

THE BLUES

/ R&B

TIME-LINE

Created by

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with some of the most important, and some special extra selected, recordings.
 - data selected with inspiration from <http://www.rhythm-and-blues.info/> (**The Great R&B Files**) and "Blues Music History Timeline" website by Schmoop, "The History of Rhythm and Blues" website by Nick Duckett, "The History of the Blues" by Francis Davis (1995), "The Sound of the City" by Charlie Gillett (1984/1996), the Blues Foundation's "Blues Hall of Fame", "The History of Rock and Roll" website (timeline) by D.K. Penney, Big Al Pavlov's "The R&B Book" (1983), Joel Whitburn's "Hot R&B Songs 1942-2010" (2010), plus "Jazz - the Golden Era" and "The Golden Age of the Blues" by Havers and Evans (2009).
 (records listed appr. chronological in year of issue) - imaged Dinah Washington ("Queen of the Blues")



1619

First slaves to American colony in Virginia. The "import" business ends in January 1808

1830

First public minstrel show, soon gaining popularity, later with the "Jump Jim Crow" song, and the Al Jolson peak in 1927 in the first sound film "The Jazz Singer"

1866

Formation of Fisk Jubilee Singers

1867

"Slave Songs of the United States", the earliest collection of African-American spirituals, is published

1890

Jim Crow Segregation laws with system of legal segregation in the southern states

1899

Scott Joplin publishes "The Maple Leaf Rag"

1902

Victor issues the first recording of Black music, "Camp Meeting Shouts"

1903

Musician W.C. Handy sees a bluesman playing guitar with a knife at a train station in Mississippi

1908

Introduction of two-sided records

1911

"Oh You Beautiful Doll" pop hit is published, featuring an opening verse using twelve-bar form

1912

"The Blues", "Dallas Blues", and W.C. Handy's "Memphis Blues" are published in sheet music

1913-1914

"Nigger Blues", and Handy's "St. Louis Blues" are published

1917

The Original Dixieland Jazz Band records

1920

Mamie Smith "Crazy Blues" on Okeh Records the first "race" /classic blues recording in February. First American radiostation, KDKA in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, licensed in November

1923

Bessie Smith "Down-Hearted Blues" and Ma Rainey "Bo-Weavil Blues". Ralph Peer produces his first regional country field recordings in Atlanta, Georgia

1924

George Gershwin's "Rhapsody In Blue". The first male folk blues records, featuring singers Papa Charlie Jackson and Daddy Stovepipe, are issued

1925

Electrical recording technology introduced. 78 rpm shellac records standardized. Fletcher Henderson "Memphis Bound"

1926

Okeh Records Race series. Blind Lemon Jefferson "That Black Snake Moan" on Paramount

1927

Lindy-hop is introduced, and "territory" dance bands peak

1928

Tommy Johnson "Big Road Blues" on Victor in February - first famous Delta blues. Leroy Carr "How Long - How Long Blues", Louis Armstrong version of King Oliver's "West End Blues", Tampa Red-Georgia Tom (later "Father of Gospel", Thomas A. Dorsey) "It's Tight Like That". Pine Top Smith "Pine Top's Boogie Woogie" (issued on Vocalion in 1929)

1929-30

Charley Patton "Pony Blues" and Son House "Walking Blues"

1931

Invention of the microphone. Cab Calloway "Minnie The Moocher" scat-song a super-hit on Brunswick

1932

Bluebird Records (mainly Chicago) formed

1933

Huddie Ledbetter (Lead Belly) recorded by John and Alan Lomax in Angola prison, Louisiana

1934

Decca Records American branch introduced. Ink Spots and Golden Gate (Jubilee) Quartet debut

1935

Jukeboxes in mass-production. Start of the big band swing era (with cultural origins from 1910-20) featuring Duke Ellington, Jimmie Lunceford, Count Basie, Earl Hines, Benny Goodman, et al

1936

The Billboard puts out its first record sales chart. Robert Johnson "Cross Road Blues" and "Sweet Home Chicago" recorded in November

