronic music compositions from Wendy Carlos. The album went to Number 34 in *Billboard*, staying on the charts for five weeks. 23: *The Concert For Bangladesh* movie premiered.

MAY 13: The original cast released the single "Day By Day," from the Stephen Schwartz musical *Godspell* on Bell Records. The song climbed to Number 9 in *Cashbox*, sticking on the charts for 16 weeks.

JUNE 3: Jethro Tull's "Thick As A Brick" hit Number 1 in the U.S.: The Beach Boys released the album *Carl And The Passions: So Tough* on Warner Brothers. It reached Number 50 and spent 20 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

JUNE 9: David Bowie's "The Rise And Fall Of Ziggy Stardust And The Spiders From Mars" was released in the U.K. 28: A second production of Bernstein's *Mass* played a month at New York's Metropolitan Opera House. ?? Pink Floyd released the album *Obscured By Clouds* in the U.S. on Harvest. The LP contained music from the film *The Valley*, and reached Number 46 on the charts.

JULY 8: The original cast recording from the musical *Godspell* was released. Based upon the gospel according to St. Matthew, the album reached Number 34 in *Billboard*, staying on the charts for 12 weeks. Albums by the cast and others sold well.

AUGUST 9: The British version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* opened at the Palace Theatre, for an eight-year and 3,358-performance run, becoming the longest running musical in West End history up to that time. 28: David Bowie and the

Spiders from Mars made their U.S. debut at New York's Carnegie Hall

OCTOBER 9: Galt MacDermont's *Dude* opened in New York's Broadway Theater, and quickly folded. ?? Pete Townshend released his first solo album *Who Came First*, which contains the songs "Pure & Easy" and "Let's See Action" to have been included in the *Lifeline* project. The album made it to Number 69 in the U.S. The general tone of the album reflected a gentler, pastoral side to Townshend's otherwise rockier image with The Who. Its spiritual and more personal perspective was inspired by his mystical guru Meher Baba and set the tone for many of his later recordings.

NOVEMBER 8: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's revised and expanded *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* opened in London at the Roundhouse Theatre.

NOVEMBER 28: Galt MacDermont's *Via Galactica* opened at New York's Uris Theater and closed in a week.

DECEMBER 9: The Moody Blues' *Seventh Sojourn* hit Number 1 in the U.S. Excessive forms of the "rock opera": New Yorker Lou Reizner presented a live concert of the "orchestral" version of *Tommy* at London's Rainbow Theatre, with Rod Stewart, the London Symphony Orchestra, and The Who.

DECEMBER 23: The "orchestral" *Tommy* double album, produced by Lou Reizner, was released on Ode Records in the U.S. The album which featured the London Symphony Orchestra and English Chamber Choir, with a cast of Ringo Starr, Rod Stewart, The Who, and others, peaked at Number 5, and stayed on the charts for 13 weeks.

Other Events in 1972: ?? A filmed version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* was released, starring Carl Anderson as Judas, Ted Neely as Jesus, and Yvonne Elliman once again as Mary Magdalene.?? Colin Blunstone, the former lead vocalist of the British pop group The Zombies, released the solo album, *Ennismore*, a faultless, almost continuous suite of songs which included two UK chart hits, "How Could We Dare To Be Wrong" and "I Don't Believe In Miracles."

?? The Greek band Aphrodite's Child released the concept album *666* on Vertigo Records in the U.S., composed by the keyboardist Evangelis Papathanassiou (later to achieve fame as simply Vangelis, for writing the theme to the movie *Chariots Of Fire*). The double album took a rather bleak look at mysticism by focusing on the biblical story of the Book of Revelations, which foretells of a world leader arising in 1981, who eventually becomes Satan, the beast, who forces everyone to wear the mark "666" on their wrists or foreheads or be killed. World War III was just around the corner, until Christ returned in the second coming to banish the beast forever. Pretty heady stuff for 1972, but the progressive rock/electronic operatic score was excellent and ahead of its time. ?? Van Dyke Parks released his album *Discover America* on Warner Brothers. ?? Cameron Mactintosh presented his first West End production *The Card*, a musical adaptation of Arnold Bennett's novel, which starred

Jim Dale and Marti Webb. The score was written by lyricist Jackie Trent and her husband, composer Tony Hatch. ?? Toni Tennille co-wrote the rock musical *Mother Earth*. She went on to attain Top 40 success with partner Daryl Dragon in the pop duo Captain and Tennille in 1975 with the Neil Sedaka song "Love Will Keep Us Together" and later with the song "Muskrat Love." A primetime TV series followed.

Tennille went on to make solo albums of standard ballads and classic Broadway hits.

?? Genesis released the album *Foxtrot* on Charisma. Side two was an extended song cycle called "Supper's Ready." The most impressive cut was the sci-fi epic "Watcher Of The Skies." At this time in their live shows, the band became Britain's leading purveyor of rock and roll dramaturgy, and Gabriel was its principal vocalist and costumed Grand Guignol character. Gabriel would take the stage in fox-head masks, inverted-pyramid headpieces, giant daffodil casques, glowing-eyes, and bat-wing getups, abstract Roman-helmet make-up, and silvery whiteface. Even his "normal" look was a variation of a theatrical disguise: a wide shaved streak cut through the top of his otherwise hippie length hair, like a "reverse Mohawk." As was becoming the case for most fans of English "progressive rock" groups, one either adored the Lewis Carroll-like image of the band, or utterly disdained its cool sense of detachment.

## 1973

JANUARY 27: The Beach Boys released the album *Holland* on Warner Brothers Records. It peaked at Number 36 and spent 30 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. There was an especially long and pretentious three-part song written by Mike Love and Alan and Linda Jardine called "California Saga (The Beaks Of Eagles)." Also included as a separate special "bonus" with the album was a single which contained a strange "fairy tale" Brian had written called "Mount Vernon And Fairway."

FEBRUARY 24: The Beach Boys released the single "Sail On Sailor" on Warner Brothers. It peaked at Number 79.

