



FEATURE STORY

Music in Tennessee

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WWII music era in Nashville

Many would say that the time between the 1940s and the 1960s is the largest and most influential in evolution of music in the south. This was the time of a new genre of music that would change the face of people all over. Rock-and-Roll sparked up in this ever changing time period, and at its heart was the city of Nashville. Nashville is known across the nation as “Music City”. That name does not come up for nothing, for Nashville has become a talent filled city.

While the “Grand Ole Opry” had been around since the 1920s, there was still similar live country shows in surrounding areas. Nashville didn’t become a major music center until Acuff-Rose publishing was formed, which was the first country music business besides the Opry. The company encouraged executives to begin cutting in Nashville, which by the late 1940s brought Nashville to become a popular southern recording center. Hank Williams brought huge attention to Nashville and was one of many big names that turned it into a major music center.



Palace Theatre Gallatin TN,
used between 1913 and 1977

Photo Station Camp HS research group

In Memphis there is famous record studio by the name of Sun Record. Sun Record has recorded with famous artists like Rufus Thomas, B.B. King, and the “King of Rock-and-Roll” himself Elvis Presley. This studio produced “Rocket 88,” which is said to be the very first Rock-and-Roll song. “Rocket 88” laid a foundation for a long lasting and soulful genre of music. Another great legend Sun Record worked with was Johnny Cash. He lived right in our backyard in Hendersonville (city next to Gallatin) for a long while and recorded here.

Sources:

<https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/rockabilly-music/>