

**FACT SHEET**

## Country and country rock artists

### Jimmie Rogers

Called 'the father of country music', Rogers played traditional songs but also wrote his own, establishing a song writing tradition that gave rise to Hank Williams and Johnny Cash. He incorporated blues into his music and sang in a distinctive 'blues yodelling' style. His hits include 'In The Jailhouse Now', 'Blue Yodel', 'You And My Old Guitar', 'TB Blues' and 'Mississippi Delta Blues'.

### Hank Williams

A hard living performer, Williams Sr died at just age 28. He included blues in his repertoire, and his hits include 'Lovesick Blues', 'Wedding Bells', 'So Lonesome I Could Cry', 'Long Gone Lonesome Blues', 'Why Don't You Love Me', 'Cold Cold Heart', 'Hey Good Lookin'' and 'Jambalaya'.

### Johnny Cash

Known as 'the man in black' because of his black clothes, Cash struggled with his own insecurities and the law. Despite this, he was an influential artist who had a big impact upon Elvis. His hits include 'Cry, Cry, Cry', 'Folsom Prison Blues', 'I Walk The Line' and 'Boy Named Sue'.

### Creedence Clearwater Revival

Led by John Fogarty, Creedence Clearwater Revival began life as the Blue Velvets and then The Golliwogs. They were successful from 1967–1971, and their hits include 'Down On The Corner', 'Born On The Bayou', 'Green River', 'Proud Mary', 'Bad Moon Rising', 'Looking Out My Back Door' and 'Have You Ever Seen the Rain'.

### Allman Brothers Band

Featuring Gregg and Duane Allman, the band pioneered southern rock with two lead guitars, and infused their music with blues flavours. They also used gospel call and response, creating conversations between the guitars. Their biggest hit was 'Ramblin' Man', released in 1973.

### ZZ Top

Formed in 1970 in Texas, ZZ Top are still touring and performing. They were initially influenced by Jimi Hendrix and his use of guitar effects. Singing of country life, they frequently decorate their stage with cactus, cattle and snakes! Their hits include '99th Floor', 'Tush', 'Sharp Dressed Man' and 'Gimme All Your Lovin''.

### Lynyrd Skynyrd

Despite having a hit with 'Sweet Home Alabama', none of the members of the band were actually from Alabama! The group played harder-edged southern country rock in the style of the Allman Brothers but experienced a great tragedy when three band members were killed in a plane crash in 1977. They had another hit with 'Freebird'.

## Women in country

### The Carter family

Unlike other forms of popular music, women have been at the forefront of country music, starting with the Carter family. Comprising Sara and Alvin Carter and sister-in-law Maybelle, the Carters pioneered close harmony singing and were country music's first big stars, recording for nearly 30 years from the late 1920s. Daughter June married Johnny Cash.

### Loretta Lynn

A new generation of female solo singers arose in the 1950s, including Patsy Cline, Connie Francis, Brenda Lee and Loretta Lynn. Lynn in particular achieved major success. Known as 'the coalminer's daughter' and the 'First Lady of Country Music', she married at 15 and took up guitar at 21. Not afraid to sing about social issues not normally covered in country music, she had 16 number one hits, and over 70 of her songs reached the charts. Her hits include 'Don't Come Home A'Drinkin'', 'You Ain't Woman Enough', 'Fist City' and 'Coal Miner's Daughter'.

### Country rock

With the rise of country rock in the 1970s, a new generation of harder-edged female artists arose, including Emmylou Harris (former backup singer for Gram Parsons) and Linda Ronstadt. Other successful country/popular music cross-over artists included Dolly Parton, Australia's Olivia Newton-John and Canadian Anne Murray.