

# Reggae

Originated in the 60s in Jamaica.



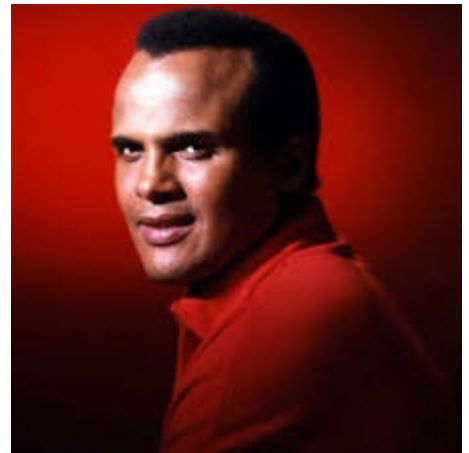
A precursor to Reggae was **Calypso** (originated in Trinidad and Tobago in the 1800s) - Harry Belafonte was a world successful exponent of this genre with songs such as "Jamaica Farewell", "Banana Boat Song (Day-O)", "Island In The Sun" and "Man Smart Woman Smarter" - all songs released the 1950s.

**Reggae** is instantly recognizable from the counterpoint between the bass and drum downbeat and the offbeat rhythm section.

Reggae is deeply linked to **Rastafari**, an **Afrocentric** religion which developed in Jamaica in the 1930s.

The 1968 song by Toots and the Maytals - "Do The Reggay" is the first use of the word reggae.

Reggae came to the fore in the 70s with Bob Marley and the Wailers.



**Bob Marley and the Wailers** - original members included Bunny Wailer, Bob Marley and Peter Tosh(left after 1973 album "Burnin"). These three formed their first band *The Teenagers* in 1963. Between 1965 and 1971 they released 4 albums. Initially as The Wailers and then by the third album as Bob Marley and the Wailers. In 1972 they signed to Island Records and international fame followed. Between 1973 and 1983 they released nine albums. Marley passed away in 1980 from lung cancer. The 9th album was released posthumously.

**Classic Songs include** "Stir It Up"(1972), "I Shot The Sheriff"(1973), "Get Up Stand Up" (1973), "No Woman No Cry"(1974), "Lively Up Yourself"(1974), "Exodus"(1977), "Is This Love"(1978), "Could You Be Loved"(1980) "Buffalo Soldier"(1983)

**Main Albums** "Catch A Fire"(1973), "Burnin"(1973), "Natty Dread"(1974), "Rastaman Vibration"(1976), "Exodus"(1977), "Kaya"(1978), "Survival"(1979), "Uprising"(1980), "Confrontation"(1983), "Live!"(1975)



**More prominent reggae artists include** Toots and the Maytals, Third World, Burning Spear, Eddy Grant, Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker, Ziggy Marley, Peter Tosh, UB40.

**Toots and the Maytals:** formed in the 60s by Toots Hibbert. "Pressure Drop" is their main song.



**Third World:** formed in 1973. "Now That We've Found Love" is their most successful single.



**Burning Spear:** formed in 1969 by Winston Rodney. Eventually Burning Spear came to identify a single person Winston Rodney rather than a group.





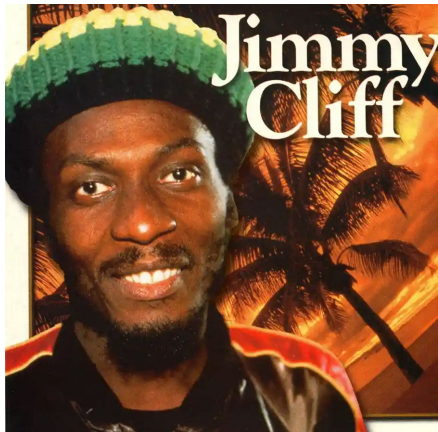
**Desmond Dekker** achieved success in 1968 with his top 10 single "Israelites"



**Eddy Grant** He was a founding member of the band "The Equals" who had international success with "Baby Come Back" in 1968. As Eddy Grant his hits include "I Dont Wanna Dance"(1982), "Electric Avenue"(1983), "Gimme Hope Joanna"(1988)



**Jimmy Cliff:** one of the more commercially successful artists to emerge. Songs Include "Vietnam"(1970), "Many Rivers To Cross"(1969), "Wild World"(1970), "You Can Get If You Really Want"(1970), "The Harder They Come"(1972)



**Ziggy Marley** (son of Bob Marley) - founding member of The Melody Makers which consisted of three other of Bob Marleys children, Sharon, Cedella and Stephen.



**UB40** are very popular English band who adapt songs to reggae style. Their first three albums were all original songs and then with the release of their fourth album "Labour of Love" in 1983 they veered into reggae music and non-original songs. This album featured Red Red Wine (Neil Diamond). Other covers from other albums include "I Got You Babe" (Sonny and Cher), "The Way You Do The Things You Do" (The Temptations), "Here I Am" (Al Green), "Kingston Town", "Can't Help Falling In Love With You" (Elvis Presley)



**Other reggae artists:** Steel Pulse, Black Uhuru, Inner Circle, Skatalites, The Heptones, Gregory Issacs



## Covers of Reggae Songs:

**Eric Clapton 1974** "I Shot The Sheriff" (Bob Marley)

**The Rolling Stones 1976** "Cherry Oh Baby" (Eric Donaldson) from the album "Black and Blue" which in general had strong reggae influences.

**The Black Sorrows 1993** "Stir It Up" (Bob Marley)

**UB40** "Many Rivers To Cross" (Jimmy Cliff) - *other versions include* Linda Ronstadt, Jimmy Barnes, Cher



## Ska Music

A total derivative of reggae that gained popularity in the 80s during the punk / new wave era.

Originally emerged in the 50s in Jamaica.

The main record label associated with these artists was Two Tone

**The Specials** - "A Message To You Rudy", "Too Much Too Young", "Rat Race", "Free Nelson Mandela"



**Madness** formed in 1976 in UK. hits included "Night Boat To Cairo", "One Step Beyond", "It Must Be Love", "Baggy Trousers", "House of Fun", "Our House", "Grey Day". Perhaps the most significant band of this genre.



**The Selecter** formed in the seventies with Pauline Black on lead vocals



**The Beat** (British Beat) 1978 - hit singles "Mirror in the Bathroom", "Tears of a Clown", "Cant Get Used To Losing You"



**The Mighty Mighty Bosstones** "Impression That You Get" formed in Boston, USA in 1983.



**Other Ska bands** - The Uptones(USA), Reel Big Fish(USA)