

# The Pop Vocal

- What makes a good pop vocalist?
- Where is the dividing line between the technicalities of singer and emotional delivery (acting of song)?
- Do pop singers play a character or themselves?
- What are the criteria for a good singer within a particular genre?

# Technical Aspects of Vocal

- How to get the vocal right within the band mix
- How are harmonies used technically and emotionally - the influence of gospel
- Why do backing vocals tend towards homophony
- Why is the language adopted specific to genre - and so often American English

# The band singers and microphones

- Early band singers with microphones could match a complete swing band in sound
- Development of microphone crooning technique with Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Matt Munro

# The Tradition of Electrified Blues

- The difference in sentiment - crude realities of love, sex and death deal with by double meanings and metaphors as opposed to sugarcandie lyrics
- The difference in singing styles and techniques - blue notes and pitches between the notes - flexibility in rhythm and attack

# 50s and early sixties Rock

- Elvis, Buddy Holly, Cliff Richard, Johnny Halliday
- Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry

# 60s Guitar Bands

- The classic formula of a guitar band with a lead singer who may play rhythm guitar also. The rest of the band sings harmonies
- Interplay between harmonies and lead voices becomes ever more complicated - Beatles to Beach Boys

# Dylan and Folk

- The exception - complicated poetry that can stand alone. A very distinct delivery that is technically poor in every way and an uncomplicated accompaniment.
- The lyric is the most essential element and the vocal timbre the next
- Huge success of the acoustic style of Simon and Garfunkle and Crosby, Stills etc.

## 70s slick and Punk

- Glam Rock and individualistic voices - David Bowie, Rod Stewart, Brian Ferry, Steve Harley, Talking Heads
- Punk - the strange and the abusive - John Lydon. Buzzcocks, Clash, etc

# All male singing groups

- Back to doo-wop and close harmony
- Soul singing groups of 60s - Temptations, Four Tops, etc
- The Osmonds
- The modern boy band phenomena - Take That, West Life, etc. Dance, beauty and the manufactured personality

# 80s techno and the vocal

- Buggles
- The singer takes all - Pet Shop Boys, Soft Cell, etc
- Frankie Goes to Hollywood

# Supergroups with super singers

- Queen and the extraordinary voice
- The vocals of metal bands of the 70s and 80s - the screaming style of Robert Plant and his imitators - Alice Cooper
- The continuation of this style into metal and beyond

# The Gothic Male

- Lou Reed, Leonard Cohen and the sixties depressives
- Nick Drake and Al Stewart in the UK
- Nick Cave

