

FACT SHEET

Early rock artists

The Animals

Formed in 1963 by blues man Eric Burdon, the band had hits with 'House Of The Rising Sun' (originally an acoustic song by Bob Dylan), 'Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood' and 'We Gotta Get Out Of This Place'.

The Yardbirds

Formed in London in 1963, The Yardbirds took over residency at the Crawdaddy Club from The Rolling Stones. All three great 1960s white guitar heroes, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and Jeff Beck, played at some stage with the band. Their biggest hit was 'For Your Love'.

John Mayall's Blues Breakers

John Mayall's fame lies mainly with his ability to nurture talent. The list of great guitarists who were discovered by Mayall and went on to achieve fame is enormous and includes Clapton, Beck and Page.

Eric Clapton

Eric Clapton was given his first guitar by his grandparents and started his career with The Yardbirds in 1963. He learned his craft copying note for note the great blues guitarists of the past. Although primarily a solo performer, he played with Cream, Blind Faith and Derek and the Dominos. His hits include 'Crossroads', 'Layla', 'Lay Down Sally', 'Promises', 'Give Me Strength' and 'Let It Flow'.

Jimi Hendrix

Born as Jonathan Hendrix, Jimmy was arguably the greatest of the 1960s guitar heroes. Originally a paratrooper, Hendrix was largely self-taught. After little success in the US, he was persuaded to move to London in 1966. Forming the Jimi Hendrix Experience, he was hailed a musical genius and had hits with 'Purple Haze' and 'Hey Joe' before passing away in 1970 at age 27. Of the guitar heroes, he remained closest to the blues tradition.

The Who

Dynamic performers who often finished concerts by smashing their instruments on stage, The Who personified teenage rebellion. Their music combined Keith Moon's intricate drumming with Pete Townsend's guitar power chords and John Entwistle's immaculate bass playing. Hits included 'The Kids Are Alright', 'My Generation', 'Substitute' and 'I'm A Boy'.

Heavy rock artists

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin songs featured long solos by Jimmy Page, distinctive vocals by Robert Plant and strong bass riffs by John Paul Jones. Page experimented with double neck guitars, and pioneered a range of new sounds. Playing with a full rock sound, their hits include 'Whole Lotta Love', 'The Immigrant Song' and 'Stairway To Heaven'.

Deep Purple

Formed in 1968, Deep Purple's music bordered upon heavy rock, psychedelic rock and classical music-inspired progressive rock. Featuring a strong blues influence combined with memorable riffs, their hits include 'Smoke On The Water', 'Black Night' and 'Highway Star'.

Black Sabbath

Possibly the most theatrical and controversial of the 'big three', Black Sabbath initially cultivated a satanic occult image. Although they moved away from that image, their lead singer, Ozzie Osbourne, continued to draw criticism for his wild antics, culminating in a law suit from parents who blamed him for promoting teen suicide through his song 'Suicide Solution'. Their classic hit song is 'Paranoid'.

Judas Priest

Judas Priest's line-up included an extra guitar player, giving their band a fuller sound and they promoted the leather-clad rebellious image pioneered by Marlon Brando in the 1950s. Their hits include 'Victim Of Changes' and 'You've Got Another Thing Comin'.