

# JAMAICA



# ISLAND OF WATERFALLS



# JAMAICA

- Among the British colonies, Jamaica was home to a diverse African slave population brought to harvest sugarcane and other crops
- Unlike Catholic colonizers Spain and France, Britain was less “tolerant” of Neo-African culture and religion
- Afro-Jamaicans combined Protestant and Revival traditions with African spiritual forms, notably the kumina ritual forms

# BACK TO AFRICA

- During the early 1930s, activist Marcus Garvey and others sought to re-unite black Jamaicans with mother Africa
- Many Afro-Jamaicans combined Ethiopian Orthodox and Judeo-Christian traditions, and regarded the 1930 crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie as the emergence of a true “black god”
- Rastafarianism emerged, which would prove to be a driving force in Jamaican culture

# RASTAFARIA

RASTAFARI



MARCUS  
GARVEY



HAILE  
SELASSIE I



RASTAFARIAN  
IMAGE



ETHIOPIAN  
JEWS



NYABINGHI  
DRUMMERS

# JAMAICAN ROOTS MUSIC ~ MENTO

- Mento combines several European and Caribbean influences, and became Jamaica's answer to the Trinidadian calypso
- Mento lyrics were often crude and satirical
- Instruments included fiddles, banjos and guitars, brass and woodwind instruments, and the "rhumba box," which we know as the marímbula
- Mentos were often called Jamaican calypsos, and were recorded in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

# JAMAICAN MENTO



THE JOLLY  
BOYS

"RED TOMATO"



MENTO ALBUM  
COVER



MENTO DANCERS

# SKA – JAMAICA’S FIRST POP MUSIC

- In the 1950s, British and American music dominated the Jamaican airwaves.
- The primary influences of Jamaican ska were American R&B and “Boogie-Woogie”
- Ska was characterized by an up-beat swing feel with a “walking” bass line
- Ska was danced similar to the American “twist”
- The music (along with Jamaican musicians) traveled to Britain, where Ska was embraced by the underground “Mod” scene



# SKA PIONEERS



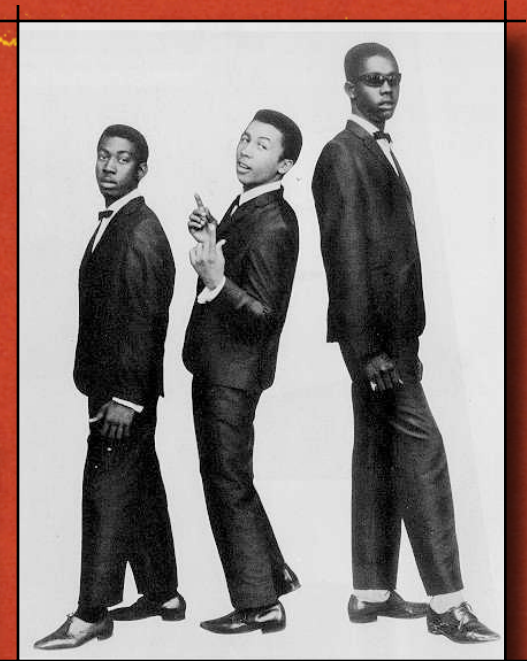
THE SKATALITES



MILLIE SMALL



PRINCE  
BUSTER



THE  
WAILERS  
"SIMMER DOWN"



