

Memphis Soul of the 1960's

How Memphis soul put grit, grease and grace into American music.

The soul that came out of Memphis in the 1960's transformed the landscape of popular music. It was rhythm and blues; it was rock and roll. It was the sound of the Deep South, the incredible voices that came from the black church, and the rhythms of the land. It was the vehicle to stardom for many. Its legacy has lasted more than 50 years and will live as long as people have a need to be nurtured by the soulful sounds of Stax-Volt, Otis Redding, Booker T and the MGs, Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave, James Brown, Dusty Springfield, Aretha Franklin and many others. . We will look at the careers of the giants of soul, the studios of Muscle Shoals, and the impact this genre has had on American music.

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It was the power of race-blind music in the able hands of Booker T. and the MGs. It was the big beat of crisp drums and the Fender bass guitar, mellow Wurlitzer electric pianos, soulful Hammond B-3 organs, brash horns, stinging Fender Telecaster guitars, testifying vocals, and the sanctity of the four-piece rhythm section. It was **SOUL** music. In this class we will look at the evolution of soul music, from late 1950's Memphis through the success of Stax and Atlantic records. We will look at the careers of the giants of soul, the studios of Muscle Shoals, and the impact this genre has had on American music.

The course outline is as follows:

week one: The story of Stax-Volt records: Jim and Estelle Stewart; Rufus and Carla Thomas; the early Memphis music scene; Booker T. and the MGs.

week two: The "Big O;" the life and career of the great Otis Redding and how his music defined "soul."

week three: Messengers of Soul: James Carr, William Bell, Percy Sledge, Eddie Floyd, Staple Singers, Bar-Kays, Johnny Taylor, Isaac Hayes and David Porter.

week four: The titans of soul turn out timeless hits : Wilson Pickett, Sam & Dave

week five: Memphis South; Muscle Shoals Studios; Aretha and Dusty.

week six: "I feel good!" The awesomeness of James Brown, the Godfather of Soul

Suggested reading, listening and viewing:

Reading:

Soulsville, U.S.A.: The Story of Stax Records by Rob Bowman (2003)
Sweet Soul Music: Rhythm and Blues and the Southern Dream of Freedom, by Peter Guralnick (1999)
In the Midnight Hour: The Life & Soul of Wilson Pickett by Tony Fletcher
Dusty: An Intimate Portrait of a Musical Legend by Karen Bartlett
Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for James Brown by James McBride
Aretha: From These Roots, by David Ritz, 1999
Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin, by David Ritz, 2015

Listening:

The Complete Stax/Volt Singles: 1959-1968
Various Artists - Memphis Gold, Vol. I, (Stax-Volt, 1967)
Booker T. and the MGs: Green Onions
Booker T. and the MGs: Soul Dressing
Booker T. and the MGs: Hip Hug-Her
Otis Redding, Pain in My Heart 1964
Otis Blue, Otis Redding Sings Soul 1965
Otis Redding, Dock of the Bay 1968
The Immortal Otis Redding 1968
The Best of Sam and Dave—21 great hits by the dynamic duo
The Very Best of Wilson Pickett, (Atlantic, 1993)
Very Best of Dusty Springfield
Dusty in Memphis
Dusty Springfield, What Have I Done to Deserve This? (with Pet Shop Boys)
I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You, (Atlantic, 1967)
Lady Soul, Aretha Franklin, (Atlantic, 1967)
Please, please, 1958 James Brown, King Records
Live at the Apollo, James Brown (King, 1963)

Viewing:

Otis Redding: Respect - Otis Live (in Europe), dir. by D.A. Pennebaker (1967)
Muscle Shoals a film/DVD, directed by Greg Camalier (2013)
Just Dusty documentary (youtube)
The TAMI Show, 1964 (James Brown)
Monterey Pop, 1967 (Otis Redding)
Stax Volt Revue, Live in Norway 1967 (several artists)
Blues Brothers, 1980 (James Brown)
Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul |PBS American Masters documentary

In-class playlist of songs:

