

2014 - Centenary year of the start of WWI

2008 - Barack Obama becomes first Afro-American President of the USA

2005 - French surgeon Bernard Devauchelle and his team in Amiens carry out the first human face transplant

2003 - US tennis player Pete Sampras retires with a record 14 Grand Slam titles

2001 - The Queen Mother turns 101

2000 - World survives Y2K without disasters or computer meltdowns

1997 - Dolly the sheep is cloned successfully

1994 - The Sitcom "Friends" airs for the first time

1991 - Fall of The Soviet Union

1989 - Fall of The Berlin Wall

1986 - NASA Space Shuttle Challenger explodes immediately after take-off

1976 - Britain enjoys longest heat wave in history

1974 - Striking becomes a fad in the US

1970 - Patients receive first nuclear powered heart pace maker

1969 - Man walks on the moon

1967 - Colour TV first introduced in the UK

1963 - Coldest winter since 1740 strikes Britain

1962 - Sunday Times issues its first colour supplement

1958 - The Beatnik movement appears

1956 - Rock 'n' Roll dance in vogue

1954 - Roger Bannister runs a mile in 3mins 59.4secs

1947 - Flying saucers reported in the US

1946 - Shortest recorded boxing match, Couture beats Walton with one punch (10.5s)

1945 - End of WWII

1942 - Gilbert Murray founds Oxfam

1939 - Nylon stockings first appear

1936 - Jesse Owen wins 4 gold medals at the Berlin Olympics

1935 - Malcolm Campbell drives "Bluebird" at 276.8mph

1928 - Brazil's economy collapses due to over production of coffee

1925 - The Charleston becomes the most fashionable dance

1921 - BBC founded

1918: WWI Armistice signed

1914: The Foxtrot comes into fashion

1912: First successful parachute jump

1904: New York policeman arrests woman for smoking cigarette in public

1900: W.G. Grace hangs up his bat for the last time after scoring 54,000 runs

1900: The Cakewalk becomes the most fashionable dance



2009 - U2 '360° Tour', which is still the highest grossing tour to date

2008 - Spotify launched

2006 - Last airing of Top of the Pops

2004 - First ever episode of the X-Factor

2000 - Bon Jovi play the last ever concert at the old Wembley Stadium

1996 - The Spice Girls release "Wannabe"

1991 - MP3 file invented

1987 - Release of Michael Jackson's "Bad" album. Only album to have five consecutive #1 hits

1985 - Live Aid

1984 - Madonna's Material Girl released

1982 - Music was first sold on Compact Disc (CD)

1981 - MTV is launched

1979 - "Mull of Kintyre" is the biggest selling record of the decade

1977 - Never mind the ***** here's The Sex Pistols

1975 - Disco fever runs rampant

1971 - Fiddler On The Roof becomes the longest running musical in Broadway history

1967 - Tune in, turn on, dropout. The hippies are here

1963 - Beatlemania!

1959 - The folk scene becomes the music de jour for the beatniks

1958 - Cha Cha is the new dance vogue

1955 - Elvis Presley makes his first record at Sun Studios, Memphis, Tennessee

1950 - "Cool Jazz" develops from Be-Bop

1949 - The samba comes into fashion

1944 - Glenn Miller's unique big band sound becomes forever associated with World War 2. Sadly his plane never reaches France and so he doesn't share in the world-wide fame his music had from then till now

1939 - Germany is so outraged by the song "I'm Going To Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line" that they demand a re-match of World War 1

1935 - Jazz becomes Swing!

1933 - The Nazis ban Jazz as degenerate music

1929 - Al Jolson is the biggest selling musical act of the 20s

1924 - George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" perfectly blends the new jazz with classical music's formality

1923 - Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet are the first great jazz soloists

1919 - Italian tenor Enrico Caruso is the biggest selling recording artist of the era and "Vesti La Giubba" is the first ever million seller

1917 - James Rees Europe's Hellfighters go to Europe to entertain the U.S. troops and causes a sensation with his ragtime jazz

1917 - The first ever jazz record is released on RCA. The Original Dixieland Jazz Band's Livery Stable Blues and Original Dixieland One Step

1913 - Marie Lloyd, Britain's greatest Music Hall star leads the Music Hall War with entertainers striking for better pay and conditions

1911 - The big hit of the year is Irving Berlin's Alexander's Ragtime Band

1900 - The Ragtime craze sweeps America



2000 - 2015: Grime is a good word (apparently) and dancehall makes a comeback - but only in word, not definition. The club beats of the 90s get a 'nu shape' with complex beats and phrasings and Jamaican Caribbean influences rule.

Films: With rising budgets and rapidly increasing technology, anything is possible. Not one genre stands firm. The 00s bursts with expression and fantasy with *Moulin Rouge* hitting the soundtrack high-spot as *8-Mile* reflects a grittier, darker, gangster thriller accompanied by hip-hop and rap.



1980s - 2000: New Romantics and punks to Techno dance, indie, rockers, rappers and ravers. The Synth sound rules as computer-generated music makes its debut and keeps the dance-floor fuelled.

Films: Sci-fi, CGI and the birth of the blockbuster. In the 80s *Top Gun* leads the way with electropop, power-rock soundtracks. The 90s tones it down with cult, indie, *Trainspotting* for the brits and soulful diva ballads across the pond, from *The Bodyguard*.



1960-1979: From *Beatlemania* to *Abbamania*, and loveable mop tops to the not quite so loveable punk rockers. Your party could reflect James Bond glamour or the sweaty excitement of *The Marquee Club* - London's leading live music venue of the time.

Films: Modern jazz is the dominant style in American and European cinema in the early 60s but by the mid 60s pop music rules and has spawned some great movies with the Beatles leading the way. The decadence of the 70s features heavily in its music, no more so than in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.



1940-1959: WWII. Swing from Glenn Miller and sentimentality from Frank Sinatra and Vera Lynn, then Elvis changes everything. Jitterbuggin' to *In The Mood* is replaced by the rock 'n' roll of *Blue Suede Shoes*. Teenagers have been invented and they've got money to spend.

Films: The great era of the Hollywood musicals; *Oklahoma!* *Carousel*, *Meet Me In St Louis*, *South Pacific*. In the '50's things get seriously sexy with the King Of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, and our favourite blonde Marilyn Monroe.



1920-1939: The Roaring 20s. The Charleston, gangsters, prohibition speakeasies and hot jazz are staple party themes for this sizzling, rebellious and decadent decade. The '30s is *The Swing Era*, the Hollywood glamour of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and the riches of *The Great American Songbook* - Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart - perfect for dancing cheek to cheek.

Films: Al Jolson stars in the first talkie; *The Jazz Singer* in 1927. It features the famous line "You ain't heard nothing yet" and is followed by other classics like the *Fred & Ginger* movies with music by George Gershwin and Jerome Kern and our very own George Formby and Gracie Fields.



1900-1919: The Edwardian Era. Music styles encompass variety & music hall songs (*Boiled Beef and Carrots*) America's Ragtime Craze (1911's *Alexander's Ragtime Band*) and million selling operatic recordings by the great Italian tenor Caruso. WWI brought us numerous well known songs such as *It's A Long Way To Tipperary* and *Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag*.

Films: The Silent Movies take the screen with live musical accompaniment in theatres across the land. Everything from solo piano to full orchestra playing the earliest form of mash-up with classical, opera, jazz and ragtime all thrown in the mix.