### THE HIGH POINT OF THE CONCEPT ALBUM

MARCH 28: Pink Floyd's concept album *Dark Side Of The Moon* (Harvest Records) hit Number 1 on March 28. It is among the top-selling albums of all time, currently in excess of 25 million copies have been sold. Its amazing run on the *Billboard* charts lasted over 10 years, outselling even The Beatles' *Abbey Road*. From the steady beat of the human heart, and then joined by the ticking of a clock, and then by rhythmically synced cash registers, pieces like "Time," "Money," and "Breathe" were linked in a swirl of sonic psychotic wonder, leading into the sound of footsteps racing from speaker to speaker.

The album's luster was enhanced by sax man Dick Parry, and vocalists Clare Torry

and Doris Troy, all engineered by Alan Parsons. In the subsequent American tour to support the album, the groups stage performance was an extravaganza of refined synthesized rock supported by additional onstage singers matched by dramatic explosions, mists, rings of fire, and assorted pyrotechnic displays: gongs burst into flame and a floodlit balloon Moon floated overhead.

MAY: ?? Jethro Tull released the single "A Passion Play" in the U.S., from their concept album of the same name.

Mid MAY: ?? Pete Townshend announced in Britain's *NME* that he was obsessively at work on "a new Rock Opera," a double album that would eventually be named *Quadrophenia*. The story revolved around the experience of Jimmy, a Mod.

JULY 7: Cat Stevens released the album *Foreigner* which had an entire suite for its first side. Although many found it boring, it still reached Number 3 in Britain.

AUGUST 11: The soundtrack for the film *Jesus Christ Superstar* was released. The movie starred Ted Neely as Jesus, Carl Anderson as Judas, Yvonne Elliman as Mary Magdalene, and Barry Dennen as Pontius Pilate. The album reached Number 21, staying on the chart eight weeks.

### **MORE EXCESSES IN PROGRESSIVE ROCK**

OCTOBER 22: The progressive rock band Yes released its double LP, *Tales Of The Topographic Ocean* in Britain. It reached Number 1, and stayed on the charts four weeks.

NOVEMBER: ?? Brian Eno and Robert Fripp (of King Crimson), released the album *No Pussyfooting*, an esoteric instrumental piece featuring two extended compositions, each taking up a whole side of the record. A tour followed.

DECEMBER 17: The Who released the concept album *Quadrophenia* on Track Record. In the U.S., the album topped at Number 2 in *Billboard*, and stayed on the charts for seven weeks. In Britain, the album also made it to Number 2 and stayed on the charts for five weeks. ?? The Who released the single "Love Reign Over Me" in the U.S. from their forthcoming album *Quadrophenia*. It peaked at number 76.

Other Events in 1973: ?? Pink Floyd's spacey music from the soundtrack to the film *More* was re-released in the U.S. It went to Number 153 in *Billboard*. ?? Pink Floyd's album *A Nice Pair* was released in the U.S. It reached Number 36 on the charts. ?? Pink Floyd's single "Money" went to Number 13. ?? Virgin Records was launched by Richard Branson. The first release was Mike Oldfield's album *Tubular Bells*, which contained the theme song for 1973's hottest film, *The Exorcist*. *Tubular Bells* went on to sell over five million copies. ?? The Beach Boys single "Sail On Sailor" was released on Warner Brothers and reached a peak of 79.

## 1974

MARCH 22: Director Ken Russell's film version of The Who's *Tommy* went into production. Also behind the scenes was Robert Stigwood, an influential force in the Broadway version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

MAY 25: A new group from Sweden, called ABBA, released their first single "Waterloo," on Atlantic Records in the U.S. The song reached Number 10 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 14 weeks.

JUNE 25: The British version of *Hair* reopened at the Queen's Theatre, after less than a year layoff following their quitting the Shaftesbury due to roof problems. The production went on for another 111 performances.

JULY 20: The Beach Boys released the 2-LP greatest hits collection, *Endless Summer*, on Capitol. It reached Number 1 and spent 155 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

AUGUST 15: Willy Russell's play *John, Paul, George, Ringo...And Bert* premiered on London's West End.

SEPTEMBER 25: Robert Fripp disbanded King Crimson.

NOVEMBER 14: The *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band On The Road* stage show hit New York; Lennon appeared at a press conference to promote it. Robert Stigwood was the producer. Ted Neely, of the film *Jesus Christ Superstar* fame, sang the lead role of Billy. Tom O'Horgan, previously of the Broadway versions *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, was its director.?? The band Genesis released its double album, *A Lamb Lies Down On Broadway*, composer Peter Gabriel's attempt at a surrealistic storyline based around a New York Hispanic character named "Rael." The "rock opera" was about urban angst. An elaborate tour followed through 1975.

Other Events in 1974: Early '74: ?? *Rolling Stone* reported that The Who's second performance of the concert version of *Quadrophenia* ended in disaster when the show's reliance on prerecorded tapes of Townshend's synthesizers went out of sync with the band's playing. ?? Jackie Trent and Tony Hatch created the musical show *Rock Nativity* in London. The project proved to be "one biblical musical too many."

## 1975

JANUARY 5: Charlie Smalls' musical *The Wiz* opened at New York's Majestic Theatre, for a run of 1,672 performances.

MARCH 10: Richard O'Brien's musical *The Rocky Horror Show* opened at the Belasco Theater in New York and closed in less than a month.

APRIL 12: The movie soundtrack for Ken Russell's *Tommy* was released. It made it to Number 2 on the *Billboard* Album Chart in the U.S., staying on the charts for

19 weeks. The Beach Boys re-released the single "Sail On Sailor." It peaked at Number 49.

APRIL 19: Roger Daltry 's performance in the film *Tommy* earned him the American ABC Interstate Theater Award as Best New Star of the Year, previously conferred on the likes of Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, and Dustin Hoffman.?? Ken Russell's movie version of *Tommy* is released. Described as "rock's most acclaimed stab at opera," it was canonized by *Variety* as "spectacular in nearly every way." In the cast were Tina Turner as the Acid Queen, Elton John as the dethroned pinball champ, Eric Clapton as the preacher, and Roger Daltry as Tommy, along with actors Oliver Reed as the lover, Ann-Margret as Tommy's mother, and Jack Nicholson as the doctor. Certain story lines were rewritten; for example, the song "1921" was changed to "1951."