## SKA RETROSPECTIVE

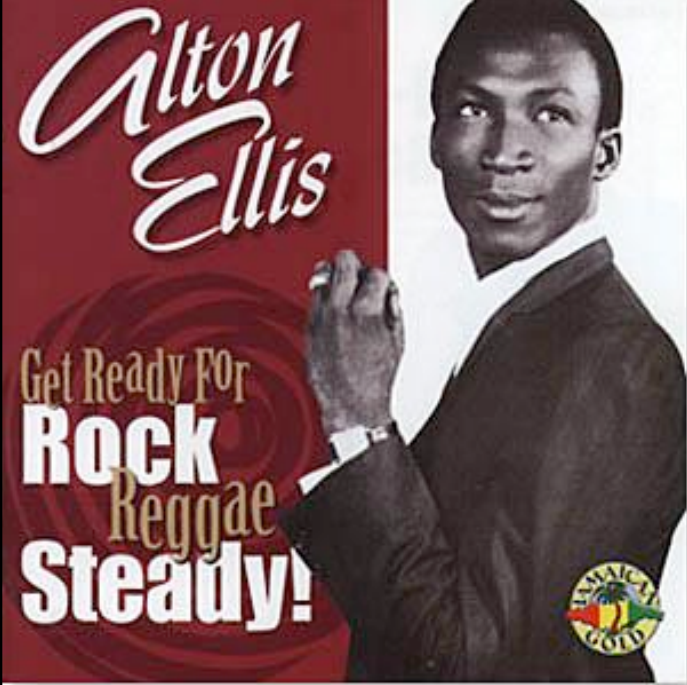
# FROM SKA TO ROCK STEADY

- Ska continued to be immensely popular into the 1960s
- Even after Independence in 1962, economic conditions did not improve for most Jamaicans
- Many musicians began to reflect the poor social conditions, resulting in a slowing down of the music, among other factors

# ROCK STEADY

- With the worsening conditions on the island, musicians made significant changes to Ska, resulting in Rock-Steady:
  1. The tempo slowed down
  2. The beat straightened out
  3. The bass played a melody
  4. Syncopation was emphasized
  5. Lyrics reflected the troubled times

# ROCK STEADY ARTISTS



"007" BY DESMOND DEKKER



LAUREL  
AITKEN

# RUDE BOYS, SHANTYTOWNS AND THE SOUND SYSTEM

- Jamaican ghettos – called Shantytowns – were fraught with miserable poverty and violence
- Street thugs called Rude Boys ruled the streets
- Jamaican music still didn't get much airplay, resulting in the DJ culture of bringing the music to the people via massive portable sound systems
- Rock-Steady reflected the realities of life in the ghetto and of rude boy culture

# JAMAICA'S MUSICAL RUDE BOYS



DERRICK  
MORGAN



JIMMY CLIFF

"THE HARDER THEY COME"

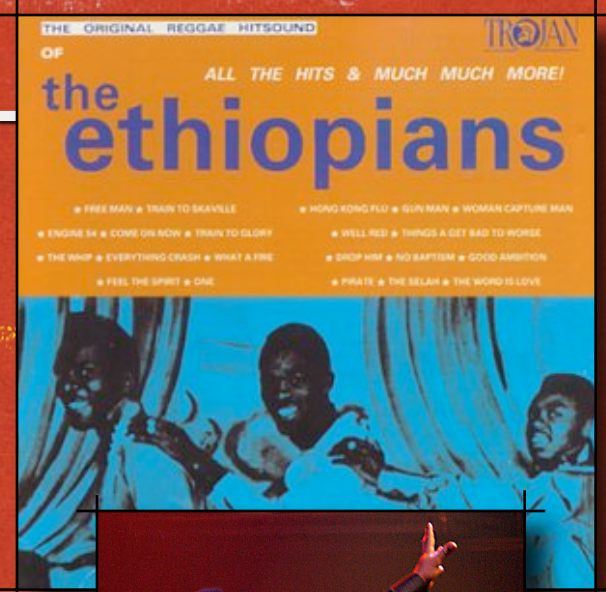
# REGGAE EMERGES

- By the late 60s, as rock-steady re-defined the music in Jamaica, a new term surfaced which would last: reggae
- Thought to have emerged around 1969, reggae would prove to be the most successful form of Caribbean music on a worldwide scale
- Two songs released during the late sixties are thought to be the first so-called “reggae” songs: “Do the Reggay” (Toots & the Maytals) and “Reggae Hit the Town” (The Ethiopians)

**“DO THE REGGAY” BY TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS**



# REGGAE HI



"REGGAE HIT THE TOWN"



