

Sam Cooke



Group 5: Michael Muradian, Vinh Dang, Yazan Alkhatib

<http://assets.rollingstone.com/assets/images/artists/304x304/sam-cooke.jpg>

Sam Cooke Overview

- Commonly referred as the "King of Soul"
- Famous black gospel, soul, R&B, and pop singer and songwriter
 - Considered a pioneer/founder of soul music
- Created 29, top 40 hits during his musical career (1957-1964)
 - most famous songs include: "You Send Me," "Chain Gang," and "A Change is Gonna Come"
- Among first black performers to develop business side of musical career
 - founded a record label, and publishing company



Sam Cooke Overview

- Active in African-American Civil Rights Movement
- Cooke's life was abruptly ended at the young age of 33 (December 11, 1964)
 - Cooke was fatally shot while drunk by a hotel manager in Los Angeles
 - Controversial
- Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986



Early Life

- Born on January 22nd, 1931 in Clarksdale, Mississippi
- One of eight children born to Charles Cook Sr., and Annie May Cook
 - Father was a traveling minister of Baptist faith
- Born with the name Samuel Cook, but later developed stage name of Sam Cooke
- Attended Wendell Phillips Academy High School in Chicago



Development of Musical Career

- Began career at nine years old in the group, "The Singing Children"
 - sang with siblings
- Sang for the "Highway QC's" at age 15
- Became lead singer in "The Soul Stirrers"
 - introduced revolutionary two-lead singing
 - gospel group attracted younger crowds due to good looks
 - signed with Specialty Records
 - songs include "Jesus Gave Me Water," "Peace in the Valley," "Jesus Paid the Debt"



Soul Stirrers, clockwise from bottom left: Sam Cook (the "e" was added later), J.J. Farley, T.L. Brewster, R.B. Robinson, S.R. Crain, and Paul Foster

Sam Cooke's Musical Style

- Considered to have been unique.
 - Crooning, suave, sophisticated style
- Despite primarily releasing pop songs, he had a large influence on soul music.
 - Cooke was the first artist to be able to take some of the themes and style of soul music and bring it into his pop songs.



Influences on Cooke

.....

- Sam's style of soul music can find its roots all the way back to his childhood with his father's gospel preaching as a minister in Chicago.
- His singing model can be mainly attributed to RH Harris of the Soul Stirrers.
- Harris' gospel singing combined with The Ink Spots' style of melodious harmonies led Cooke into becoming the King of Soul.

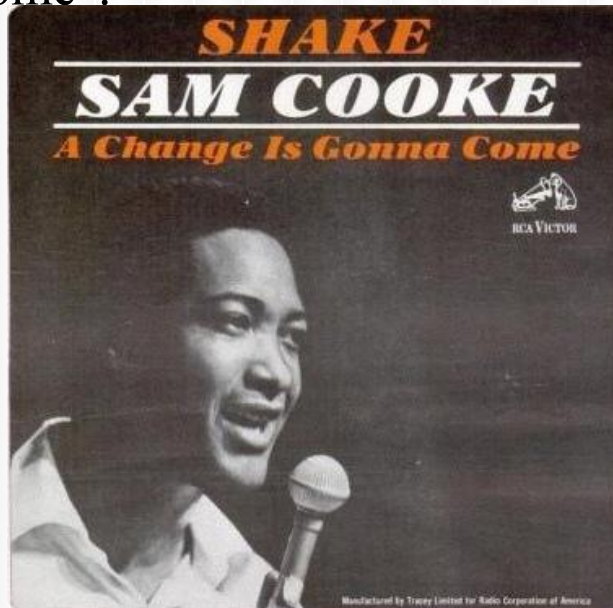


RH Harris and Sam Cooke
in the Soul Stirrers.

Social and Political Influences

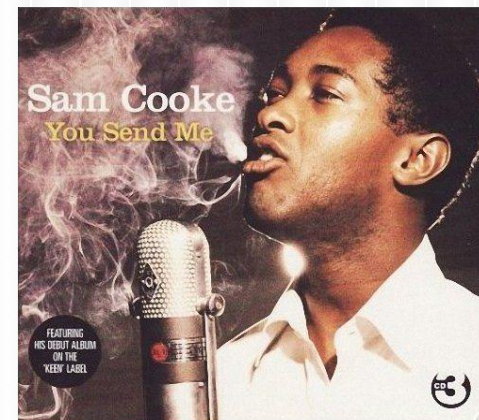
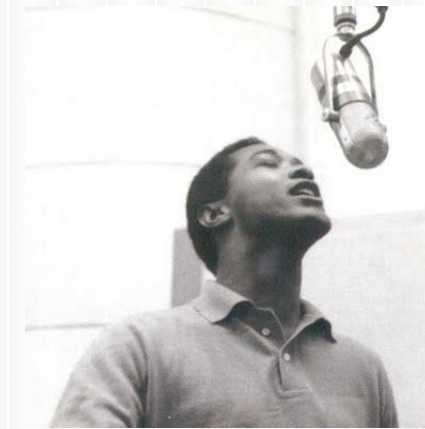
.....

