

Road Trip USA: Exploring the Musical History of Six American Cities

Lecturer: Keith McCuaig

Schedule of topics:

Week 1

New Orleans. The Crescent City has been a melting pot of culture and musical styles since at least the early 1800s. During the days of slavery in the US, this was also one of the few cities where African Americans were able to express their musical culture. By the early 1900s, this led to the birth of jazz.

Week 2

Memphis. It can be difficult to connect a musical style to only one city, but when it comes to rock 'n' roll, its origins are most definitely in Memphis. This city was also a hotspot for blues, as many Mississippi blues musicians performed and recorded here.

Week 3

Chicago. The Northern Migration brought a lot of musicians from New Orleans, Memphis and other Southern states to the city of Chicago. These musicians brought along New Orleans jazz and Delta blues, although these styles quickly changed in the Windy City.

Week 4

Detroit. The Motor City was key in the development of R&B and Soul music. The record label Motown was a major force in recording and promoting these styles, which became popular all over the world.

Week 5

New York City. The Big Apple has been an incubator for many of the most popular and influential styles of music of the 20th century. From bebop in the 1940s, to punk rock in the 1970s, and hip hop in the 1980s. Although these styles may seem unrelated, they all share influences from the same great city.

Week 6

Nashville. Sometimes referred to as Music City, USA, Nashville is without a doubt, a country music city. We'll learn about the history of this style of music, including the genre's musical influences and main figures.