MAY 3: The Beach Boys released the double album *Spirit Of America*, a sequel to *Endless Summer*, on Capitol. It reached Number 8 and spent 43 weeks on the *Billboard* chart. 30: Rick Wakeman lost \$60,000 of his own money presenting *Myths And Legends Of King Arthur And The Knights Of The Roundtable* on ice at the Wembley Empire Pool.

JULY 19: The Beach Boys released the album *Good Vibrations—Best Of The Beach Boys*, a hits compilation of songs from 1966-1973 that peaked at Number 25 and spent 23 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

SEPTEMBER: ?? Pink Floyd released the album *Wish You Were Here* in U.S. It had taken the band over two years to devise a sequel to the *Dark Side Of The Moon*. It contained a brilliant nine-part eulogy to Syd Barrett: "Shine On You Crazy Diamond," an extended piece spread out on both sides of the record, instead of the usual one full side. Also included were the anti-Rock Biz numbers "Welcome To The Machine" and "Have A Cigar." A tour soon followed, with 30 tons of equipment and a 20-member crew.

OCTOBER 4: Pink Floyd's album *Wish You Were Here* hit Number 1 in the U.S.

NOVEMBER 8: David Bowie's reissued *Space Oddity* hit Number 1 in Britain. 29: Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" hit Number 1 in Britain.

Other Events in 1975: ?? The Australian company, Fairlight CMI, made its digital sampler/synthesizer commercially available. ?? Van Dyke Parks released the album *Clang Of The Yankee Reaper* on Warner Brothers. ?? The Beach Boys' single "Sail On Sailor" was re-released and rose to Number 49. ?? Peter Gabriel quit Genesis. ?? Joseph Byrd released the solo album *Yankee Trancendoodle*, a quirky synthesizer record.



## Part 8

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM, AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 6, 1996): 1976-1979

#### 1976

MARCH 8: Nicolas Roeg's film *The Man Who Fell To Earth*, starring David Bowie, premiered in London.

JULY 17: The Beach Boys released the album *15 Big Ones*. It peaked at Number 8 and spent 27 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

OCTOBER 26: The sexually shocking musical *Oh! Calcutta* reopened on Broadway at the Eaton Theater, seven years after its initial appearance. The show once again featured nudity in the course of an erotically-pseudo revue, but again was considered a silly, feeble attempt to pander to the adult New York tourist crowd, and not in the least sexy. The show retained its original contributions from John Lennon, Sam Shepard, and Jules Feiffer.

#### 1977

MARCH 26: Stiff Records released the first Elvis Costello single, "Less Than Zero." ?? Pete Townshend released his second "solo" album, *Rough Mix*, a collaboration with Small Faces' bassist Ronnie Lane. It made it to Number 45.

APRIL 30: The Beach Boys released the album *The Beach Boys Love You*. It climbed to Number 53 and spent seven weeks on the *Billboard* chart. ?? *Beatlemania*, a Broadway musical, opened at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York. Beatle lookalike musicians played Beatle songs against a backdrop of film clips from the 1960s. Although the show opened for a limited engagement, it ran for three years on Broadway and also had a very successful tour. In 1979, it was reported that an agent for The Beatles had sued the show's producers for unauthorized use of the Beatles' material.

OCTOBER 5: *Hair* returned to Broadway and the Biltmore Theater, but lasted only 43 performances this time around.

Other Events in 1977: ?? Pink Floyd released their album *Animals*. It reached Number 3 in the U.S. It featured a scathing attack on the "clean-up" television campaigner Mary Whitehouse. As a concept, it divvied up the whole human race into three unflattering categories: pigs, sheep, and dogs. The obligatory tour that followed, featured the trademark 40-foot inflatable pig flying overhead of the stadium concertgoers. ?? Peter Gabriel released his first solo album, simply called *Peter Gabriel*. Songs like *Solsbury Hill*, an uplifting tale of the exhilarating loss of innocence that was an allegory for the breakup of Genesis, were contrasted with

apocalyptic keyboard soul-chillers like *Here Comes The Flood*. ??

Godley and Creme released the concept triple album *Consequences*. After abandoning the mainstream pop sound of their previous band 10cc in 1976, the duo attempted a more elaborate project, which was nothing less than a staggeringly overblown concept based on "The Story of Man's Last Defense Against An Irate Nature." The work was lampooned in the music press, as was the duo's invention of a new musical instrument called the "Gizmo", which had been used on the album. As their flustered manager Harvey Lisberg commented: "They turned their back on huge success. They were brilliant, innovative, and what did they do? A triple album that goes on forever and became a disaster." An edited version of the work was later issued but also failed to sell. ?? British folksinger Peter Bellamy released the album *The Transports*, a self-composed Ballad Opera, featuring the contributions of a variety of English folksingers. It was judged as Folk Album of the Year by *Melody Maker*.

## 1978

MAY 27: The soundtrack from the movie *Grease* was released. Starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, the album hit Number 1 for 12 weeks, staying on the charts for 39 weeks.

JUNE 21: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Evita* opened in London at the Prince Edwards Theatre.

AUGUST 12: The soundtrack from the movie *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was released. Featuring Beatle songs sung by Peter Frampton, The Bee Gees, and Earth, Wind & Fire, the album reached Number 5, staying on the charts for 12 weeks.

SEPTEMBER 2: Michael Jackson and Diana Ross released the single "Ease On Down The Road," on MCA Records, from the motion picture version of *The Wiz*. It reached Number 36 in *Cashbox*, and stayed on the charts for 14 weeks. 7: Keith Moon died in London of an overdose of anti-alcoholism pills, the morning after attending Paul McCartney's birthday celebration for Buddy Holly.