1937

Robert Johnson "Hell Hound On My Trail", Count Basie "One O'Clock Jump", and Heavenly Gospel Singers "Precious Lord"

1938

Eddie Durham records the first music featuring electric guitar. Count Basie "Sent For You Yesterday And Here You Come Today" with Jimmy Rushing. Pete Johnson & Joe Turner "Roll 'Em Pete". First *Spirituals to Swing* concert at Carnegie Hall with them and also Count Basie, boogie pianists Meade Lux Lewis and Albert Ammons, Golden Gate Quartet and Big Bill Broonzy a.o. Mahalia Jackson (Queen of Gospel) teams up with Thomas A. Dorsey. They start touring the next year

1939

Sister Rosetta Tharpe version of "This Train", Andy Kirk "Floyd's Guitar Blues" (featuring Floyd Smith), and Billie Holiday version of "Strange Fruit". Benny Goodman Sextet original version of "Flying Home" (with Lionel Hampton and Charlie Christian), re-recorded in 1942 by Hampton featuring Illinois Jacquet. Albert Ammons & Pete Johnson "Boogie-Woogie Dream" for Library of Congress (with a film soundtrack 1941 hosted by Lena Horne)

1940

Decca Sepia series. Erskine Hawkins "After Hours" recorded (featuring Avery Parrish, piano), and hits on a 1946 reissue. Les Hite "T-Bone Blues" (feat T-Bone Walker, vcls and Frank Pasley, gtr). Lionel Hampton with Nat King Cole "Central Avenue Breakdown" and Lil Green "Romance In The Dark"

1941

Jay McShann "Confessin' The Blues" (Walter Brown, vcl), Big Maceo "Worried Life Blues", Big Bill (Broonzy) "Key To The Highway", and Duke Ellington "Take The "A" Train". First Be-bop sessions. Sonny Boy Williamson (Rice Miller) on KFFA's *King Biscuit Hour* in Helena, Arkansas. In search for Robert Johnson (who had died in 1938) Alan Lomax records McKinley Morganfield (later known as Muddy Waters), feat "Country Blues" at Stovall's Plantation (northwest of Clarksdale, MS)

1942

Savoy Records founded in New Jersey. T-Bone Walker "Mean Old World". Earl Hines "Stormy Monday Blues" (with Billy Eckstine, vcl). The Billboard **Harlem Hit Parade chart** introduced. AFM declare a recording ban, settled in 1944

1943

King Records founded in Cincinnati (recording blues from 1945, originally via Queen). Erskine Hawkins "Don't Cry, Baby", vcl by Jimmy Mitchell(e). Dinah Washington makes her first recs in December incl Leonard Feather's "Evil Gal Blues" issued April 1944 (Lionel Hampton, dms with a Sextet featuring Joe Morris)

1944

Wynonie "Mr. Blues" Harris recording debut. Cootie Williams version of "(Cherry) Red Blues" *vocal refrain by Eddie Vincon* (sic - should be Vinson), 39 weeks on the charts (the longest of any). Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five reach top of the pop chart with their version of "G.I. Jive". Pvt. Cecil Gant "I Wonder". A *Jazz at the Philharmonic* concert in Los Angeles features Nat Cole, Les Paul, and Illinois Jaquet (with sax on "Blues"). Lionel Hampton "Hamp's Boogie Woogie". Ink Spots (feat Bill Kenny and Hoppy Jones) & Ella Fitzgerald "Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall"

1945

The Billboard introduces **Race Records charts**. Joe Liggins "The Honeydripper" on Exclusive 18 weeks at #1. Louis Jordan "Caldonia". Charley Parker's (sic) Re-Boppers "Now's The Time" (feat Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, and Max Roach). Charles Brown, vocals on Johnny Moore's Three Blazers "Drifting Blues" (with Johnny Otis, dms) hits in early 1946 on the Philo label - forerunner of Aladdin, which like Modern is formed in Los Angeles. Johnny Otis version of "Harlem Nocturne" (with Rene Bloch, altosax and Bill Doggett, pno)

