

# Flashback: Rock of the 70s

Reprinted from the champlain bugle  
By WAYNE LARSEN

The music of the seventies was unique in the way

that it brought about many interesting changes to the rock'n'roll trend which had its birth in the early sixties. Without altering the general direction of the sixties

music, this newer stuff reflected a slightly different outlook.

The main influences on seventies rock musicians were the established sixties bands such as The Rolling Stones, The Yardbirds, and of course, The Beatles. Many of these groups still hold an impressive amount of credibility even now as we enter into the eighties.

Starting in 1979 with Woodstock, a milestone in modern music, the trend began to evolve. The change-over from the sixties was marked with numerous visible and musical traits. For instance, lead singers who did nothing more than merely sing and leap about during a performance became increasingly common obviously taking after the likes of the Stones, Who and the Doors.

Electric instruments became more complex and the arrival of the synthesizer revolutionized the world of rock. Nearly unheard of in the sixties, the synthesizer's wide range of sounds soon caught on and it is one of the most used instruments around today.

1969: The Beatles were still officially together, the Rolling Stones lost Brian Jones and performed at the ill-fated Altamont Concert,

Jimi Hendrix was awing the world with his guitar skills and Led Zeppelin was just starting out.

1970: The first year of the new decade saw the emergence of many groups who are still big today. There was an incredible wave of bands from England who gained their first American following at this time, including Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Jethro Tull, Yes, Emerson, Lake & Palmer and others.

1971: An American kid from Arizona who had formed a band a couple of years earlier rose to the top under the name of Alice Cooper thus shocking the world with his bizarre stage show. David Bowie's bisexual image was catching on, and George Harrison succeeded in coaxing folk legend Bob Dylan out of retirement to perform at the famous concert for Bangladesh.

1972: Space-person Bowie shocked the world when he stripped onstage on a Japanese tour. Peter Dinklage dressed as an incubus peered at an awestruck audience with fluorescent eyes while he sang of gruesome fairy tales with Genesis. The Rolling Stones made their final appearance at the Forum; and "Stairway to

Heaven" immortalized Led Zeppelin.

1973: Punk rock's earliest phase began in the nightclubs of New York with bands such as Iggy Pop & the Stooges, The New York Dolls and Wayne County & the Electric Chairs. Each were attempting to outdo each other for outrageousness.

British rockers Mott the Hoople and Uriah Heep were quite big, but have since fallen to obscurity.

1974: Three bands came into the picture at the same time: In a few years, Kiss, Queen and Aerosmith would have the world at their feet.

George Harrison toured America being the first ex-Beatle to do so.

In California, a concert was held featuring the top bands of the time. One state gathered Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, The Eagles and a host of others. This "California Jam" was so successful that it prompted another four years later.

Continued  
next week

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