OCTOBER 21: The Beach Boys released the *M.I.U. ALBUM*. It reached Number 151 and spent four weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

NOVEMBER: ?? The Doors released the album *An American Prayer*, on Elektra. The remaining trio supplied newly recorded music to a series of poetry recitations, which Morrison had taped during the *LA Woman* sessions, along with a live version of "Roadhouse Blues." The album was a major success and prompted further archive projects, such as *Alive, She Cried (1983)*, a sampling of several concert performances, and *The Doors Live At Hollywood Bowl (1987)*.

Other Events in 1978: ?? The Who's album *Who Are You* was released in the U.S., reaching Number 2 in *Billboard*. ?? Elizabeth Swados composed the score for the rock musical *Runaways*, produced by Joseph Papp. ?? *Evita* opened in London and

had a run of 2,900 performances.

## 1979

APRIL 7: The Beach Boys released the *L.A. Light Album*. It climbed to Number 100, and stayed on the *Billboard* chart for 13 weeks. 16: *Starmania*, a Franco-Canadian "rock opera" with music by Michel Berger, opened in Paris' Palais des Congres. It was essentially a teeni-musical that appealed to the young.

SEPTEMBER 17: Frank Zappa released *Joe's Garage, Act One*, the first installment of the soundtrack from the same film. *Acts II and III* were released as a double album on November 19 of the same year. 25: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Evita* opened at New York's Broadway Theatre for a run of 1,567 performances. 29: The Police's "Message In A Bottle" hit Number 1 in Britain.

DECEMBER 9: Eleven people died when crowds rushed the gate at The Who's concert in Cincinnati, Ohio. 15: Pink Floyd's single "Another Brick In The Wall" hit Number 1 in Britain. 30: Richard Rodgers died in New York City.

### THE CONCEPT ALBUM MAKES A COMEBACK

DECEMBER: ?? Pink Floyd released the double album, *The Wall*. This Roger Waters dominated epic was a subtly screened autobiographical ode to his own post-war alienation: the story of a rock star/curmudgeon named "Pink Floyd" whose personality mirrored that of the troubled author pouring out anger and scorn. The song "Another Brick" was used as a leitmotif, charging that Western society uses its schools and other public institutions to build an impenetrable wall of destructive social conditioning around the individual. Pink relives the pressures of childhood, and is gradually transformed into a raving psychopath, under the culminating pressures of Rock Biz "success." As Waters stated, "on the simplest level, whenever something happens, he isolates himself a bit more—i.e., symbolically he adds another brick to his wall to protect himself." By the end of "act one," Pink was completely bricked in (metaphorically), as was the band (literally). "He then becomes susceptible to the worms...symbols of negative force within ourselves, (of decay)" (Waters). Once onstage, Pink becomes a ranting ultra-rightist, and the concert itself becomes a fascist rally (with the crowd's "Pink Floyd! Pink Floyd!" chant turning into "Hammer! Hammer!"). During the ensuing trial finale, with its Gilbert and Sullivan pastiche, he suffered a total breakdown, where all the villains of his past—his mother, schoolmaster, and wife—sat in judgement. And of course, at the very end *The Wall* fell down. Waters took a viciously bleak view of a crippling society that systematically depersonalized its citizens, while presenting the most personal and intimate Floyd album yet. But as one critic said, "The man behind *The Wall* is no visionary artist either: he remains, to the end, an architect" (Schaffer). ??

The Who's *Quadrophenia* (Soundtrack) was released in the U.S., and peaked at Number 46.

Other Events in 1979: ?? Roger Daltry was cast as Franz Liszt in Ken Russell's irreverent film *Lisztomania*. Rick Wakeman wrote music for the soundtrack. ??

Roger Daltry was also cast in Richard Marquand's occult saga *The Legacy*. ?? Who Films Ltd. released The Who documentary *The Kids Are Alright*, and the director Franc Roddam's stark and realistic film, *Quadrophenia*, starring the Police's Sting as the bellboy. ?? The film version of *Hair*, starring John Savage, Treat Williams, Beverly d'Angelo and Melba Moore, was released by United Artists. ?? Francis Ford Coppola's movie *Apocalypse Now* was released. The Vietnam War film contained the evocative use of The Doors' *The End* in its closing sequence. ?? Dave Greenslade released the lavish and expensive concept double album, *The Pentateuch Of The Cosmology*. The former member of the English group Colosseum and founder of the progressive jazz/rock group Greenslade collaborated with fantasy artist/writer Patrick Woodroffe, but the ambitious project was out of step with the punk ethos then dominating the late 70s. The LP has since attained a cult status among collectors. ?? Stevie Wonder released the album Stevie Wonder's *Journey Through The Secret Life Of Plants*. The music was the soundtrack to the documentary film. The predominately instrumental double album received lukewarm reviews and sold poorly.



**Part 9****THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996  
(September 6, 1996): 1980-1989****1980**

JANUARY 19: Pink Floyd's album *The Wall* hit Number 1 in the U.S.

FEBRUARY 7: Pink Floyd presented a concert version of *The Wall* at The Sports Arena of Los Angeles. Perhaps the most spectacular rock extravaganza ever staged, an estimated \$1.8 million worth of equipment and props were used for the event. The focal point of the show were the 420 large, white cardboard clocks that stage hands assembled during the "first act" of the show, eventually stretching 60 yards wide and 40 yards high to become: The Wall. The show also featured a giant inflatable flying pig and a life-size model airplane that soared over the arena before crashing in flames, both holdovers from previous tours, but used apparently just for the hell of it. The Wall also served as a screen for vivid animation featuring Gerald Scarfe's nightmarish creatures from the album cover. In the finale, the entire structure of the Wall collapsed onto the stage. Backed by an additional four-piece band and four-member choir, the group attained stunning sonic density, over-powering the audience in a mix of bloated spectacle and startling dramatic theatre.

MARCH 22: Pink Floyd's single "Another Brick In The Wall (Part Two)" hit Number 1 in the U.S.