- The social and political climate at the time of his career revolved greatly around the Civil Rights Movement.
- Songs dealing with this subject, such as Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind", inspired Cooke to write one of his most important works, "A Change is Gonna Come".

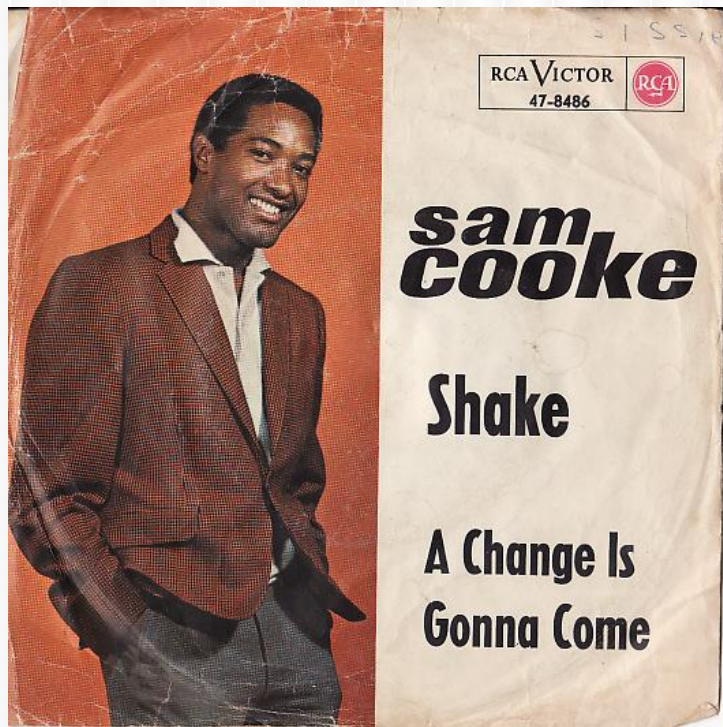


Musical Success

- After six years with "Soul Stirrers", Cooke experimented with secular music
 - financial pursuits
- Recorded first single, "Lovable," under the pseudonym Dale Cooke (1957)
 - did not want to isolate/anger gospel fanbase
 - pretended he was Sam's brother
- "You Send Me" was first number one hit (1957)
 - sold more than 1.5 million copies
 - began to implement smooth voice into more up-tempo tunes
 - examples are "Everybody Loves to Cha Cha Cha" and "Only Sixteen"



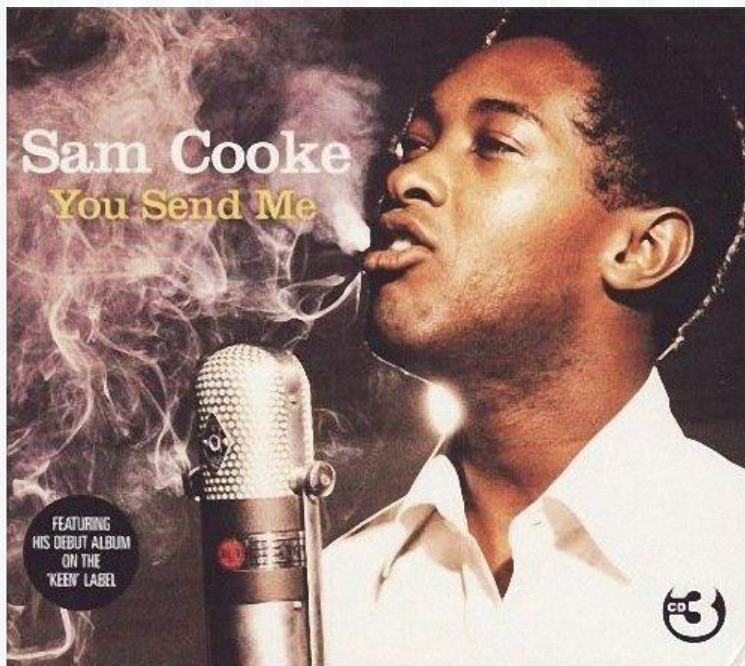
Musical Success



- Signed with RCA in 1960 in hopes of becoming a "black Elvis Presley"
 - succeeded with songs such as "Chain Gang" and "Cupid"
- Possessed ambitious business pursuits
 - Established a publishing company in 1959
 - Started the record label SAR Records (1961)
- During last year of life, he wrote his best composition ever: "A Change Is Gonna Come"
 - sang on the Tonight Show
 - civil rights classic

Top Hits

- Cooke was able to find major success in the Billboard Charts with:
 - 29 Top 40 Pop Hits
 - 21 Top 10 R&B Hits
- Hit Top 10 in the U.K with a few singles
- Successful crossover artist of R&B and Pop.



http://www.israbox.com/uploads/posts/2009-04/1239833689_sc.jpg

Billboard

http://img.sharedmp3.net/files/pics/3199/3198933/img_1_pr.jpg

His 1957 hit, "You Send Me", was one of his #1 songs on the U.S Pop Chart.