Week one: The story of Stax-Volt records

CD #1: Sweet Soul Music—Arthur Conley

CD #2 Walkin' the Dog—Rufus Thomas

CD #3 Jump Back—Rufus Thomas

video: Carla Thomas—teen town

CD #4—Night time is the right time—Rufus and Carla 1964

video : Carla Thomas b-a-b-y

CD #5 Gee Whiz—Carla Thomas

CD #6: Morning after—Mar-keys

video : Mar-keys: philly dog from Norway

CD #7—Hip hug her--Booker T and the MGs

CD #8—Hang em High-- Booker T and the MGs

CD #9—Time is Tight-- Booker T and the MGs

video-: Booker T and the MGs, red beans/rice from Norway

Week two: the life and career of the great Otis Redding

CD#1: That's how strong my love is 1964

video: Meeting Otis, Steve Cropper

video: Mr. Pitiful live, with Steve Cropper 1965

CD#2: Wonderful World—1965—by Sam Cooke

CD#3: Ole Man Trouble—1965 by Otis—fade

CD#4: Change is gonna come—1965 by Sam Cooke

video: I Can't Turn You Loose w/ Steve Cropper by Otis

video: Fa fa fa from Norway 1967—by Otis

CD#5: Day Tripper—Live in Europe

video: Satisfaction at Monterey—by the Rolling Stones

CD#6: Tramp—1967—duet with Carla Thomas

video: Shake/Respect/I been lovin' you too /Monterey 1967

CD#7: Dock of the Bay—1968—by Otis

CD#8: Hard to Handle—1968—by Otis

video: Jim Stewart on Try a little Tenderness

video: Try a little Tenderness

CD #9: Dreams to Remember

Week three: The Messengers of Soul

CD #1—Dark End of the Street—James Carr

CD #2—A Man needs a Woman

CD #3— Everyday will be like a holiday-- William Bell
CD #4--You don't miss your water—William Bell
CD #5— Knock on Wood—Eddie Floyd
CD #6--Things get Better—Eddie Floyd
video : Raise your hand—Eddie Floyd
CD #7 --I'll take you there-- Staple Singers
video: Respect yourself—Staple Singers
video : the Weight—Staple Singers, from Last Waltz
CD #8—Soulfinger—Barkays
CD #9 --Who's makin' love--Johnny Taylor
CD #10—Next time—Johnny Taylor
video: If loving you is wrong—Luther Ingram
CD #11--Same time same place--Mable John-
video: soulsville--Isaac Hayes

Week four: Wilson Pickett, Sam & Dave

CD #1-- 99 ½ won't do, 1965
CD #2—I Found a Love, 1962 Falcons
CD #3--If you need me 1962 Pickett
CD #4--Midnight Hour 1966, in E,
video: Everybody needs somebody to love
CD #5—634-5789, 1966—
video: Land of 1000 dances
video : I'm in love
CD #6—I'm a midnight mover 1968
CD#7—I found a love 1967 part two (!!)
CD #8—I take what I want
video: Stax #4—Hayes/Porter
CD #9— Hold on I'm Comin'
CD #10— You got me hummin'
CD #11—Soul Man
CD #12—Wrap it up
video : Soothe Me
video: You don't know like I know

Week five: Muscle Shoals Studios; Aretha and Dusty.

CD #1—Tell Mama, Etta James 1967
video—Muscle shoals #1—has “When a Man” footage
CD #2—She's Lookin' Good--Pickett

CD #3—I'm your puppet—Purify Bros.
CD #4—Mustang Sally--Pickett
CD #5—Funky Broadway--Pickett
CD #6—Hey Jude—Pickett
video—Muscle shoals #3—Allman Brothers beginnings
CD#7-Never Loved a Man—Aretha
video-- Dr. Feelgood—Do right woman
CD #8—Chain of Fools
play CD #9--since you've been gone 1968 by Aretha/Ted White
play CD #10--Ain't no way, by Carolyn Franklin
play CD #11-- Son of a Preacher Man
play CD #12 --Breakfast in Bed
play CD #13—No easy way Down, by King/Goffin
play CD #14--So Much Love, by Goffin/King 1968
play CD #15—Just a little lovin' by Mann/Weil

Week six: James Brown; the Godfather of Soul

CD #1--Papas got a brand new bag 1965
CD #2: Try Me 1958
CD #3: I'll go Crazy 1963
CD #4: Lost someone 1963
video: TAMI show—out of sight 1964
CD #5: I got you/I feel good 1965
video: ain't that a groove 1966
CD #6—Cold Sweat 1967
video: TAMI show—please please 1964
video: James Brown in Boston 1968 #1
video: James Brown in Boston 1968 #2
CD #7—say it loud, I'm black and I'm proud
CD # 8-- Lickin' stick 1968
video: Kansas City, from Live at the Apollo 1968
video: Man's World from 1971
video: TAMI show—Night Train