APRIL 12: The Beach Boys released the album *Keepin' The Summer Alive*. It peaked at Number 75, and spent six weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

MAY: ?? Pink Floyd's single "Another Brick In The Wall" was banned in South Africa, because the song had become the anthem of a national student strike by more than 10,000 colored (mixed race), African and Indian high school students as well as their white supporters. The students had been protesting racist funding policies and intimidation by teachers. The government ban forbid radio stations from playing the song, stores from selling it and individuals from owning it. In America, educators in several states tried with some success to have the song removed from the playlists of radio stations, due to its anti-education theme. At least a dozen rock stations in major cities either stopped playing the record or refused to add it to their playlists. One Chicago teacher even cut his own rebuttal recording, changing the lyrics to "we all need an education." The rebuttal was an instant flop. The Pink Floyd version did not lead to any significant protests in the U.S. because in the cultural climate of the early '80s, students didn't much believe in protesting.

JULY 19: Bernard Pomerance's play *The Elephant Man*, starring David Bowie in the title role, premiered at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

AUGUST 16: David Bowie's "Ashes To Ashes" hit Number 1 in the U.K.

SEPTEMBER 23: David Bowie, as *The Elephant Man*, made his Broadway debut.

OCTOBER 4: The Police's single "Don't Stand So Close To Me" hit Number 1 in Britain.

DECEMBER 8: John Lennon was killed in New York by Mark Chapman.

Other Events in 1980: ?? Roger Daltry produced and starred in the movie *McVicar*. ?? Joseph Byrd released the solo album *Xmas Yet To Come*, another quirky synthesizer record. ?? Pete Townshend released his third solo album *Empty Glass* on his own label Eel Pie (also the name of his own publishing company). It reached Number 5 in the U.S. Galvanized by punk, the songwriter re-examined his musical roots, and emerged with a set both personal and compulsive. The single "Let My Love Open The Door" reached the U.S. Top 10, while the energetic song "Rough Boys" and the caustic "Jools And Jim," a sideswipe at contemporary rock press journalists, revealed a strength of purpose missing from Who recordings of the same period. ?? Peter Gabriel released his third solo album, again simply titled *Peter Gabriel*. Along with engineer Hugh Padgham and drummer Phil Collins, Gabriel pioneered the use of the groundbreaking gated drum sound, that quickly became a studio cliché during the early '80's. The song "Biko" became a leading anthem in the Amnesty International movement, and his regular finale during his subsequent live performances. ?? Singer Marti Webb released the concept album *Tell Me On A Sunday*. Collaborating on the songs were Andrew Lloyd Webber, Don Black, and Rod Argent.

## 1981

MAY 11: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* opened in New London Theatre. The show is still running as of this report, along with many national touring troupes.

### ENTER THE MTV GENERATION

AUGUST 1: Cable television's MTV went online at 12:01 a.m. The first video was the Buggles' song "Video Killed The Radio Star." As of mid 1996, MTV's estimated U.S. audience was 250 million households.

DECEMBER 26: The Beach Boys released *Ten Years Of Harmony*, a 2-LP compilation of the best tracks from 1970-1980. It peaked at Number 156 and spent eight weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

Other Events in 1981: ?? Stereo TV was introduced. ?? Linda Ronstadt, Rex Smith and Kevin Kline performed in Joseph Papp's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *The Pirates Of Penzance*.

1982: JANUARY 27: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* finally made it to Broadway. Its previous production had been in Brooklyn in 1976.

FEBRUARY 20: Barbara Streisand released the single "Memory" on Columbia Records from the musical *Cats*. Her version made it to Number 48 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 11 weeks.

MARCH 26: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song And Dance* opened in London's Palace Theatre. It opened on Broadway September 18.

JUNE 12: The original cast recording from the musical *Dreamgirls* was released. The album reached Number 11, staying on the charts for 15 weeks.

JULY 3: The Beach Boys released the album *Sunshine Dream*, a 2-LP best of set. It peaked at Number 180 and spent six weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

SEPTEMBER 22: The Who's "final" U.S. tour kicked off in Largo, Maryland.

OCTOBER 1: The first commercially released compact disc was issued in Japan: Billy Joel's *52nd Street*. The CD was a thin polycarbonate wafer 4 and 3/4" in diameter. Instead of the spiral groove on a vinyl record, a disc contained millions of microscopic pits in a highly reflective, smooth surface, covered by a coat of clear, protective plastic. Each pit represented a part of the music in binary digital form, and was read by a low-power laser beam in the CD player. The digital signals were converted into electrical energy and finally into audible "analog" sound. The standardization for the CD was jointly developed by Sony Corp. of Japan and Phillips Electronics of the Netherlands. 7: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* opened at New York's Winter Garden.

NOVEMBER 11: Barry Manilow released the single "Memory" on Arista Records, from the musical *Cats*. His version made it to Number 37 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 15 weeks.

Other Events in 1982: ?? The MIDI standard is set among manufacturers of synthesizers and electronic keyboards, allowing a musician to play one company's synth programs from a different company's keyboard controller. ?? The movie version of *The Wall* was released, directed by Alan Parker, starring Boomtown Rats' Bob Geldof and featuring the animation of Gerald Scarfe. ?? Pete Townshend released his solo album *All The Best Cowboys Have Chinese Eyes* on Eel Pie Records. The more abstract offering was a marked sales disappointment, reflecting the personal traumas which had surrounded the songwriter at that time. ?? Rod Argent composed the score for the ambitious musical *Masquerade*, based on the Kit Williams book, which opened at London's the Young Vic Theatre. ?? Alan Menken and Howard Ashman collaborated on the musical *Little Shop Of Horrors* at the WPA Theatre, New York. It told the story of Audrey II, a man-eating plant. The show became the highest grossing and third-longest running musical in off-Broadway history. It won the New York Drama Critics Award 1982-83 and the *London Evening Standard* Award for "Best Musical." As well as writing the book and lyrics, Ashman directed the stage show. ?? Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center mounted a tenth-anniversary revival of Bernstein's *Mass*.

## 1983

APRIL 9: The band The Tubes released the single "She's A Beauty" on Capitol. It reached Number 8 in *Cashbox*, sticking around on the charts for 21 weeks.