Tragic Death

- Died on December 11, 1964 at age 33 in Los Angeles, California
- Was shot by motel manager, Bertha Franklin, three times
 - Altercation occurs in managerial office after Cooke's belongings were stolen
 - Bertha claimed to have acted in self-defense, and the event was deemed a justifiable homicide
 - Controversial because some believe he was killed purposefully due to being an independent black man
 - No investigation

DETAILS BARED WITH DISBELIEF



Mahalia Jackson's organist, Edward Robinson, console's Sam's brother, David; Mrs. Barbara Cooke with brother-in-law Charles.

Everlasting Legacy

- Besides his signature soul style that has been taken and modified by countless artists, his hits still live on today as they are continually covered by contemporary artists such as Adele.
- His contributions with soul were so great that he was one of the first ten inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- Ranked #16 on list of "100 Greatest Artists of All Time" in 2004 by *Rolling Stone*
- Ranked 4th "Greatest Singer of All Time" by *Rolling Stone* in 2008
- City of Chicago named a portion of a street "Sam Cooke Way"



Sam Cooke's Influence onRock.....

- Large influence on the soul music genre and by extension, Rock 'n' Roll.
 - One of the main contributors to the development of soul music.
 - Increased the popularity of soul and soul-pop crossovers.
- Soul music was a genre that was important to the development of rock.
 - Some of the characteristics were later incorporated into rock.
 - Sam Cooke was inaugurated into the Rock 'n' Roll hall of fame for his influence on music.

Influence on Music



- His influence on soul can be heard in later artists such as Aretha Franklin and Al Green. He is considered to be one of the main contributors to the creation of a market for soul music.
- He was a very versatile singer and was able to sing using many different musical styles such as soul, pop, and R&B.
 - He was able to control his tone and timbre to create subtle differences in his singing.

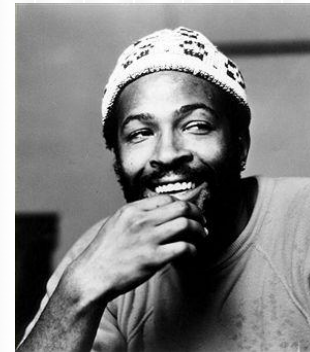
Specific Artists Influenced by Cooke

Cooke's style of vocalization and phrasing can be found in many artists including:

- Rod Stewart
- Smokey Robinson
- Marvin Gaye
- Otis Redding
- Lou Rawls
- Bruce Springsteen
- The Animals
- Simon and Garfunkel



Rod Stewart



Marvin Gaye



Lou Rawls



ERIC BURDON and THE ANIMALS
The Animals

Influence on Music Production

- Sam Cooke had a large influence on the production African American music in general.
 - He was one of the first black artists to take an active role in the marketing and sales of his music.
 - He became an entrepreneur and eventually formed his own recording company, SAR records.
- Some later black artists followed his lead and played a role in the sale of their music.



Bibliography

- Eder, B. (n.d.). Sam Cooke - Music Biography, Credits and Discography : AllMusic. *AllMusic : Music Search, Recommendations, Videos and Reviews*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.allmusic.com/artist/sam-cooke-mn0000238115>
- Palmer, R. (1985, May 15). POP LIFE - NYTimes.com. *The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.nytimes.com/1985/05/15/news/pop-life.html>
- Palmer, R. (1986, January 29). THE POP LIFE - NYTimes.com. *The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/01/29/arts/the-pop-life-911786.html>
- Stone. (n.d.). 100 Greatest Singers: Sam Cooke | Rolling Stone. *Rolling Stone | Music News, Politics, Reviews, Photos, Videos, Interviews and More*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/lists/100-greatest-singers-of-all-time-19691231/sam-cooke-20101202>
- Sam Cooke Biography - Facts, Birthday, Life Story - Biography.com . (n.d.). *Famous Biographies & TV Shows - Biography.com* . Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.biography.com/people/sam-cooke-9256129?page=1>
- Sam Cooke Biography | The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. (n.d.). *The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum | RockHall.com*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://rockhall.com/inductees/sam-cooke/bio/>
- Sam Cooke – Free listening, concerts, stats, & pictures at Last.fm. (n.d.). *Last.fm - Listen to free music with internet radio and the largest music catalogue online*. Retrieved June 4, 2013, from <http://www.last.fm/music/Sam+Cooke>
- Sam Cooke: The King of Soul. (2011, January 22). *Obituaries | Death Notices | Newspaper Obituaries | Online Obituaries | Newspaper Death Notices | Online Death Notices*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.legacy.com/ns/news-story.aspx?t=sam-cooke--king-of-soul&id=228>
- From Gospel to Clubs and Hotels - Sam Cooke Biography. (n.d.). *Welcome To The Songs of Sam Cooke*. Retrieved June 5, 2013, from <http://www.songsofsamcooke.com/biography1.htm>