Guided Listening
What to Listen For?

• Form
• Instrumentation
  – How are the instruments mixed?
• Production Techniques
• Effects

• What else?
Ex: The Ronettes – “Be My Baby” (1963)

• Phil Spector’s Wall of Sound
  – Layers of instruments
  – Reverb/echo
  – “Little symphonies for the kids”

• Veronica “Ronnie” Bennett, 18 years old

• Brian Wilson: “The greatest record ever produced”
“Be My Baby” (1963) Form

Song Structure: i A B A B C B i’ B

Intro (with drum break)
  Verse
  Chorus
  Verse
  Chorus
  Solo
  Chorus
Intro (Drum break only)
  Chorus
“Be My Baby” (1963) Instrumentation

• Drummer Hal Blaine: “the beat was an accident”
  – Supposed to be snare on 2 & 4 but he dropped a stick
  – He used this beat on Sinatra’s “Strangers in the Night”
• Percussion: Castanets, Maracas
• Backup vocals: pre-fame Sonny and Cher
• String section
• Saxophones, Trombone

• Gold Star Studio, LA: Echo Chamber
• Speaker on one side, microphone on the other
Ex: The Beach Boys – “Good Vibrations” (1966)

• At least five months to record
• Tape splice: collage recording technique
  – 90 hours of tape
  – Production as more than just a way to record a performance
• Impractical to recreate this recording live

• What details are “psychedelic” in this record?
• Wall of Sound production style
• “Pocket Symphony”
“Good Vibrations” (1966) Form

Song Structure: ABABCDB’E

Verse (Bass countermelody)
  Chorus (hook is repeated 3 times in a new key)
Verse
  Chorus
    Bridge 1 (1:41)
      Bridge 2 (2:12) 5 part harmony
    Chorus (reverse order of chord progression)
Outro (Coda)

Sectional form (related to some classical music forms)
“Good Vibrations” (1966) Instrumentation

Unusual sounds/instruments:

• 6 Vocalists
• Drums, Bass (Fuzz bass), Guitar, Organ
• Percussion (Timpani, Tambourine, Maracas)
• Upright bass, Cello
• Clarinet, Piccolo, Harmonica
• Harpsichord
• Electro-theremin
Cover Versions

• What is a “cover”?  
  – Songwriter, performer, and the first-recorded version  
  – Patsy Cline was the first to record “Crazy,” but it’s written by Willie Nelson – not a cover

• Major releases/hits  
  – Sometimes bigger than the original

• Cover bands  
  – “Must know” songs (standards); depending on genre

• YouTube/Social Media  
  – Virtually any song in any style
The Oft-Covered Song: “Can’t Help Falling In Love”

• Many versions, “standard” pop song

Ex: Elvis Presley – “Can’t Help Falling in Love” (1961)

• French folk song origins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqAxVrBwoqg

Ex: UB40 – “Can’t Help Falling in Love” (1993)
The Oft-Covered Song: “Long Tall Sally”

- 12 bar blues form

Ex: Little Richard – “Long Tall Sally” (1956)

- Pat Boone (1956)
- Elvis Presley (1956)
- Wanda Jackson (1958)
- The Beatles (1964)
A song changes through time...

Ex: Bo Diddley – “She’s Fine, She’s Mine” (1955)
Ex: Dawn Penn – “No, No, No” (1967)

Bonus:
Ex: Booker T & The MGs – “You Don’t Love Me” (1968)
The Original
Ex: Muddy Waters
– “I Just Want To Make Love To You” (1954)

Youthful (Wrong?) Interpretation
Ex: Rolling Stones
– “I Just Want To Make Love To You” (1964)

The Wisdom of Age
Ex: Rolling Stones
– “I Just Want To Make Love To You (live)” (late 1990s or early 2000s)
Drastically Different Versions

• “Classic” pop and jazz standards
• Many ways to interpret chord changes, melody

Drastically Different Versions

Ex: Barrett Strong
   – “Money (That’s What I Want)” (1959)
   • Motown’s first hit

Ex: The Flying Lizards (1979)
   • British New Wave hit

• The Beatles (1963)
• Live by The Doors, Rolling Stones, John Lee Hooker
Reimagining a Pop Song

- “Bad” songs and “Good” songs
- Solo acoustic guitar and voice
- Strong melody, lyrics and/or chord changes
- Good or bad production can hide this

Ex: Britney Spears – “Oops!...I Did It Again” (2000)

Ex: Richard Thompson

- “Oops!...I Did It Again” (2003)
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