

MUS 3308

Popular Music in Society

Summer 2017

Dr. Alyssa Woods

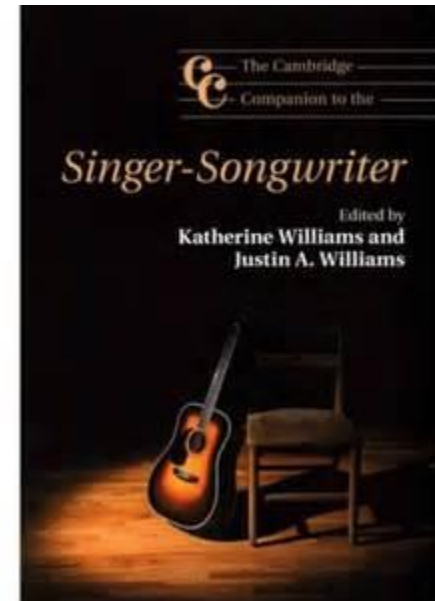
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Popular Music Criticism

- Journalistic writing
 - Reviews
 - Magazine articles
 - Interviews



- Academic/Scholarly writing
 - Books and articles from a variety of different disciplines, including sociology, musicology, media studies, etc.



What is Popular Music?

- How is it defined?
 - The literal definition: “music that is popular,” but it is more complex than this.



What is Popular Music?

It is often defined by:

- Commercialization
- Status as a commodity
- Mass appeal

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 1988

Billboard **HOT 100** SINGLES™

Compiled from a national sample of retail stores and live-performance reports and radio playlists.

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK POSITION | WEEKS ON CHART | ARTIST | TITLE | WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK POSITION | WEEKS ON CHART | ARTIST | TITLE |
|------|-----------|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------|-----------|---------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 100 | 99 | 1 | 1 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 99 | 98 | 1 | 2 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 11 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 98 | 97 | 1 | 3 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 97 | 96 | 1 | 4 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 13 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 96 | 95 | 1 | 5 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 14 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 95 | 94 | 1 | 6 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 7 | 1 | 1 | 15 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 94 | 93 | 1 | 7 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 8 | 1 | 1 | 16 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 93 | 92 | 1 | 8 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 9 | 1 | 1 | 17 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 92 | 91 | 1 | 9 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 10 | 1 | 1 | 18 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 91 | 90 | 1 | 10 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 11 | 1 | 1 | 19 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 90 | 89 | 1 | 11 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 12 | 1 | 1 | 20 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 89 | 88 | 1 | 12 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 13 | 1 | 1 | 21 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 88 | 87 | 1 | 13 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 14 | 1 | 1 | 22 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 87 | 86 | 1 | 14 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 15 | 1 | 1 | 23 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 86 | 85 | 1 | 15 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 16 | 1 | 1 | 24 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 85 | 84 | 1 | 16 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 17 | 1 | 1 | 25 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 84 | 83 | 1 | 17 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 18 | 1 | 1 | 26 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 83 | 82 | 1 | 18 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 19 | 1 | 1 | 27 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 82 | 81 | 1 | 19 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 20 | 1 | 1 | 28 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 81 | 80 | 1 | 20 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 21 | 1 | 1 | 29 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 80 | 79 | 1 | 21 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 22 | 1 | 1 | 30 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 79 | 78 | 1 | 22 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 23 | 1 | 1 | 31 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 78 | 77 | 1 | 23 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 24 | 1 | 1 | 32 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 77 | 76 | 1 | 24 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 25 | 1 | 1 | 33 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 76 | 75 | 1 | 25 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 26 | 1 | 1 | 34 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 75 | 74 | 1 | 26 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 27 | 1 | 1 | 35 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 74 | 73 | 1 | 27 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 28 | 1 | 1 | 36 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 73 | 72 | 1 | 28 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 29 | 1 | 1 | 37 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 72 | 71 | 1 | 29 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 30 | 1 | 1 | 38 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 71 | 70 | 1 | 30 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 31 | 1 | 1 | 39 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 70 | 69 | 1 | 31 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 32 | 1 | 1 | 40 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 69 | 68 | 1 | 32 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 33 | 1 | 1 | 41 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 68 | 67 | 1 | 33 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 34 | 1 | 1 | 42 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 67 | 66 | 1 | 34 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 35 | 1 | 1 | 43 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 66 | 65 | 1 | 35 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 36 | 1 | 1 | 44 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 65 | 64 | 1 | 36 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 37 | 1 | 1 | 45 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 64 | 63 | 1 | 37 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 38 | 1 | 1 | 46 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 63 | 62 | 1 | 38 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 39 | 1 | 1 | 47 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 62 | 61 | 1 | 39 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 40 | 1 | 1 | 48 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 61 | 60 | 1 | 40 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 41 | 1 | 1 | 49 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 60 | 59 | 1 | 41 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 42 | 1 | 1 | 50 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 59 | 58 | 1 | 42 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 43 | 1 | 1 | 51 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 58 | 57 | 1 | 43 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 44 | 1 | 1 | 52 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 57 | 56 | 1 | 44 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 45 | 1 | 1 | 53 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 56 | 55 | 1 | 45 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 46 | 1 | 1 | 54 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 55 | 54 | 1 | 46 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 47 | 1 | 1 | 55 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 54 | 53 | 1 | 47 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 48 | 1 | 1 | 56 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 53 | 52 | 1 | 48 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 49 | 1 | 1 | 57 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 52 | 51 | 1 | 49 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |
| 50 | 1 | 1 | 58 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE | 51 | 50 | 1 | 50 | THE BEATLES | LET IT BE |

What is Popular Music?

- Considerations include:
 - Geographical location
 - Time period
 - Social and cultural context
 - Codes and conventions that go into the construction of the musical text
 - Thematic content
 - Technology



Introduction to Standardization

Public debates surrounding “similar” sounding music

- Cover Songs
 - “The Tide is High”
 - Paragons (1967)
 - Blondie (1980)
 - Atomic Kitten (2002)
 - Kardinal Offishall “Numba 1” (2008)
- Samples/Remixes
 - Kanye West “Bound 2” (2013)
 - Ponderosa Twins, “Bound” (1971)
 - Brenda Lee “Sweet Nothings (1960)
 - Wee “Aeroplane” (Reprise) (1977)



Introduction to Standardization

Public debates surrounding
“similar” sounding music

- Songs that sound the same
 - George Harrison “My Sweet Lord”
 - The Chiffons “He’s So Fine”
- Reliance on Similar Chord Progressions
 - Pachelbel Rant



Reading for next class:

David Allan “On Popular Music in Advertising”

<http://www.popular-musicology-online.com/issues/01/allan-01.html>