OCTOBER 29: Madonna released her first single, "Holiday" on Sire. It went to Number 12 in *Cashbox*, and stayed on the charts for 25 weeks.

DECEMBER: ?? Dennis Wilson of the Beach Boys died of a drowning accident while diving from his boat.

Other Events in 1983: ?? Pink Floyd released the album, *The Final Cut*. It was essentially a Waters' solo album, in which he continued to vent anger and bitterness. In retrospect it was a stark album that showed no warmth as it displayed a fragmented band. One single, "Not Now John" made the U.K. Top 30, but by the end of the year the demise of the band was evident, and they broke up. ?? Pete Townshend released the album of rare home-produced demos, *Scoop*.

## 1984

MARCH 27: Andrew Lloyd Webber and Robert Stilgoe's *Starlight Express* opened in London's Apollo Victoria Theatre, for a run of over 3,000 performances and eight years and counting, notching itself into second place on London's "all-time" list of runs. However, the show produced no hit parade singles for Lloyd Webber. Critics labeled it more an arena entertainment rather than a stage show.

APRIL 5: Galt MacDermont's *The Human Comedy* opened at Broadway's Royale Theater, lasting only 13 performances.

SEPTEMBER: ?? Bruce Springsteen's *Born In The U.S.A* became the first CD manufactured in the U.S.

NOVEMBER 21: The soundtrack for Frank Zappa's film, *Thing-Fish*, was released as a three-album set.

Other Events in 1984: ?? Peter Gabriel wrote the soundtrack to *Birdy*, director Alan Parker's stunning film adaptation of William Wharton's cult novel about a mentally and physically scarred Vietnam vet obsessed with birds and flight. Following a well-tested formula ?? The concept recording of *Chess* was released on RCA Records. related by Tim Rice and the two male members of the popular Swedish singing group Abba, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, *Chess* was subsequently performed in concert in 1984. In the cast were Murray Head, who sang the part of Judas on the original concept album of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1970, and Elaine Paige, who won fame starring in *Cats* in 1981. A double album, *Chess* won itself a place in the hit parades with the songs "One Night In Bangkok" and "I Know Him So Well." ?? Van Dyke Parks released his album *Jump*, a musical interpretation of the "Brer Rabbit" stories. ?? Linda Ronstadt sang Puccini; Roger Daltry acted

Shakespeare; Sting acted in the film *Dune*: all indicators that rock was being assimilated into a variety of narrative contexts. ?? Prince and the New Power Generation released the album *Purple Rain* on Warner Brothers Records, featuring music from the motion picture in which Prince starred as the "kid." A monster success, it continued the trend of thinking of records as soundtracks.

## 1985

FEBRUARY 23: Murray Head released the single "One Night In Bangkok" from the concept album *Chess* on RCA. It reached Number 4 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for 22 weeks.

MARCH 2: The group Robey released their own version of "One Night In Bangkok" on Silver Blue Records. The song only made it to Number 75 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for five weeks.

DECEMBER 7: Barbara Streisand released the single "Somewhere" on Columbia. Scored with synthesizers, the song made it to Number 50 in *Cashbox*, staying on the charts for four weeks. The song, of course, was initially from *West Side Story*, and was part of Streisand's *The Broadway Album*.

Other Events in 1985: ?? The tribute album *Lost In The Stars: The Music Of Kurt Weill* was released on A&M Records. Artists on the record included Sting, Lou Reed, Van Dyke Parks, and Marianne Faithfull. ?? Pete Townshend released his solo album *White City*. The ambitious work sadly promised more than it fulfilled. Townshend even wrote a same titled book to help explain the story/concept of the record, which he promoted in the liner notes. During this period, Townshend became a consultant editor at the London publishing house, Faber and Faber, where he found a new lease on life encouraging the work of young authors and poets. He also wrote his own collection of cryptic autobiographical stories, *Horse's Neck*.

## 1986

MAY 14: Tim Rice, Bjorn Ulvaeus, and Benny Andersson's musical *Chess* opened at London's Prince Edward Theatre, for a run of three years (1209 performances). It starred Murray Head and Elaine Paige, and was directed by Trevor Nunn.

JUNE 4: Peter Gabriel presented the *Conspiracy of Hope* tour at San Francisco's Cow Palace. The assembled Amnesty troupe also included Bryan Adams, Joan Baez, Jackson Browne, Lou Reed, the Neville Brothers, and Sting. The finale of the event was Gabriel's crowd-chanting "Biko."

JULY 26: The Beach Boys released the album *Made In U.S.A.*, a 2-LP best of, which peaked at Number 96 and spent 12 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

OCTOBER 9: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom Of The Opera* opened in London's Her Majesty's Theatre. 31: On Halloween, Roger Waters filed suit in London against Gilmour and Mason to prevent his two ex-band mates from using

the name Pink Floyd. Waters was later to call the reconstituted band a "hoax" and a "sham."

Other Events in 1986: ?? A 46-track digital tape recorder was made commercially available. ?? Pete Townshend released the album *Pete Townshend's Deep End—Live*. ?? British songwriter/composer Mike Batt released the solo album *The Hunting Of The Snark*, which later became a stage musical in 1991. Batt's earlier success had come from creating the children's TV show called the *Wombles* in 1973.

## 1987

MARCH 12: Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg's *Les Misérables* opened at the Broadway Theatre. 15: The American version of *Starlight Express* opened at New York's Gershwin Theater, playing for 761 shows prior to touring the country.

