



Musical Investigations:

Hank Williams vs. Traditional Hawaiian Music

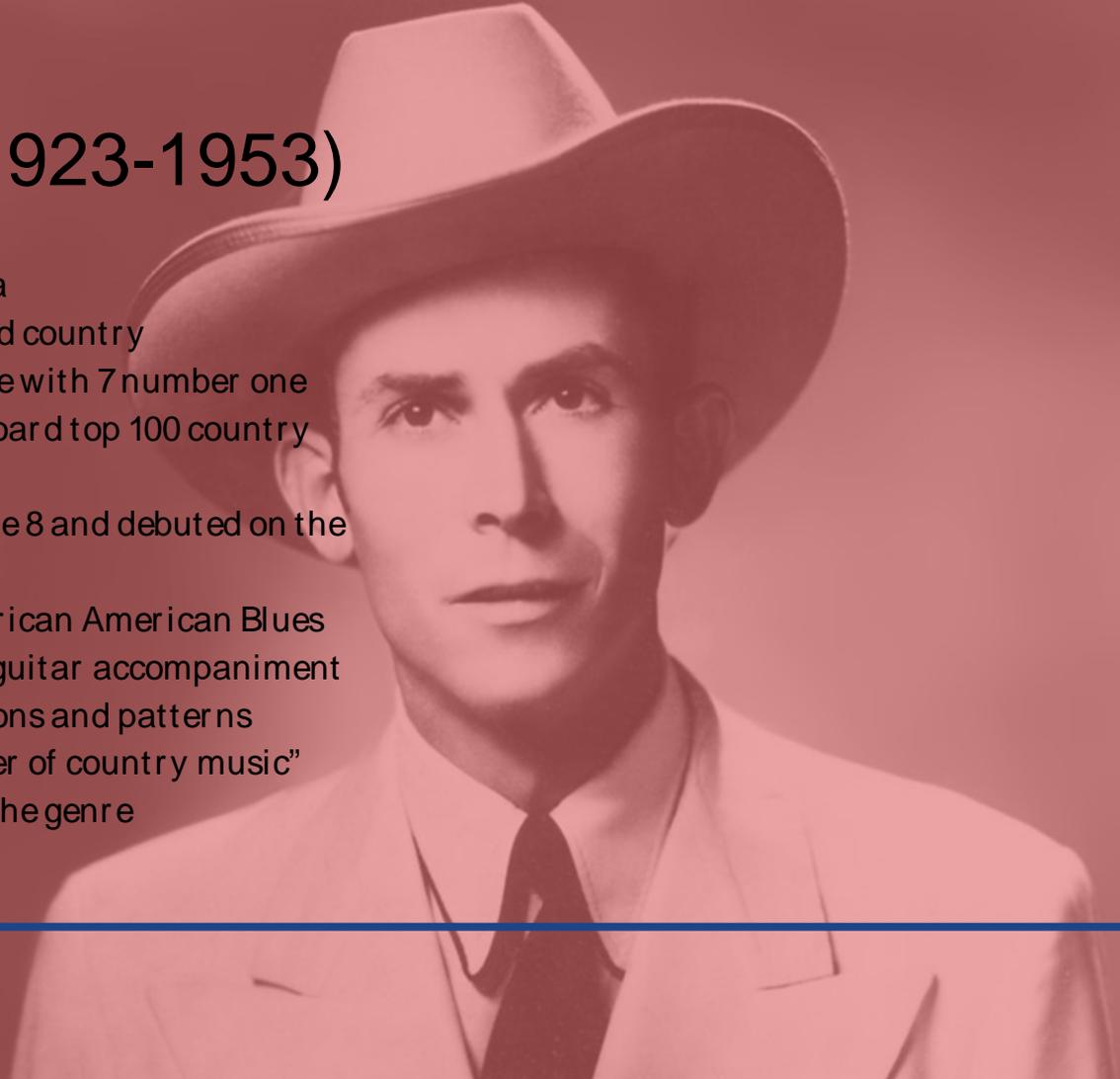
May, 2018

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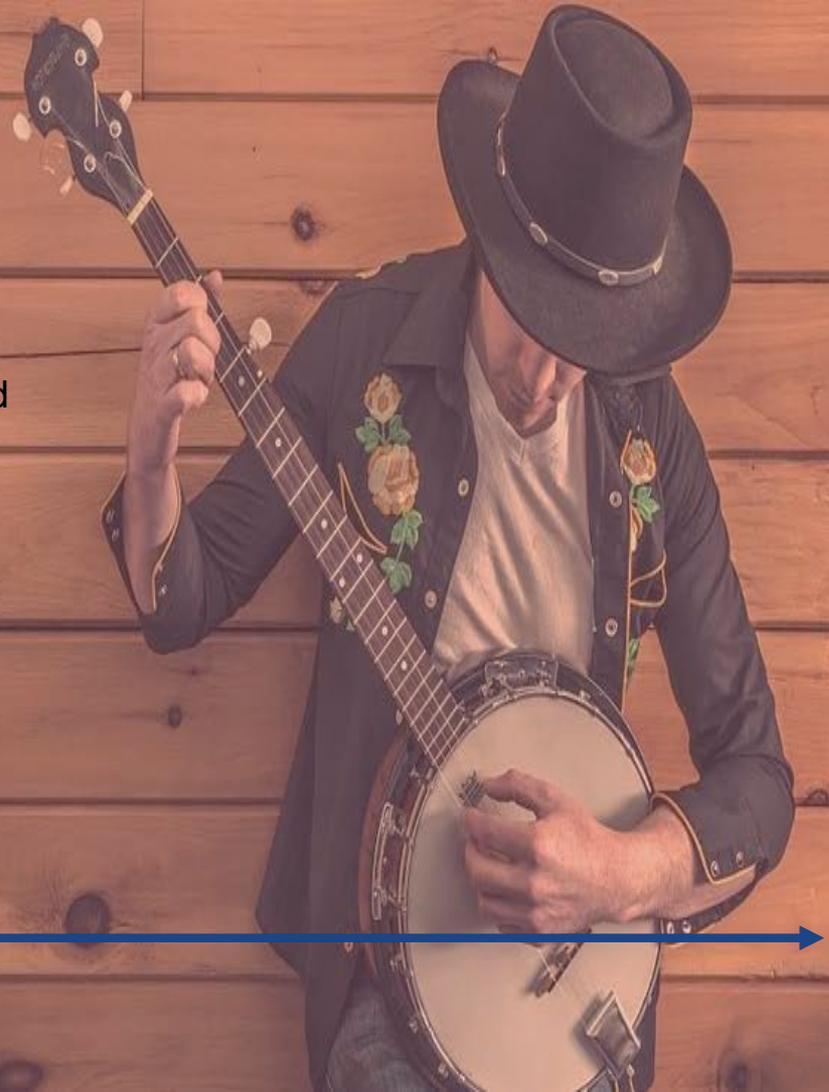
Hank Williams (1923-1953)

- Born in Mount Olive, Alabama
- Was one of the most acclaimed country singer/songwriters of his time with 7 number one hits and 30 songs on the Billboard top 100 country and western chart
- Began to play the guitar at age 8 and debuted on the radio at age 13
- Was heavily influenced by African American Blues
- Incorporated extensive slide guitar accompaniment behind basic chord progressions and patterns
- Is heralded often as the “father of country music” due to his great influence on the genre



Early Country Music

- Originated in the U.S in the 1930s
- The earliest recordings were made from the Grand Ole Opry in Tennessee which broadcasted them to radios around the country