1946

Lionel Hampton "Hey! Ba-Ba-Re-Bop", recorded late 1945, hits. Roy Milton "R.M. Blues" on Juke Box Records - forerunner of Specialty, formed in Los Angeles. Louis Jordan "Choo Choo Ch' Boogie" (18 weeks #1) and later "Let The Good Times Roll". The King Cole Trio "Route 66", Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup "That's All Right (Mama)", and Buddy Johnson "Since I Fell For You" (with Ella Johnson)

1947

Eddie Vinson "Kidney Stew Blues" c/w "Old Maid Boogie". Aristocrat (Chess from 1950) formed in Chicago. Four great records before the 1948 recording ban: Roy Brown "Good Rocking Tonight" (1948, also hitting 1949), T-Bone Walker "Call It Stormy Monday But Tuesday Is Just As Bad" (1948), Amos Milburn "Chicken-Shack Boogie" (late 1948-early 49), and Jimmy Witherspoon version of "Ain't Nobody's Business" (with Jay McShann, pno). Pt 1 recorded Nov 15, and pt 2 Nov 20 - a big super-long 1949 hit for 34 weeks

1948

Atlantic Records formally founded in New York, with Ruth Brown soon main star (first single, "So Long", a Little Miss Cornshucks revival 1949). WDIA (in Memphis) first black radio station. Muddy Waters "I Feel Like Going Home" c/w "I Can't Be Satisfied" and John Lee Hooker "Boogie Chillen'" (a hit in early 1949) c/w "Sally May". The Mills Brothers version of Leon Rene's "Gloria" is recorded (in 1954 the Cadillacs make a superb doo wop "revival"). Columbia unveils 33 rpm LP

1949

Paul Williams "The Huckle-Buck" of December 1948 on Savoy hits the charts and turns out as the biggest R&B hit of this year. Lucky Millinder quickly covers it as "D' Natural Blues". Jerry Wexler, an editor at the Billboard magazine, substitutes the term "rhythm and blues" for the older "race" records, and Billboard introduces the **Rhythm & Blues charts** in June (topped by Charles Brown "Trouble Blues"). RCA introduces 45 rpm vinyl records. Dinah Washington "Baby Get Lost"

1950

Charles Brown "Black Night" (with Maxwell Davis, tenorsax) 14 weeks at #1, Johnny Otis "Double Crossing Blues" with the Robins and Little Esther, and Fats Domino "The Fat Man" (all three recorded late 1949). Joe Liggins "Pink Champagne" on Specialty biggest R&B hit this year (13 weeks at #1). Introduction of 45 rpm jukeboxes. Muddy Waters' first for Chess, "Rollin' Stone". Sam Phillips starts the Memphis Recording Service (Sun Records from 1952), with Joe Hill Louis his first "star". Percy Mayfield "Please Send Me Someone To Love" (with Maxwell Davis, tens) 27 weeks 1950-51

1951

The Dominoes "Sixty-Minute Man" on Federal hits the charts for 30 weeks and is the biggest R&B hit this year (14 weeks at #1). It also is big in Pop. Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats "Rocket 88" (with Ike Turner), Sonny Boy Williamson "Nine Below Zero", Elmo James "Dust My Broom" (featuring Rice Miller-SBW), the Howlin' Wolf "How Many More Years" c/w "Moanin' At Midnight". Roscoe Gordon "Booted" (two versions - for Modern and for Chess). Alan Freed in Cleveland, Ohio starts his *Moondog* radio show, introducing R&B to teenaged America, officially named the *Rock and Roll Party (Show)* from late 1954. Jimmy Forest (sic) "Night Train", the Clovers "One Mint Julep", and B.B. King version of Lowell Fulson's "3 O'Clock Blues" make hits in 1952

1952

Mary Deloatch "The Lord's Gospel Train" and Sonny Terry "Harmonica Train". Lloyd Price "Lawdy Miss Clawdy" on Specialty biggest hit this year. Little Walter "Juke". Big Mama Thornton "Hound Dog" and the "5" Royales "Baby Don't Do It" are recorded - hitting in 1953. Little Willie Littlefield "K.C. Loving" (that's "Kansas City")