Other Events in 1987: ?? Pink Floyd, minus Roger Waters, released the album *A Momentary Lapse Of Reason*. Waters' Halloween injunction had been overturned, allowing temporary use of the name to the other members. It sounded like a Pink Floyd album, much to the relief of fans, critics, and the remaining band members, yet still received mixed reviews. It triumphed in record stores, however, selling three million copies in the U.S. alone. A lasers- and props-packed world tour began in September of '87 and finished 12 months and over 150 concerts later with steady sellouts everywhere. ?? Richard Maltry Jr. and Alain Boublil began work in Paris on the English libretto for the musical *Miss Saigon*. ?? Roger Waters released his second solo album, *Radio K.A.O.S.* The record drew wildly mixed reviews and sold modestly; yet the following concert pageant slowly prospered to where Waters could sell out solo shows in England's Wembley Arena on two consecutive nights. The concept of the show was based around a mythical radio station trapped in a typical Waters' doomsday-bound vision of a "soap-operatic republic" in which nobody cares, since everything is supposedly taken care of by the corporate rulers, who will tell the people when they are in fact being deceived and kept apart? In Waters' story, this was a question the people had to answer for themselves. ?? The Beach Boys teamed up with rap act The Fat Boys for a remake of the Surfers' "Wipe Out." ?? Pete Townshend released the compilation of rare recordings *Another Scoop*.

## 1988

JANUARY 26: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom Of The Opera* opened at New York's Majestic Theatre.

MARCH 5: The original cast recording from the London musical *The Phantom Of The Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Charles Hart was released, reaching a high of Number 33, and staying on the charts for four weeks.

APRIL 28: An altered version of *Chess* opened on Broadway at the Imperial Theater. It was unhappily received and folded in 68 performances.

SEPTEMBER 24: The Beach Boys released the single "Kokomo," and it reached

Number 1. It was originally included on the film *Cocktail* soundtrack album

## 1989

1989: APRIL 17: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects Of Love* opened in London's Prince of Wales Theatre. One of the main songs that skipped around the through-sung score was called "Love Changes Everything."

SEPTEMBER 16: The Beach Boys released the album *Still Cruisin'*. It peaked at Number 46 and spent 22 weeks on the *Billboard* chart.

Other Events in 1989: ?? The Who's reunion tour crisscrossed the U.S. The concert opened with an abridged version of *Tommy*, featuring an expanded show band to create a fuller orchestration and lavish road show. ?? New York City's Playwrights Horizon Theater brought composer Jonathan Larson and playwright Billy Aronson together to attempt an updated version of Puccini's opera *La Boheme*.

Several songs were completed but the project was put on hold for a couple of years. Eventually, Larson decided to go ahead with the project on his own, to be called *Rent*. ?? Pete Townshend released the solo album, *The Iron Man*, based on a 1968 fairy tale by British poet laureate Ted Hughes about a mysterious metal giant who befriends a young child. Townshend's musical parable was later animated for TV broadcast. Featured were cameo appearances by The Who and John Lee Hooker. Although flawed, there was no denying the artistic ambition it displayed. ?? Director Tom O'Horgan presented the "rock opera" *Senator Joe*, which closed after three previews at New York's Neil Simon Theatre.



## Part 10

### THE ROCK MUSICAL, FILM AND CONCEPT ALBUM DIARY/1877-1996 (September 6, 1996): 1990-1996

#### 1990

APRIL 8: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects Of Love* opened at New York's Broadhurst Theatre for a run of 377 performances.

MAY: ?? The Beach Boys took Brian Wilson to court in an attempt to wrest his \$80 million fortune from him. They maintained he was insane and unable to look after himself. His medical condition was confirmed (extreme introversion, pathological shyness, and manic depression). Wilson eventually accepted a settlement.

Other Events in 1990: ?? The Cole Porter tribute album *Red Hot + Blue* was released. U2 performed a radical reading of the song "Night And Day." Other artists included Neheh Cherry, Sinead O'Connor, k.d. lang, Erasure, Fine Young Cannibals, Iggy Pop, Deborah Harry, Tom Waits, David Byrne, and The Pogues, among others.

1991: MARCH 14: Book-writer, lyricist and director Howard Ashman died of AIDS in New York.

APRIL 11: *Miss Saigon* opened at Broadway Theatre.

JULY 27: Roger Waters presented a historic live extravaganza of *The Wall* by the remains of the Berlin Wall. The show starred singers Bryan Adams, Joni Mitchell, Sinead O'Connor, Thomas Dolby, and Cindi Lauper. The event was later released as a concert film, and a collector's edition CD. ?? Pete Townshend shattered his wrist in a bicycling accident. Fearing he would never play guitar again, he granted a long-standing rights request and began working with Tony Award-winning director Des McAnuff to adapt and update *Tommy* for the Broadway stage. ?? Oliver Stone's film biography *The Doors*, starring Val Kilmer as Jim Morrison, was released.

Other Events in 1991:?? Alan Menken and Howard Ashman wrote the music and lyrics for the Disney film *Beauty And The Beast*. Three songs from the film were nominated for Academy Awards, with the title cut emerging as the winner, along with the score. Menken received an unprecedented five BMI awards for his work on the film, but Ashman's Academy Award was tragically posthumous. ?? British songwriter/composer Mike Batt presented an ambitious stage musical *The Hunting Of The Snark*, based on his 1986 album of the same name, opening in London.

#### 1992

FEBRUARY 1: *Chess* discreetly returned to New York, opening off-Broadway at the Master Theater with a reduced cast, for a run of 83 performances.

NOVEMBER 23: The London version of *Starlight Express* was given a half a million pound overhaul, without stopping its run, as the show rolled on towards its first decade on the London stage.

Other Events in 1992: ?? Tim Rice and Alan Menken won an Academy Award for the song "A Whole New World," from the Disney animated film, *Aladdin*. ?? Jackie Trent and Tony Hatch's most successful stage project, 1972's *The Card* was scheduled for a major U.K. revival.

## **"ROCK OPERA" OR BROADWAY MUSICAL?**

### **1993**

APRIL 22: The Who's *Tommy* opened at the St. James Theater in New York, joining ranks with even the flashiest of the pseudo-serious British mega-spectacles. Initially developed at the La Jolla Playhouse in California, the Broadway adaptation of *Tommy* went on to win five Tonys, including best musical score. A cast album soon followed. The show is still running as of this report, along with a successful national tour. The 1990s Tommy character was a reluctant, rather than egomaniacal, prophet whose followers reject him because he insists they think for themselves, not because he was absurdly demanding. Whereas in the original, Tommy spoke harshly to his fans, in the Broadway version, the lyrics were modified into something like a self-help homily. Townshend had long believed *Tommy* was a work in progress, open for revision. As director Des McAnuff said, "I would like to point out that Bertolt Brecht went back to his plays and rewrote them until he died. This is an artist's right. It's his work." But some purists complained that Broadway sapped the original of its piercing social commentary and raucous energy. A critic from *Time* magazine wrote that "there's not much emotional depth or adolescent rebellion left in the granddaddy of rock operas." But for Townshend, such criticism that the Broadway *Tommy* doesn't live up to the version performed by The Who, was "just a statement of fact. The Who were a fantastic band and there won't ever be a band like them again."