- It was branded as “Western Music” due to its clip-clop rhythms and its content which addressed heartbreak, cowboys, and gunfights
- Out of this, a sub genre emerged called “western swing” which used amplified instruments like slide guitar
- The lyrics often told stories which became an integral part of the genre and what it is today

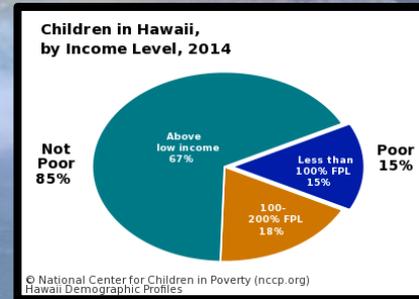
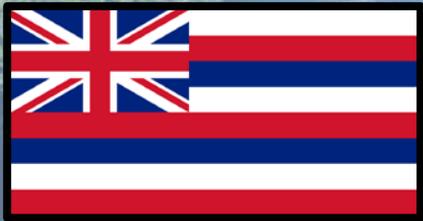


Hawaii

Population: 1.4 Million

Language: No official language, commonly spoken languages include English and Hawaiian

Ethnicities: White 27%/ Asian 37%/ Native Hawaiian 10%/ African American 3%



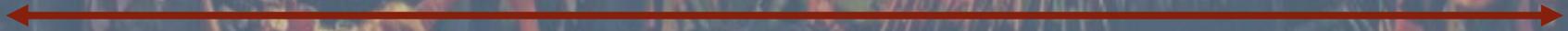
Facts and Geographical Information

- Admitted to the union in 1959 as the 50th state
- The only state located in Oceania
- The island was conquered in the late 18th century by Chief Kamehameha. His family maintained control over the island until 1872
- President William Mckinley annexed Hawaii in 1897
- A hub of volcanic activity in the U.S.



