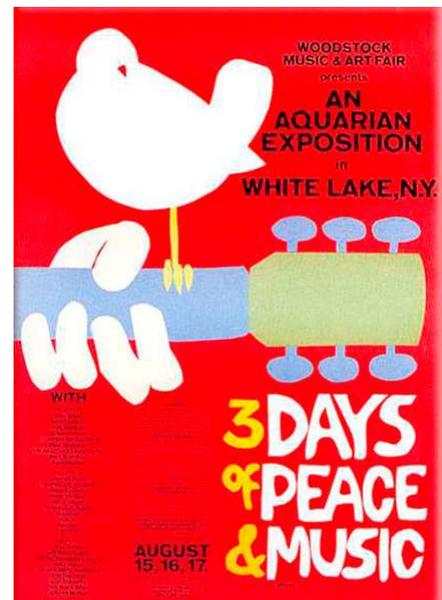
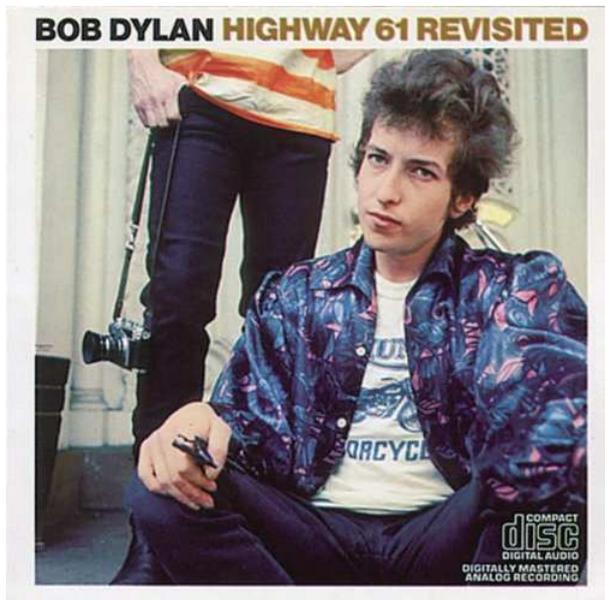


## RnR meets Folk Revival and goes political, ca. 1965 (from Dylan goes electric to Woodstock).



### Quotations:

“How does it feel  
To be without a home  
Like a complete unknown  
Like a rolling stone?”  
(Like a Rolling Stone, Bob Dylan - 1965)

“He’s a Rebel and he’ll never ever  
be any good,  
He’s a Rebel ‘cause he never ever  
does what he should,  
Well just because he doesn’t do what  
everybody else does,  
That’s no reason why I can’t give him  
all my love.”  
(He’s a Rebel, The Crystal – 1952)

"An artist has to be careful never really to arrive at a place where he thinks he's at somewhere. You always have to realize that you are constantly in a state of becoming." (quoted from Bob Dylan, No Direction Home, 2005)

“When Dylan picked up an electric guitar, folk music died as an influential musical form. In fact, Dylan said about rock, “In that music is the only true, valid death you can feel valid off a record player.” Was he referring to the rock-inspired death of folk?” (from London, 77)

“It’s 10 A.M., Monday, August 18, 1969: Jimi Hendrix is playing to a crowd of forty thousand. Another half million or so have left during the night. Many had to be at work; others had to return to worried families who’d heard conflicting reports about the chaos at Woodstock. As I watch from the stage, I see more and more people wandering away. Jimi notices too, and says, “You can live if you want to. We’re just jamming, that’s all. You can live, or you can clap.” He looks up at the streaks of sun pouring through the clouds – some of the first rays we’ve seen in a while. “The sky church is still here, as you can see,” he murmurs.”(from Lang, 1)

“For me, Woodstock was a test of whether people of our generation really believed in one another and the world we were struggling to create. How would we do when we were in charge? Could we live as the peaceful community we envisioned?” (from Lang, 4)

“Woodstock came to symbolize our solidarity. That’s what meant the most to me – the connection to one another felt by all of us who worked on the festival, all those who came to it, and the millions who couldn’t be there but were touched by it. Over that August weekend, during a very tumultuous time in our country, we showed the best of ourselves, and in the process created the kind of society we all aspired to, even if only for a brief moment.” (from Lang, 4)

“The Woodstock Music and Art Festival will surely go down in history as a mass event of great and positive significance in the life of the country... That this many young people could assemble so peaceably and with such good humor in a mile-square area... speaks volumes about their dedication to the ideal of respect for the dignity of the individual... In a nation beset with a crescendo of violence, this is vibrantly hopeful sign. If violence is infectious, so, happily, is nonviolence. The benign character of the young people gathered at Bethel communicated itself to many of their elders, including policemen, and the generation gap was successfully bridged in countless cases. Any event which can do this is touched with greatness.” (The *Boston Globe*, about Woodstock, from Lang, 249)

### **Key Dates:**

1965: Bob Dylan released *Highway 61 Revisited* and the famous show of Dylan took place at the Newport Folk Festival, when he and The Band played with electric instruments.

15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> August 1969: Festival of Woodstock

### **Suggestions for further reading:**

Bennet, Andy, edit. *Remembering Woodstock*, Aldershot, Hampshire, England ; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004

Dettmar, Kevin J. H., *The Cambridge companion to Bob Dylan*, Cambridge University Press, 2009

Greil, Marcus. *Like a rolling stone : Bob Dylan at the crossroads*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2006.

Lang, Michael, and Holly George –Warren. *The Road To Woodstock*, New York: Ecco, 2009

London, Herbert Ira. *Closing the circle : a cultural history of the rock revolution*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1984

