

# How Britain Got The Blues: Uncovering the Fascinating Journey of the Genre

When we hear the term "British music," genres such as rock, pop, and classical often come to mind. However, what many people don't realize is that Britain played a pivotal role in the development and popularization of the blues. In this article, we will dive deep into the history, influences, and impact of the blues in Britain.

## The Birth of the Blues in America

The blues originated in the African-American communities in the Southern United States during the late 19th century. It was a genre deeply rooted in the African musical traditions brought to America during the era of slavery. The blues served as a form of expression, allowing individuals to communicate their struggles, joys, and emotions through music.

As the blues grew in popularity in America, it began to captivate the hearts of music enthusiasts around the world. With the advent of recording technology, the blues found its way onto records, allowing wider accessibility. This global impact laid the foundation for what would happen next – the transatlantic journey of the blues to Britain.



## How Britain Got the Blues: The Transmission and Reception of American Blues Style in the United Kingdom (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series)

by Roberta Freund Schwartz (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1197 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 282 pages



## **The Influence of American Blues on British Musicians**

British musicians started to explore the blues in the early 1960s, heavily influenced by the recordings of American blues legends such as Muddy Waters, B.B. King, and Howlin' Wolf. These musicians were captivated by the rawness, emotion, and storytelling aspect of the blues, which stood in contrast to the popular music of the time.

As British artists like Eric Clapton, John Mayall, and The Rolling Stones delved into the blues, they began to incorporate these elements into their own music. This marked the birth of the British blues movement, a significant turning point not only for British music but also for the global perception of the blues.

## **The British Blues Movement: Igniting a Cultural Revolution**

The British blues movement ignited a cultural revolution in the 1960s and 1970s. Bands and artists emerged, embracing the blues and infusing it with their unique British style. The blues became a vehicle for self-expression, rebellion, and collaboration.

The success of British blues musicians in the United States was a testament to the impact of this cultural phenomenon. Artists such as The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, and Eric Clapton gained recognition and admiration in the home country of the blues, becoming influential figures in the genre themselves.

## **Pioneering British Blues Musicians**

While the influence of the British blues movement cannot be understated, it's important to recognize the pioneering musicians who paved the way for this revolution. Artists like Alexis Korner, Cyril Davies, and John Mayall played a crucial role in popularizing the blues in Britain.

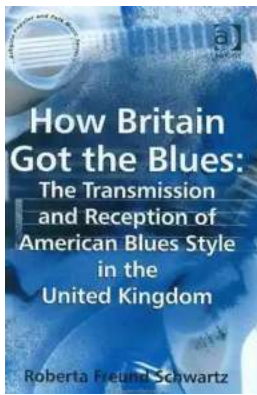
These trailblazers not only introduced British audiences to the genre but also played a significant role in its evolution. They embraced a collaborative approach, uniting musicians through the blues. This sense of community led to the formation of influential bands such as Cream, Fleetwood Mac, and The Yardbirds.

## **The Legacy and Evolution of British Blues**

The British blues movement laid the foundation for the evolution of the genre, allowing it to branch out into various subgenres such as blues rock and British rhythm and blues. Bands like The Who, Cream, and Led Zeppelin took the blues in new directions, creating a fusion of the traditional blues sound with their own unique styles.

Today, the impact of British blues can still be felt in the music industry. Countless artists continue to draw inspiration from the blues, paying homage to the genre that changed the face of British music. The legacy of the blues in Britain is one of cultural exchange, artistic innovation, and a shared passion for music.

The story of how Britain got the blues is a testament to the power of music in transcending boundaries. From its humble origins in the Southern United States to its transformative journey across the Atlantic, the blues found a new home in Britain, influencing generations of musicians and shaping the course of music history. Today, the blues continues to inspire and captivate audiences worldwide, proving that its impact knows no bounds.



## How Britain Got the Blues: The Transmission and Reception of American Blues Style in the United Kingdom (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series)

by Roberta Freund Schwartz (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1197 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 282 pages



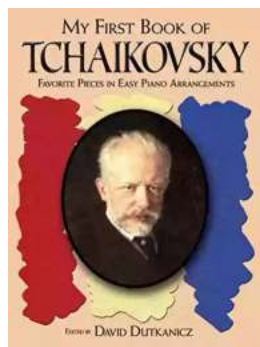
This book explores how, and why, the blues became a central component of English popular music in the 1960s. It is commonly known that many 'British invasion' rock bands were heavily influenced by Chicago and Delta blues styles. But how, exactly, did Britain get the blues? Blues records by African American artists were released in the United States in substantial numbers between 1920 and the late 1930s, but were sold primarily to black consumers in large urban centres and the rural south. How, then, in an era before globalization, when multinational record releases were rare, did English teenagers in the early 1960s encounter the music of Robert Johnson, Blind Boy Fuller, Memphis Minnie, and Barbecue Bob? Roberta Schwartz analyses the transmission of blues records to England, from the first recordings to hit English shores to the end of the sixties. How did the blues, largely banned from the BBC until the mid 1960s, become popular enough to create a demand for re-released material by American artists? When did the British blues subculture begin, and how did it develop? Most significantly, how did the music become a part of the popular consciousness, and how did it change music and expectations? The way that the blues, and various

blues styles, were received by critics is a central concern of the book, as their writings greatly affected which artists and recordings were distributed and reified, particularly in the early years of the revival. 'Hot' cultural issues such as authenticity, assimilation, appropriation, and cultural transgression were also part of the revival; these topics and more were interrogated in music periodicals by critics and fans alike, even as English musicians began incorporating elements of the blues into their common musical language. The vinyl record itself, under-represented in previous studies, plays a major part in the story of the blues in Britain. Not only did recordings shape perceptions and listening habits, but which artists were available at any given time also had an enormous impact on the British blues. Schwartz maps the influences on British blues and blues-rock performers and thereby illuminates the stylistic evolution of many genres of British popular music.



## **The Ultimate Guide to New Addition Subtraction Games Flashcards For Ages 3-6**

In this day and age, countless parents are searching for innovative and effective ways to help their young children develop essential math skills. It's no secret that...



## **The Ultimate Guide for the Aspiring Pianist: Unleash Your Inner Musical Prodigy with Downloadable Mp3s from Dover Classical Piano Music**

Are you a beginner pianist feeling overwhelmed by the sheer amount of music available to you? Do you dream of tickling the ivories with the grace and skill of a concert...



## Wow Robot Club Janice Gunstone - The Mastermind Behind the Magic

Robots have always fascinated us with their ability to perform tasks beyond human capabilities, seamlessly blend into our lives, and open up new...



## Ideal For Catching Up At Home: CGP KS2 Geography

Are you looking for the perfect resource to catch up on your child's geography lessons at home? Look no further! CGP KS2 Geography is the ideal tool to help your child excel...



## The Ultimate Pictorial Travel Guide To Vietnam: Explore the Hidden Beauty of this Enchanting Country

Discover the rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture of Vietnam through this captivating and comprehensive travel guide. ...



## Unlocking the Secrets of Compact Stars: Exploring Equation of States with General Relativistic Initial Data

Compact stars have always been a topic of fascination for astronomers and physicists alike. These celestial objects, also known as neutron stars or white...



## Unveiling the Hidden Gem: Google Places Goliath Valley Mulford

Are you tired of visiting the same old tourist attractions and craving something unique and off the beaten path? Look no further than Google Places Goliath Valley Mulford – a...



## Essays Towards Theory Of Knowledge: Exploring the Depths of Understanding

Are you ready to delve into the fascinating realm of knowledge? Do you want to expand your understanding of various subjects and explore the depths of...