

Buddy Holly

(1936-1959)

“A Pioneer to Rock n Roll”

Who is Buddy Holly?

- Charles Hardin Holley, Born September 7th, 1936 in Lubbock, Texas
- Fourth and youngest child
- Very musically influenced childhood
 - Learned to play fiddle, piano and **guitar** at a young age from family
- Nickname “Buddy” by mother



Early Music Experience

- **Experienced Performer by age 16**
 - After school with friends, would play music for radio stations and live gigs around Lubbock
 - Age 13, recorded “My Two-Timin’ Women”, one of his very first recorded songs
- Heavily influenced by blues and R&B
- His early style was first a blend of country and western mixed with R&B



My Two Timin' Women

- Recorded at age 13
- Showcase of his skill at such a young age



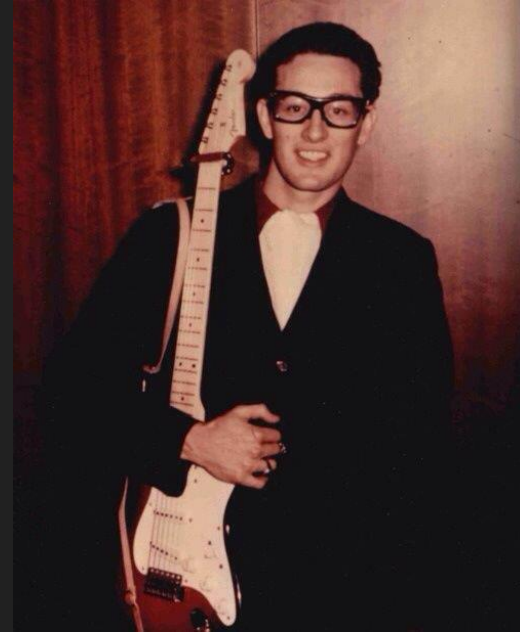
Buddy Holly's First Recording



My Two Timin' Woman - 2 versions

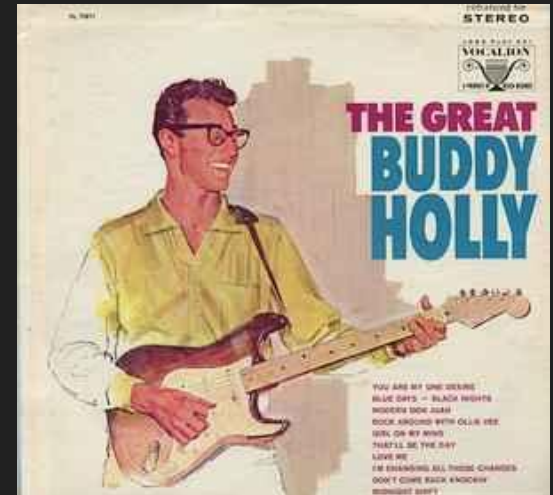
A Turning Point

- After graduation, Buddy decided to pursue music as a career in 1955
- Buddy formed band and would continue to play songs on Lubbock Radios (In that western style genre)
- Buddy's big turn came when he opened up for Elvis live at the Fair Park Coliseum (twice), and the Cotton Club
 - **Started to play more rock n roll** instead of his country and western music
- Soon Buddy found by Scouter and **signed to Decca Records** in 1956



The Decca Era

- In contract the contract last name misspelled and put as “Holly” (Holley)
- First studio session in January 1956
- After a few more sessions, Buddy was **unsatisfied and frustrated with the music production process Decca used**
- Buddy had no creative freedom to write or create whatever he wanted



The Production Process

- Back during Buddy's time, record labels would hire someone separate or have someone in the company write and produce songs
- Signed artists were usually told what to do and how to sing and perform given songs
- Buddy Severely disagreed with this



The Crickets

- In 1957, Buddy wrote his hit song “That’ll Be the Day”, but Decca Records would not let him publish it
- Outraged by this, **Buddy leaves Decca Records and joins Brunswick Records under the name “The Crickets”**
- With Brunswick, The Crickets record and publish “That’ll Be the Day” which turns out to be a massive success



That'll be the Day

- Released May 27, 1957

Style

- Always seen performing in business suits and in his horn-rimmed glasses
- Heavy emphasis on downstrokes
- Vocal Hiccups
- Signature Stratocaster



Touring

- Between 1957 and 1958, Buddy would tour America with the Crickets
- He would also release his other hit songs that he wrote
 - “Peggy Sue”
 - “Everyday”
- These songs would reach number 3 on Billboard’s pop chart and number 2 on R&B chart
- These songs would keep Buddy’s massive fame and success growing



Peggy Sue

- Releases September 20, 1957



Everyday

- Released September 20, 1957



Later Career

- One of his last recording sessions would happen in October 21, 1958
- This would be known as “the strings session”
- Songs included 18-piece ensemble
- Would record last hit song, “True Love Ways”



True Love Ways



The Day Music Died

- Buddy's career would soon come to end when he dies on February 3rd, 1959
- On tour, did not want to ride uncomfortable bus thus chartered flight from Iowa to Minnesota
- Shortly after plane took off, it crashed in a nearby field
- Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" were also killed on this flight
- Memorialized in song "American Pie" by Don Mclean in 1971



Legacy

- Even with his less than 5 year career, Buddy left a massive impact on the music industry
- Inspired many future artists
 - The Beatles were inspired by the crickets
 - **Influenced artists to write their own songs and have creative freedom within Record Labels**
 - **Set standard rock n roll band set up**
 - Inspired young Elton John to wear glasses
 - Popularized fender stratocaster
 - John Lennon self conscious about wearing glasses onstage until he saw Buddy
 - Weezer makes hit song called “Buddy Holly”



Activity: Write your own original song

- Buddy Holly would write many songs from his own creative mind about a number of things such as love
 - Write your own unique verse
 - Best verse gets prize

Verse 1

Write a Song About someone or something you love

Verse 2

Write about Heartbreak in your life

Verse 3

Write a song about your happiest memory