

concert on the roof of Apple Records.⁶⁹¹ With the story of The Beatles coming to an end, the story of the music of the 1960s was also coming to an end.

THE FESTIVALS

The first real rock festival was the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival where Jimi Hendrix and Otis Redding had their breakthroughs. Increasing the influence of the festival was the D. A. Pennebaker film *Monterey Pop*, released in 1968.⁶⁹² Portraying an atmosphere of “peace, love, flowers, great music,” the film inspired many organizers to pursue similar events in 1969 and made audience members excited to attend these festivals.⁶⁹³

Not all the rock festivals of 1969 were well planned or even safe. An Easter weekend festival in Palm Springs did not have capacity to handle the crowd. As unruly youngsters outside the venue clashed with police, the violence escalated, resulting in the destruction of a nearby gas station, whose owner shot two people in the crowd. The festival ended with 146 hospitalized, thousands of dollars in damage, and over 250 arrests.⁶⁹⁴ Two weeks later at a free festival in Venice, just outside of LA, crowd members reacted to over-zealous policing, resulting in 116 arrests before the music even started.⁶⁹⁵ The following month, Canadian Mounties had to be called in to restore order at a festival in British Columbia after a motorcycle gang “raided the show.”⁶⁹⁶

There were also festivals in Toronto, Atlanta, and Atlantic City that successfully handled huge crowds safely. England got in the act with a festival on the Isle of Wight where the audience, including members of The Beatles and the Stones, was almost as star-studded as the lineup on stage, which included the Who, the Moody Blues, and Bob Dylan with his new rock-style backup group the Band.⁶⁹⁷

NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL

By 1969, the Newport Jazz Festival had been presenting live jazz each summer with much critical acclaim for a decade and a half. The producers decided to take advantage of the relationships between jazz, soul, and rock by augmenting the usual roster of familiar jazz artists with a selection of important rock and soul musicians. In addition to scheduling traditional jazz superstars like Freddie Hubbard, Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, and Dave Brubeck, the producers invited Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Jethro Tull, James Brown, Sly and the Family Stone, BB King, and Blood Sweat & Tears.⁶⁹⁸ Led Zeppelin was scheduled to be the closing act. When attendance exceeded the amount permitted by

the city council, and sporadic violence erupted, organizers announced the cancellation of Led Zeppelin. After thousands of rock fans left town angry and disappointed, Led Zeppelin was put back on the schedule.⁶⁹⁹ Both audience members and organizers were left with bad feelings.

A California festival with a similar name, sometimes called the “Newport 1969 Pop Festival,” brought in a crowd of over 150,000. The acts included Jimi Hendrix, Steppenwolf, and Jethro Tull. Crowd control was less successful—there were three hundred injuries, more than seventy-five arrests, and over \$50,000 in property damage.⁷⁰⁰ A crowd of 50,000 in Denver shortly thereafter heard a similar lineup, but altercations brought in police using billy clubs and tear gas.⁷⁰¹

WOODSTOCK

One of the most famous musical events of the 1960s is the rock festival held near Woodstock, NY, in August 1969. Books have been written, documentaries have been filmed, and songs have been sung (e.g., Joni Mitchell’s “By the Time We Got to Woodstock,” sung by Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young).⁷⁰² You might remember from Section II that Woodstock, NY, was the location of the first performance of John Cage’s seminal 4’33”. After multiple venue changes, the “Woodstock Music & Arts Fair” actually took place about seventy miles southwest of Woodstock, closer to the village of Bethel, on the dairy farm of Max Yasgur.⁷⁰³

The organizers had not really thought everything through and originally intended to charge admission, having sold upward of 100,000 tickets. Days before the festival began, though, crowds had started to gather, and since the organizers had not put substantial security in place, thousands of young people simply walked in without paying. By the afternoon of the day before the festival, before any ticket takers were in place, there were already approximately 60,000 people who had set up camp in front of the stage. Woodstock had become, by default, a free festival.⁷⁰⁴ By the time it was over, most accounts suggest that nearly half a million music lovers had attended the festival we call “Woodstock.”⁷⁰⁵

Whatever logistical aspects the organizers might have overlooked in organizing the festival, their carefully selected musical lineup made up for it. The “Aquarian exposition” of “three days of peace and music,” as the organizers billed it, took place on August 15–17, 1969.⁷⁰⁶ The first day was folk and world music oriented, with folk musicians like Joan Baez and Arlo Guthrie, and Ravi Shankar representing the music of India. The second day featured the San Francisco-based