JULY 12: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* opened in London's Adelphi Theatre.

Other Events in 1993: ?? Pete Townshend released the album *Psycho Derelict*, which was considered a success. A modest U.S. tour followed. ?? The Beach Boys released the 5-CD boxed set *Good Vibrations*, which included one CD that contained tracks of live session work during the *Pet Sounds* and *Good Vibrations* period. Other rarities were previously unreleased demos and unfinished songs from the *SMILE* project.

### **1994**

MAY 15: The Tommy Tune production of *Grease!* opened on Broadway at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, after playing engagements in Wilmington, Boston,

Washington, Seattle, Costa Mesa, Detroit, and Minneapolis.

AUGUST: ?? Woodstock 2 was held in up-state New York.

OCTOBER 5: The national touring company of *Tommy* opened in Chicago at the Auditorium Theatre.

NOVEMBER 24: Freddie Mercury of the band Queen died from the AIDS virus.

Other Events in 1994: ?? Tim Rice was asked to adapt the 1979 French/ Canadian teeni-musical "rock opera" *Starmania* into English. Retitled *Tycoon*, it was issued as a recording and was put on trial at Andrew Lloyd Webber's Sydmonton Festival. ?? Pete Townshend presented a staged musical version of his 1989 concept album *The Iron Man* at London's Young Vic Theatre, using the connections and knowledge gained from his *Tommy* experience.

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

### 1995

JUNE 7: The American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Mass. presented *Ubu Rock: An Xxx-Travaganza With Music*, an original adaptation of Alfred Jarry's controversial 1896 Paris play, *Ubu Roi*. The new version was written by Shelley Berc and Andrei Belgrader, with a mostly soft rock score and lyrics by Rusty Magee. The musical opened with a choir sporting formal wear and music folders singing 101 variations on the single word "shit."

The 1995 version was critically described as "sort of scabrously cute," the authors making it "less vicious than parodic, more redolent of 1960s Broadway appropriation of rock than of the hard-edged thing itself," but missing rock's raw sexual power, and its essential impoliteness. This show had "more sweetness than bite" and made "Jarry fun, rather than frightening." The eclectic score was characterized as likable though never threatening, amusing and swinging if unmemorable, and droll in its reference to pop music and musicals from *Hair* and *Grease* to *Les Mis* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The 4-piece overhead pit band affectionately spoofed classical music, operetta, audience sing-alongs, marching songs, and Philip Glass. But generally *Ubu Rock* was a case of less-than-first-rate material turned into first-rate entertainment by a cast full of superb performances.

OCTOBER: ?? Randy Newman's musical-comedy version of *Faust* premiered at the La Jolla Playhouse in California, during the first week of the month.

Other Events in 1995: ?? The George Gershwin tribute album *The Glory Of Gershwin* was released. Peter Gabriel contributed his version of the song "Summertime." Other artists included Sinéad O'Connor and Elton John. ?? Randy Newman's star-studded concept album *Faust* was released. Featured artists included James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, Bonnie Raitt, Elton John, and Newman himself as the devil.

## THE PREMATURE DEATH OF ROCK THEATRE'S NEXT WAVE

1996: JANUARY 25: 35-year-old Jonathan Larson died of an aortic aneurism the night before his "rock opera" *Rent* was scheduled to begin previews at the New York Theater Workshop, where it began a two-month run. Other earlier Larson pieces included: *J.P. Morgan Saves The World* (En Garde Arts), *Boho Days* (Second Stage), and *Superbia* (Playwrights Horizons and the Village Gate). ?? The Houston Grand Opera presented the premiere of *Harvey Milk*, an opera based on the life of a gay San Francisco city supervisor who was assassinated with Mayor George Moscone in 1978. The score was by Stewart Wallace and the libretto was by Michael Korie

APRIL 29: The Pulitzer Prize-winning *Rent* opened at New York's Nederlander Theater. Later, it won the Tony Award for Best Musical of 1996, among others.?? The tap-dancing show *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk* opened on Broadway.

MAY: ?? The cast album of *Rent* was recorded.

JULY: ?? A revival of *Hair* called *Hair 1* opened at Chicago's New Athenaeum Theatre, performed by Pacific Musical Theatre. ?? The Who plus special guests and a symphony orchestra presented an updated live version of their "rock opera" *Quadrophenia*.?? Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil's latest musical *Martin Guerre* opened mid-July in London. ?? Andrew Lloyd Webber presented a revised miniature of his 1975 flop show *By Jeeves* in London.

AUGUST 18: Tim Rice and Alan Menken announced their collaboration on the musical *King David*. 21: Andrew Lloyd Webber announced plans for a new musical to be called *Whistle Down The Wind*, due to premiere in December. The lyricist for the show was Jim Steinman, who had worked with Meatloaf in the late '70s. 26: The cast album from the musical *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk* was released.

AUGUST: ?? Tod Machover unveiled his "hyperinstrument" project called *Brain Opera* in New York at Lincoln Center's Festival '96 early in the month. Part concert, part interactive fun house, the "performance" required the aid of a participating audience improvising on five different hyper-instruments, which would totally change from one show to another. ?? Jonathan Larson's children's mini-musical *Away We Go!* was released on video. ?? Madonna starred in the title role of the film version of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Evita*. The movie was slated to premiere over the Christmas holidays.

SEPTEMBER: ?? The cast album of *Rent* was released in the first week of the month. Stevie Wonder made a guest appearance on the recording with his version of the song "Seasons Of Love."

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