

ROCKIN' AT THE GROVE | 50s music

It's Only Rock and Roll. Or is it?

When you think of a soundtrack for the 1950s, do you think rockabilly, rock and roll, bebop, or the blues? All are popular genres of music from the era, along with traditional country, folk, and straight ahead Jazz.

Ohio disk jockey Allen Freed is often credited with originating the term "rock and roll." He played a mix of musical styles for a diverse audience. Iconic rock and roll performers included Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Chuck Berry, Connie Francis, Little Richard, Fabian, Ritchie Valens, and Peggy Lee. Groups abounded, with names like The Turbans, The Four Freshmen, The Platters, The Chordettes, and The Coasters.



In 1955, Bill Haley and His Comets were riding high with their hit **Rock Around the Clock** and Chuck Berry's **Maybellene** was at the top of the charts. By 1958, Jerry Lee Lewis and his song **Breathless** were at the top, followed by Peggy Lee and her hit **Fever**.



Top right: Bill Haley and the Comets.

Above, Chuck Berry.

Below, Jerry Lee Lewis.



Pop stars and movie music made a potent and popular combination, too. Elvis Presley topped the charts with his song **Hard-headed Woman**, performing it in his starring role in the film *King Creole* in 1958. By 1959, the music of Chuck Berry, Ritchie Valens, and The Cadillacs, all featured in the movie *Go, Johnny, Go*, blended movie theater fun with popular songs.

Check out these hits of the 1950s, and join us at Rockin' At the Grove to dance the night away!

Johnny B. Goode—Chuck Berry

Jailhouse Rock—Elvis Presley
Rock Around The Clock—Bill Haley & His Comets

Tutti-Frutti—Little Richard
Whole Lot of Shakin' Going On—Jerry Lee Lewis

What'd I Say—Ray Charles
Summertime Blues—Eddie Cochran

Hound Dog—Elvis Presley
Long Tall Sally—Little Richard
That'll Be The Day—Buddy

Holly & the Crickets
Maybellene—Chuck Berry
Bo Diddley—Bo Diddley

Shake, Rattle And Roll—Joe Turner
Blue Suede Shoes—Carl Perkins
Don't Be Cruel—Elvis Presley

Bye Bye Love—Everly Brothers
Great Balls Of Fire—Jerry Lee Lewis
Earth Angel—Penguins

Why Do Fools Fall In Love—Frankie Lymon & the Teenagers
Good Golly Miss Molly—Little

Richard
Be-Bop-A-Lula—Gene Vincent & the Bluecaps

School Day—Chuck Berry
Rock And Roll Music—Chuck Berry
Peggy Sue—Buddy Holly

Lawdy Miss Clawdy—Lloyd Price
Lucille—Little Richard