



The Jackson 5



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Statement of Interest

We selected the Jackson 5 as our topic for this presentation because they were, and continue to be, a significant leader in the evolution of rock music through the decades. Out of this group, the world renowned Michael Jackson emerged as a legend of pop music. Furthermore, the group's vast influences on artists, and culture, paved the way for the exploration of new musical styles through the later half of the twentieth century. We wanted to explore the roots of significant artists to better understand how they influenced the music of today.



Overview of the Group ⁽⁵⁾

- American popular music group
- Formed in 1963 under the name: The Jackson Brothers
- They entered the professional music scene four years later in 1967
- They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997, but their music covered numerous other genres including:

- R&B
- Soul
- Disco
- Funk
- Dance-Pop
- Pop Rock



Motown ⁽²⁾

- Small record label (originally called Tammie Records, later changed to Tamla Records) started by Berry Gordy Jr., an African American
 - Preference for sophisticated jazz music, not as much for Rhythm and Blues
 - Based out of Detroit (because of the large black population)
- “Shop Around” by the Miracles in 1960 became a #2 hit against all odds
- Motown then became the “Cinderella Story” of the recording industry
- Within 7 year, Motown had become an empire

The Motown Style

The Motown style included:

- A professional orchestration and vocals (lead singer with vocal backup)
- Catchy rhythms and lyrics that appealed to a wide audience
- There is a strong beat with a heavy backbeat reinforcement
- Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, and Pop influences
- No improvisation, very controlled



Early Years and Formation ⁽⁶⁾

From their young years, Tito, Jermaine and Jackie showed an interest in the guitar and singing, so their father formed their group naming them the Jackson Brothers, with Marlon and Michael playing the tambourine and congas.

They were full of energy, charming, and optimistic, and in 1967, they won an amateur-night competition in Harlem's Apollo Theater.

In 1966 they won a talent show at a high school from performing many Motown numbers. Later that year they signed with Steeltown Records.

It wasn't until 1969 that they finally signed with Motown Records.

Later they performed as the opening act for the Supremes and began to play at larger events such as Miss Black America Pageant.

In October 1969, they finally released their first single "I Want You Back." It held the number one position on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart for many weeks in early 1970.

Roots and Influences of the Jackson 5 ⁽⁵⁾

- Their father played guitar in an R&B band called the Falcons
- In their early years especially, the group covered a lot of R&B, Soul, and early Motown hits
- The family funk/soul band, Sly and the Family Stone
- Found inspiration from the vocal soul group, Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers, too
- Michael Jackson was personally influenced by:
 - James Brown
 - Sam and Dave
 - Jackie Wilson
 - Etta James
 - And his older brother Jermaine

Group Development

- Being such a young group with upbeat songs, the Jackson 5 initially were not getting the attention they deserved
 - The songs “ABC” and “The Love You Save” were some of their first singles in 1969
- Later that year, the single “I’ll be there” proved the group’s maturity and potential
 - The song became the “best-selling single in Motown history”



Jacksonmania ⁽⁷⁾

With “I Want You Back” reaching a great success, The Jackson 5 released three more singles in January 1970 including “ABC,” “The Love You Save,” and “I’ll Be There.”

They were extremely popular in other countries other than the U.S.

The Jackson Five became Motown’s main marketing focus.

The Jackson Five carried Motown into the 1970s.



Soon after Motown encouraged Michael to create a solo career for himself in order to increase sales.

So in 1971, he released his single “Got To Be There,” paving the way for a life-long success in the music industry as a solo artist to become a legend.