1953

The Crows "Gee" on Rama, recorded in February, hits R&B #2 and Pop #14 a year later (in April 1954) - the first rock 'n' roll, doo-wop or "cat" song!? Ray Charles "Mess Around". Clyde McPhatter and the Drifters "Money Honey" on Atlantic is the biggest R&B hit, and Faye Adams "Shake A Hand", with Joe Morris on Herald is also a big one. Joe Turner "Honey Hush". Vee-Jay Records formed in Gary, Indiana

1954

Guitar Slim "The Things That I Used To Do", cut in December 1953, hits 14 weeks at #1 (Ray Charles, arr and pno). Muddy Waters "I'm Your Hoochie Cooche Man". The Chords "Sh-Boom" on Atlantic sub-label Cat hits Pop #5. The Midnighters "Work With Me Annie" on Federal biggest R&B hit. Joe Turner "Shake, Rattle And Roll" rocks the charts for 32 weeks. The Robins "Riot In Cell Block #9" (fore-runner of "Jailhouse Rock"), Little Walter "Last Night", and Lowell Fulson "Reconsider Baby". R&B doubles its relatively small share of the record market. Ray Charles "I've Got A Woman", the Penguins "Earth Angel", the Moonglow's (sic) "Sincerely", LaVern Baker "Tweedlee Dee", and Bill Haley and his Comets "Rock Around The Clock", from late this year (to hit in 1955)

1955

Fats Domino "Ain't It A Shame" (26w), Bo Diddley's "Bo Diddley" c/w "I'm A Man", the Platters "Only You" on Mercury biggest R&B hit (30w). Chuck Berry "Maybellene" and Ernie Freeman Combo "Jivin' Around". Little Richard "Tutti-Frutti" peaks in early 1956. Sales of 45s finally outsell the 78s

1956

James Brown with the Famous Flames "Please, Please, Please", the Drifters "Your Promise To Be Mine". "Heartbreak Hotel" starts Elvis-mania. Bill Doggett "Honky Tonk" on King biggest R&B hit (28 weeks with 13 weeks at #1). Howlin' Wolf "Smoke Stack Lightning", Little Willie John "Fever", John Lee Hooker "Dimples", the Five Satins "I'll Remember) In The Still of the Night", the Chips "Rubber Biscuit", and Jesse Belvin "Goodnight My Love". LaVern Baker's first LP "la vern"

1957

Fats Domino version of "Blueberry Hill" (which entered the R&B and pop charts in Oct 1956 and hit R&B #1 in Nov (up and down for a total of 11 weeks), leaves the charts after 23 weeks. Little Richard "Lucille" c/w "Send Me Some Lovin'" (both rec in 1956). Richard Berry "Louie Louie". The Coasters "Searchin'" c/w "Young Blood" on Atco biggest R&B hit (13 weeks at #1). Nappy Brown version of "The Right Time" (soon covered by Ray Charles). Sam Cooke "You Send Me"

1958

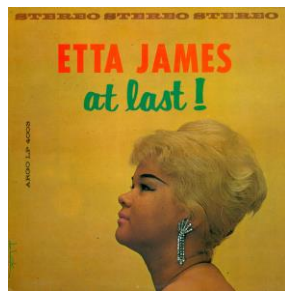
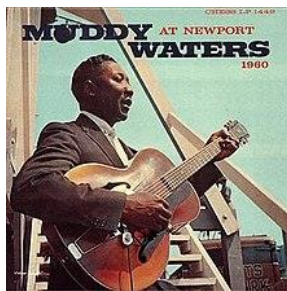
Chuck Berry "Sweet Little Sixteen" and later "Johnny B. Goode". The Coasters "Yakety Yak" on Atco biggest R&B hit. Nina Simone version of "My Baby Just Cares For Me". The very first stereo records are released. Jackie Wilson "Lonely Teardrops" on Brunswick (written by Berry and Gwen Gordy, and Roquel Billy Davis as "Tyron Carlo") hits the charts in 1958 and turns into the biggest R&B hit of 1959. The sells generates the money Gordy will use to start Tamla-Motown