SLY &  
ROBBIE



TOOTS  
HIBBERT

# WHAT MAKES IT REGGAE?

- The musical style was already defined by Rock-Steady
- Reggae lyrics begin to reflect Rastafarian beliefs, an increasing social consciousness, Biblical themes and even political overtones
- Instruments include electric guitars, electric bass, drumset, piano, organ and sometimes horns

# REGGAE ART



BOB MARLEY

"DEM BELLY FULL"



GREGORY  
ISAACS



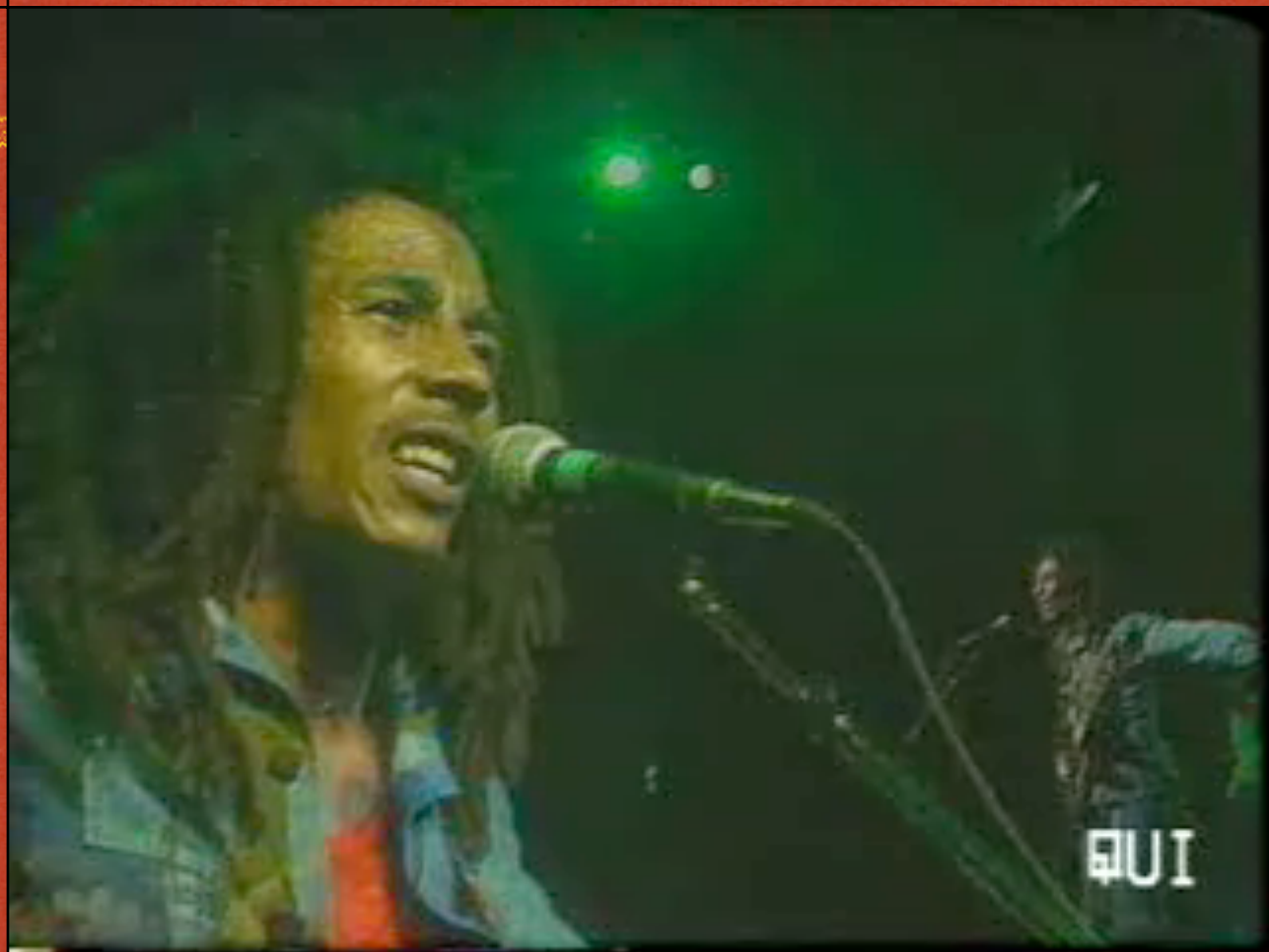
THE  
WAILERS

# THE LEGACY OF BOB MARLEY



"ONE LOVE"