Musical Style

The group went from “Bubblegum Pop” to a more sophisticated style including:

- Motown
- Pop
- R&B
- Funk
- Soul
- Disco/Dance

Jackson 5 Hit Songs (From 1969 to 1980)

1. "I'll Be There"
2. "ABC"
3. "I Want You Back"
4. "Never Can Say Goodbye"
5. "The Love You Save"
6. "Shake Your Body"
7. "Blame It On The Boogie"
8. "Enjoy Yourself"
9. "Can You Feel It"
10. "Dancing Machine"



“I’ll Be There”

- This was the song that solidified the Jackson 5’s career
- They stopped getting identified as a “bubblegum pop” band
- “I’ll Be There” was the #1 in Billboard charts for 5 weeks in 1970
- Over 6 million copies sold worldwide
- This song is still popular and used in showcases and covered by various artists
- Has the classic Motown sound



Musical Analysis: “I’ll Be There”

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-apalOOoAo>

Instrumentation: Vocals, bass guitar, guitar, keyboard, percussion

Meter: 4/8

Beat Subdivision: Duple beat subdivision

Musical Texture:

Homophonic texture when Michael is singing with instrumentation (00:15:00-00:30:00)

Polyphonic texture when the lead singer and the chorus are singing at the same time (example -- 00:52:00)

Musical Form: This song has an I-vi-IV-V musical form

Jackson 5 to the Jacksons

- The Jackson 5 started to decline in popularity in 1972
- The group wanted to switch record companies because they were only getting a tenth of what they deserved in their royalty rate
- The Jackson 5 switched to Epic Records instead of Motown Records, but needed to change their name so they weren't breaching their original contract
- Due to the switch in record labels, they changed their name from Jackson 5 to the Jacksons



Members ⁽⁶⁾

Brothers of the Jackson family from Gary, Indiana. There were 9 kids total, 6 boys and 3 girls. All had musical careers, but were inactive at some point in time. The Jackson 5 was comprised of the boys in the family:

- Jackie Jackson (vocals)
- Tito Jackson (vocals and guitar)
- Jermaine Jackson (lead vocals, bass guitar)
- Marlon Jackson (vocals)
- Michael Jackson (lead vocals)
- Randy Jackson (lead vocals, keyboards)



Jackie Jackson ⁽¹¹⁾

- Full name: Sigmund Esco
- Born on May 4th, 1951, he was the second oldest Jackson sibling.
- Jackie was seen as a leader amongst the Jackson children.
- Jackie was the first of the Jackson 5 to record his own album
 - The album was not a success
- He was married at age 23 and had two children
 - He divorced his wife after 13 years.
- Jackie now lives in LA and is the CEO of Futurist Entertainment, Inc. and its record companies.



Tito Jackson ⁽¹⁶⁾

- Born October 15th, 1953
- He played the lead guitar for the Jackson 5
- Became a Blues musician in 2003
- He recorded five songs under his solo album
 - “Call My Job”
 - “Caledonia”
 - “I Gotta Play”
 - “Stormy Monday”
 - “Big Legged Woman”
- Married Dee Dee when he was only 18 and had three sons
 - His sons formed a musical group called T3



Jermaine Jackson ⁽¹⁸⁾

- Born on December 11, 1945
- Married founder of Motown, Berry Gordy's daughter
- 1972, Jermaine began his solo career & achieved mild success
 - Three Top Billboard's Hot 100
- Re-joined Jackson 5 for 55-concert tour
 - Performance grossed \$55 million
- Experienced difficulty with Michael Jackson
 - Rift fixed and Jermain spoke at Michael's funeral



Marlon Jackson ⁽¹⁷⁾



- Born on March 12th, 1957
 - Twin brother Brandon died as an infant
- He played guitar for the group, but his role also included singing, dancing, and arranging all of the choreography
- Is the “behind the scenes Jackson”
- Married Carol Ann Parker in 1975 (only Jackson couple still married!)
- Has three children
- Currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia and is the CEO of Vabritmar Entertainment
- Still performs with his brothers occasionally

Randy Jackson ⁽²⁰⁾

- Born on October 29th, 1961
- Never was a member of the Jackson 5
 - However, did join the Jacksons as a replacement for Jermaine
- Enjoyed success with the Jacksons
 - Attempted solo career post Jacksons, but was not successful
- Known more for family problems than musical career
 - Objected to Michael's tribute tour
 - Problem's with Michael's estate executors
 - Accused of attempting to keep his mother away from Michael's children



