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| **Presley,** **Elvis** (Aaron)born Jan. 8, 1935, Tupelo, Miss., U.S.died Aug. 16, 1977, Memphis, Tenn.U.S. popular singer, the “King of Rock and Roll.”

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Presley was raised in Memphis, where he sang Pentecostal church music and listened to black bluesmen and Grand Ole Opry broadcasts. In 1954 he began to record for the producer Sam Phillips, who had been searching for a white singer who sounded like a black man. In 1956, under his new manager, “Colonel” Tom Parker, he released "Heartbreak Hotel," the first of numerous million-selling hits that included "Hound Dog" and "All Shook Up." In the same year, he appeared in *Love Me Tender*, the first of 33 mediocre films, and on several TV shows, notably the *Ed Sullivan Show.* Presley's intensely charismatic style—including his sexy hip shaking, ducktail haircut, and characteristic sneer—excited young fans, especially females, to wild adulation. After a stint in the army (1958–60) he resumed recording and acting, but his earlier raucous style was moderated. In 1968 he introduced a Las Vegas-based touring act with orchestra and gospel-type choir. Battling public pressures, weight gain, and drug dependence, he underwent a personal decline. His death at age 42, attributed to natural causes, was mourned by hundreds of thousands of fans at Graceland, his Memphis estate, which remains a place of international pilgrimage.

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| **Berry,** **Chuck**born Oct. 18, 1926, St. Louis, Mo., U.S. U.S. singer-songwriter.

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*orig.****Charles Edward Anderson Berry*** Though first interested in country music, in the early 1950s Berry led a blues trio that played in black nightclubs around St. Louis. In 1955 he traveled to Chicago and made his first hit record, "Maybellene," which was soon followed by "Sweet Little Sixteen," "Johnny B. Goode," "Rock and Roll Music," and "Roll Over, Beethoven." He was one of the first to shape big-beat blues into what came to be called rock and roll (*see* rock music) and to achieve widespread popularity with white audiences. After two trials tainted by racist overtones, in 1959 he began a five-year prison sentence for immoral behaviour. In 1972 he achieved his first number one hit, "My Ding-A-Ling." He continued to perform into the 1990s. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones were among the many rock bands greatly influenced by Berry. | C:\Program Files\Britannica 2006\Ready Reference\html\img\dot.gif |

Dylan, **Bob**born May 24, 1941, Duluth, Minn., U.S.U.S. singer and songwriter.

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*orig.****Robert Allen Zimmerman*** He grew up in the iron-range town of Hibbing, Minn., adopted the name of the poet Dylan Thomas, and traveled to New York in search of idol Woody Guthrie. In the early 1960s he performed professionally in Greenwich Village coffeehouses and released albums that made him the darling of critics and folk music devotees. "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are a-Changin'" became anthems of the civil rights movement. In 1965 he adopted electrically amplified instruments and the rhythms of rock and roll in a major departure. The landmark albums *Highway 61 Revisited* (1965) and *Blonde on Blonde* (1966) established him as a leading figure in rock music, and his lyrics, influenced partly by the Beat movement, brought poetic complexity to pop music. After a motorcycle accident in 1966, he underwent another musical turnabout and released several albums (notably *Nashville Skyline*, 1969) characterized by country music elements and a muted, reflective tone. Among the most praised of his many later albums are *Blood on the Tracks* (1975), *Time Out of Mind* (1997) and *Love and Theft* (2001). He is perhaps the most admired and influential American songwriter of his time.

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| **Beach** **Boys**U.S. rock group.

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The band was formed in California in 1961 by brothers Brian Wilson (b. 1942) on keyboards and bass, Dennis Wilson (1944–83) on drums, and Carl Wilson (1946–98) on guitar; their cousin Mike Love (b. 1941) on drums; and Alan Jardine (b. 1942) on guitar. Within a year they launched a string of surfing-oriented hits marked by close vocal harmony, including "Surfin' Safari" and "California Girls." By 1966 they had released more than 10 albums, including *Pet Sounds* (1966), considered their best. Despite Brian Wilson's reclusiveness due to stress- and drug-related breakdowns, the band continued to make recordings into the 1980s and toured into the 1990s. | C:\Program Files\Britannica 2006\Ready Reference\html\img\dot.gif |

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