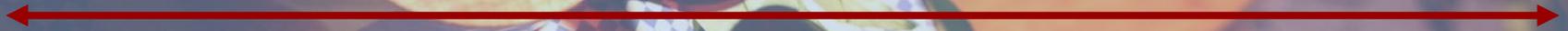
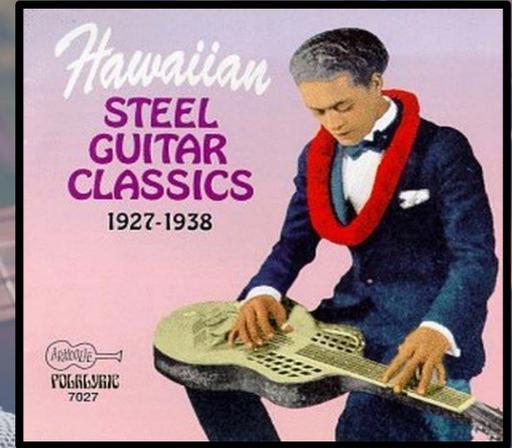
Culture

- Hawaii is known for its relaxed culture and friendly demeanor.
- In fact, friendliness is mandatory. The “Aloha Spirit”, otherwise known as the greeting “Aloha”, is a mandated philosophy which dictates, “Each person must think and emote good feelings to others” (Hawaii State Constitution [§5-7.5]).
- “Mo’olelo” is known as the Hawaiian ritual of storytelling. It is used in plays, dances, and songs.



Hawaiian Music

- Are meant to tell stories, usually about Hawaiian folklore
- Usually, Hawaiian songs are in a major key, the lyrics chronicle tradition, and the tone is usually joyous
- Discusses Hawaiian tradition and is a tradition in and of itself
- It's use of slide guitar became world renowned, and it's influence on country music is still seen today
- Generally simple chords, melodies, and rhythms



Instruments of Hawaiian Music



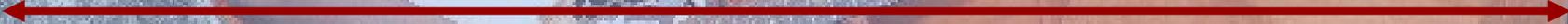
Ukulele



Side Guitar



Slack Key Guitar



THE HAWAIIAN WEDDING SONG

English Words by
AL HOFFMAN and DICK MANNING

Hawaiian Words and Music by
CHARLES E. KING

Slowly, with much warmth

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction with a tempo marking of 'mp' and a 'rall.' instruction. The second system includes the main melody with lyrics in English and Hawaiian, and guitar chords (C, G7, C, C7, F, G7, C, G9) above the staff. The third system continues the melody with lyrics and guitar chords (C, G7, E7, Am, Am7, D7, G7). The piano accompaniment is marked 'mp-mf' and 'a tempo'.

The Hawaiian Wedding

- Written by Charles King in 1926 and originally titled “Ke Kali Nei Au”
- Most famously recorded by Andy Williams in the late 50s
- Simple rhythm and melody
- Most, if not all recordings, contain ukulele, acoustic guitar, and slide guitar only
- Lyrics Discuss tradition in a warm, friendly tone

This is the moment
I've waited for.
I can hear my heart singing.
Soon bells will be ringing.
This is the moment
Of sweet *Aloha*.
I will love you longer than
forever.
Promise me that you will
leave me never.
Here and now, dear,
All my love I vow dear.
Promise me that you will
leave me never.
I will love you longer than
forever.
Now that we are one,
Clouds won't hide the sun.
Blue skies of Hawaii smile
On this, our wedding day.
I do love you
With all my heart.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92KOFmiu5Mo>

Long Gone Lonesome Blues

- Written by Hank Williams in 1950 and reached number 1 on the country/western charts
- Played with slide guitar, acoustic guitar, drums, and bass
- Simple 2/4 (alla breve) time signature and chords
- Lyrics are lamenting and melancholy

www.virtualsheetmusic.com

LONG GONE LONESOME BLUES

Words and Music by HANK WILLIAMS

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Differences

Long Gone Lonesome Blues

- Lyrics are grim and discuss heartbreak
- Instrumental arrangement is more complex and sophisticated utilizing percussion and bass guitar

The Hawaiian Wedding Song

- Lyrics are joyful and discuss tradition
- Instrumental arrangement is simple solely relying on ukelele and slide guitar

Similarities

Secondary Link: Both feature simplistic rhythmic accompaniment and use very few different chords over the vocals.

Primary Link: Both feature prominent use of the steel guitar using it as a solo instrument to play melodies rather than rhythm. Since they both play in the same manner and in similar ionian scales, the parts are virtually interchangeable.

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