Michael Jackson ⁽¹⁹⁾

- Born on August 29th, 1958
- King of Pop
- The lead singer of the Jackson 5
- He began his solo singing career in 1971 and became popular in the 1980s
- *Thriller* became his best-selling album of his entire career
- Sold more than 750 million records, had 8 platinum and multiplatinum albums, 13 #1 singles, and 12 Grammy Awards
- Married the daughter of Elvis Presley, Lisa Marie Presley in 1994, but divorced 2 years later
- Married Debbie Rowe in 1996 and had 2 of his 3 children with her (the identity of mother of the 3rd child has never been revealed)
- He died on June 25th, 2009
- According to Forbes, he is the “top earning” DEAD celebrity for six years in a row now



Interesting Facts on Michael Jackson (20)

- Michael Jackson was diagnosed with Vitiligo, which made his skin appear white
Some people thought that he was bleaching his skin and getting a nose job
- He started getting into plastic surgery after filming and getting injured in a Pepsi commercial
- Michael and his brothers accused their father of abusing them
 - Their father admitted to whipping them as children,
 - This could have led Jackson to have so many issues with his body later in life
 - Jackson also had an undiagnosed body dysmorphic disorder



Musicians Who Were Influenced by The Jackson 5 ⁽¹²⁾

The group heavily influenced disco and is also often recognized as the first boy band.

They eventually served as the inspiration for the upcoming generations of boy bands which included; New Edition, New Kids on the Block, N*SYNC, Backstreet Boys, etc.

For example, in the quintet New Edition, Mary Alford sought to create a new type of group similar to that The Jackson 5, hence the name. They even tried to search for a singer to, “find a Michael Jackson-esque singer to sing the high solos”.



Musicians Influenced by The Jackson 5 - **Michael Jackson Emphasis** (13)

- While this presentation focuses on The Jackson 5, it would not be realistic to not expand on the individual influence that Michael had, which stemmed from the initial group of 5.
- How did he influence them?
 - Dance - No one could move like Michael, many other bands now incorporate dance as a part of their brand (i.e. Beyonce, Shakira, Chris Brown)
 - Fashion - he had a eccentric look that influenced others to create their own style. (Lady Gaga, Madonna)
 - Videos - People wrote the debut of Thriller on their calendars and stayed home to watch it. Now other artists continue to use music videos as an art form for music.
- Who did he influence?

There was no specific groups that I could say Michael Jackson influenced more than others. His impact on the world of music was so influential that some say that “it is impossible to get around the influence of Michael Jackson.” So the answer to this question is everyone, and he will continue to be important for many years to come.

Other Music of the Period

Stevie Wonder

- He became popular in the early 1970s
- Produced and sang his own album
- Used harmonicas, synthesizers and electronic keyboards



Marvin Gaye

- 17 of his songs made it to the Top 40 when he was a soloist in the 60s
- Sang with a gospel voice in a Pop style



Other Social and Political Events of the Period

- John F. Kennedy proposed the Civil Rights Act of 1963 to outlaw discrimination because of race, religion, sex, country of origin ... allowed access to public places and employment and schools ... it gave the right to vote.
- When JFK was assassinated that November, Lyndon B. Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr. did not give up on the battle to end segregation.
- On July 2nd, 1964, the bill was passed.



Other Social and Political Events of the Period

The War in Vietnam

- It divided the nation
- Protests started amongst youth in the 1960s
- People fled to Canada to avoid being drafted



Conclusion

The Jackson 5 represented the golden age of Motown. Both as a group and as individuals, the members of the Jackson 5 impacted many genres of music. Although the members of the group parted their ways, the Jackson 5 had many hit songs and the famous Michael Jackson was able to enter the music world as their new “King.” The musical style of the Jackson 5 fit into the Motown style because of the catchy melodies and lead singer with vocal backup in the songs.



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