1959

Wilbert Harrison "Kansas City", the Drifters "There Goes My Baby", Ray Charles "What'd I Say", and Fats Domino "I Want To Walk You Home". Sam Charters publishes *The Country Blues*, fueling the blues element of the folk music revival, and records Lightnin' Hopkins. The Isley Brothers "Shout". Miles Davis album "Kind of Blue". B.B. King October version of Joe Turner's Ertegun-written "Sweet Sixteen", Barrett Strong "Money" on Anna, fore-runner of Tamla-Motown, the Miracles "Shop Around" on Tamla, and Elmo James "The Sky Is Crying" (from Dec) all hit in 1960

1960

Muddy Waters live Newport Jazz Festival version of "Got My Mojo Working". Jimmy Reed "Big Boss Man" of March hits a year later. Etta James "At Last" revival hits in early 1961 with flip Muddy's Willie Dixon-song "I Just Want To Make Love To You"

**1961**

Ben E. King "Stand By Me", Lightnin' Hopkins "Mojo Hand", and Ernie K-Doe "Mother-In-Law". Bobby Lewis "Tossin' And Turnin'" on Beltone hits R&B #1 for ten weeks and Pop #1 for seven (actually the decade's greatest ranked R&B single). The Mar-Keys "Last Night" on Satellite, fore-runner of Stax

1962

Chubby Checker version of Hank Ballard's "The Twist" (orig rec in 1958) hits US Pop #1 in January for a second time – same version had already done so in 1960. B.B. King version of "Down Hearted" issued on a Crown LP in 1963, aka "How Blue Can You Get", and the Falcons "I Found A Love" with lead Wilson Pickett, are both recorded in January. Gene Chandler "Duke Of Earl", King Curtis "Soul Twist", John Lee Hooker "Boom Boom" (recorded late 1961), Bobby Bland revival of T-Bone Walker's "Stormy Monday Blues" (*mistitled* and recorded 1961), Don Gardner & Dee Dee Ford "I Need Your Loving". Booker T. and the MG's "Green Onions" on Stax. Sam Cooke "Bring It On Home To Me" is based on an Amos Milburn & Charles Brown recording of 1959, "I Want To Go Home"

1963

Otis Redding "These Arms Of Mine", Jackie Wilson "Baby Workout", Sonny Boy Williamson "Help Me", and Little Johnny Taylor "Part Time Love". Martin Luther King march on Washington. R&B now more or less "merges" with the pop market. No Billboard R&B chart published from Nov 30, 1963 up to Jan 23, 1965 (but Cash Box does). Enter: the Beatles

1964

Enter: the Rolling Stones. Tommy Tucker "Hi-Heel Sneakers", Solomon Burke "Everybody Needs Somebody To Love", Howlin' Wolf "Killing Floor", James Brown "Out Of Sight", and Sam Cooke "A Change Is Gonna Come"

1965

The Temptations "My Girl", and Jr. Walker "Shotgun" (both rec late 1964). James Brown "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag", later "I Got You". The Ramsey Lewis Trio "The "In" Crowd"

1966

Lowell Fulson "Tramp" (from Sep 1966, co-written with Jimmy McCracklin). Aretha Franklin version of Otis Redding's 1965 hit "Respect" and Albert King "Born Under A Bad Sign"

1968

Calvin Leavy "Cummins Prison Farm", Joe Tex "Skinny Legs And All", and Marvin Gaye version of "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" (recorded 1967). James Brown "Say It Loud - I'm Black And I'm Proud"

1969

B.B. King version of Roy Hawkin's "The Thrill Is Gone" is recorded in October and hits in 1970

1970

Marvin Gaye "What's Going On" recorded in July, hits in 1971

1982

Quincey Jones produces Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album

1989

John Lee Hooker "The Healer" with Santana (rec April, 1988)

