

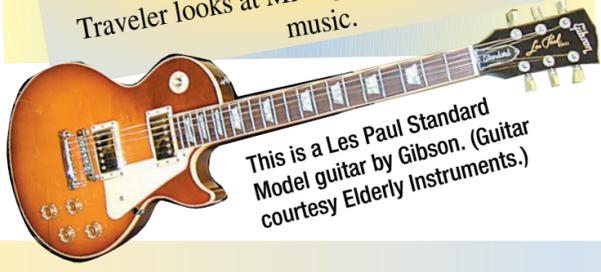
Michigan Time Traveler

An educational supplement produced by Lansing Newspapers In Education, Inc. and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation.

KIDS' History

Michigan Is Rock Solid

Since the beginning of rock and roll more than 50 years ago, Michigan has produced remarkable singers, musicians, songwriters and record producers. Today, the Time Traveler looks at Michigan's impact on rock music.



This is a Les Paul Standard Model guitar by Gibson. (Guitar courtesy Elderly Instruments.)

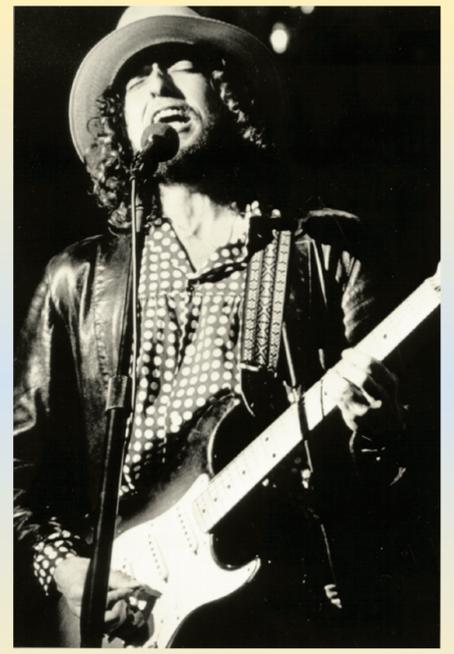
75 Rock Stars Now Appearing in Concert!

Rock concerts are fun. Rock stars, dressed in wild costumes or the coolest clothes, perform their songs for eager fans. Sometimes the fans sing and dance along. Sometimes, a lucky fan snaps a picture of a favorite group or artist (when cameras are allowed).

Now a professional photographer, Larry Hulst started out as a rock fan who brought his camera to every concert. Seventy-five of his concert photographs are now at the Michigan Historical Museum in a special exhibit called *Thirty Years of Rock and Roll*.

Larry's photographs are in black and white, even though color film was widely available by the mid-1960s. The photographs show a wide range of rock stars from Chuck Berry to Bruce Springsteen.

The exhibit also features guitars and things that rock fans collect. Maybe you collect the same things for your favorite stars: posters, t-shirts, autographs. Chances are you don't collect record albums, but fans did before CDs became popular 20 years ago.



Bob Dylan, Winterland Auditorium, San Francisco, 1976. Photo by Larry Hulst. (Courtesy Smith Kramer Fine Art Services.)



This harmonica from Stevie Wonder is in the collection of the Michigan Historical Museum.

Guitars That Rock the World

For more than a century, some of the world's most desired guitars have been made in Michigan.

It began in the late 19th century in Kalamazoo. There, a shoe-store clerk named Orville Gibson carved and whittled wood as a hobby. He turned his hobby into a profession. By 1896, the city directory listed him as a manufacturer of musical instruments.

Orville liked experimenting with the ways that wood affects sound in stringed instruments. He received a patent for the special way he made mandolins.

Orville's instruments got lots of attention. Although Orville eventually left, the Gibson Mandolin-Guitar Company grew. In the 1920s, when mandolin orchestras were popular, Gibson made everything from mandolins to mando basses. Later, Gibson produced more ukuleles and banjos as they gained popularity. Demand for guitars increased in the 1930s and 1940s when movies showed singing cowboy Gene Autry playing a Gibson.

In the 1950s, legendary guitar player Les Paul teamed with Gibson to produce electric guitars.

Since then, Gibson guitars have been a favorite for amateur and professional musicians. Rockers like Peter Dinklage and Kirk Hammett of Metallica play Gibsons.

The Gibson company moved from Kalamazoo to Nashville, Tennessee, in the early 1980s. Some employees didn't want to leave Michigan. They opened their own business in the factory that Gibson built in 1917. They named the new company Heritage Guitar, Inc. Today, Heritage produces instruments that are used by rock guitarists including Adrian Belew and Gary Moore.



Heritage Guitar Inc. of Kalamazoo made this hollow-body guitar of curly maple. (Guitar courtesy Elderly Instruments.)



Paul McCartney. Cow Palace, San Francisco, 1976. Photo by Larry Hulst. (Courtesy Smith Kramer Fine Art Services.)

Michigan in Rock Music

It's fun to hear a Michigan town mentioned in a popular song. Have you heard *Detroit* in "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey? Listen for *Saginaw* in Simon and Garfunkel's "America." When Creedence Clearwater Revival says *Kalamazoo* in "Down on the Corner," the word refers to an inexpensive guitar made by the Gibson company. Listen for references to Michigan in songs you hear on the radio.



IHM/St. Casimir students Biyanka Centeno and Aaron Torok move and groove to Motown songs in the Sixties Gallery at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

Time Line

Here are just a few dates that highlight Michigan's rock role:

- 1953** Bill Haley (of Highland Park) and His Comets have the first rock song to land on Billboard magazine's Top 20: "Crazy, Man, Crazy."
- 1959** Berry Gordy moves his Motown record company into a two-story house he calls Hitsville.
- 1961** Del Shannon of Coopersville has the nation's #1 song, "Runaway."
- 1966** A "one-hit wonder" is a term for a recording artist or group that is known for only one song. For ? and the Mysterians of Saginaw that song is "96 Tears."
- 1975** Bob Seger performs at two sold-out shows at Detroit's Cobo Hall. The result is *Live Bullet*, a double album that makes him known across the country.
- 1977** Suzi Quatro, a bass player from Detroit, has hits in Michigan and Britain before she joins the cast of the TV show *Happy Days*.
- 1987** The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducts five Michiganians: Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, Bill Haley, Smokey Robinson and Jackie Wilson.

Slash, lead guitarist for Guns N' Roses, signed this red Les Paul Special guitar. (Guitar courtesy Q106, Mid-Michigan Radio Group.)



Musician, songwriter and producer Lenny Kravitz signed this Epiphone "Flying V" guitar. Guitar courtesy Edge, Mid-Michigan Radio Group.

At the Museum

You're in the spotlight in the Sixties Gallery! As rock and roll grew in the 1960s, Michigan became famous for producing a style called the Motown sound. At the Michigan Historical Museum, you can lip sync and dance to groovy Motown hits.

The Michigan Historical Museum, 717 W. Allegan St., Lansing is located two blocks west of the Capitol in downtown Lansing. Museum admission is free. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. The museum telephone hotline: (517) 373-3559. The museum is part of the Michigan Historical Center, Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Visit us on the Web: www.michiganhistory.org.

Things To Do

- * Find the list of celebrity birthdays on page 2A. Are any rock stars celebrating a birthday today?
- * Look for articles or advertisements about rock concerts in the newspaper.
- * Find rock stars among the famous Michiganians at www.michiganhistory.org/michinfo.
- * Visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on-line at www.rockhall.com. How many Michiganians can you find there?



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MICHIGAN Historical Center FOUNDATION

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