- Although Bob Marley only lived until his mid-30s, his impact on the development of reggae – and on the global music scene – is unparalleled
- Bob embraced Rastafarianism, and dedicated himself to spreading the message of peace and solidarity while urging people to rise up against oppression and injustice



"GET UP, STAND UP"

# MARLEY'S SONS CARRY ON



DAMIAN  
MARLEY



KYMANI  
MARLEY



ZIGGY, STEPHEN,  
AND JULIAN MARLEY

# FROM REGGAE TO DUB & DANCEHALL

- Dub developed during the 1970s as a more experimental genre within reggae
- Typically, dub was created by producers in studios who worked with “recycled” tracks, manipulating sounds and adding effects including: reverb, delay and distortion
- Many DJs began using instrumental tracks (called “version”) and began “toasting” over them with a microphone, resulting in the beginnings of Rap

# DUB PIONEERS

- Lee “Scratch” Perry, Clement “Coxsone” Dodd and others were known for their early reggae production, and for forging the path for future DJ/Producers
- Because of the lack of live music opportunities in Jamaica, DJ/Producers became the most important link between musicians and the audience
- By the 1980s and the advent of synthesis, many groups incorporated modern technology into Dub, such as Black Uhuru



# DUB PIONEERS



COXSONE  
DODD



LEE

“SCRATCH”

**BLACK UHURU**

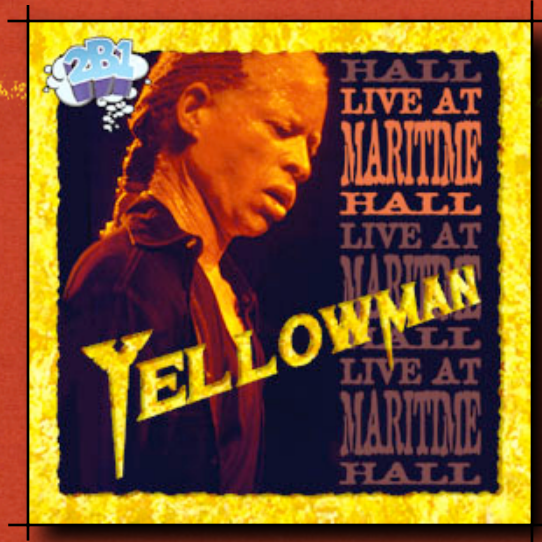


“MAD OVER ME” BY YELLOWMAN

# DANCEHALL: UP-BEAT AND FRIVOLOUS

- Unlike Reggae and Dub, Dancehall (often called Ragga) is characterized by a faster, driving dance beat and generally unsophisticated lyrics
- The central beat in Dancehall is a three-note pattern heard in Trinidadian and Cuban music (with a “long-long-short” structure) often called the “dembow beat”
- Developed in the 1980s, Dancehall would go on to be a primary influence in reggaetón, and would reach international popularity in the 90s

# DANCEHALL ARTISTS



"WICKED INNA BED"



# CONTROVERSY

- In recent years, several dancehall artists have created controversy with homophobic, misogynist and violent lyrics, resulting in the cancellation of concert tours, radio play and recording contracts for some well-known artists
- Unlike reggae, dancehall has not found a unified audience

# MORE DANCEHALL ARTISTS



BEENIEMA

N



BUJU  
BANTON

"BOGLE DANCE"

# DANCEHALL 2008



"NUH LINGA" BY ELEPHANT MAN

# LET'S REVIEW

- The chronology of popular Jamaican music:

1. Ska

2. Rock-Steady

3. Reggae

4. Dub

5. Dancehall

# LOOKING AHEAD

- Trinidad (& Tobago) –  
Carnival and Calypso  
throughout the centuries



MASQUERADERS,  
TRINIDAD CA. 1950