

## **SAN FRANCISCO ROCK OF THE 1960s: THE SOUNDTRACK TO THE SUMMER OF LOVE**

### **Suggested General Listening List**

The seven syllabuses for each of the course's weekly meetings have lists of albums for suggested listening specifically related to each session. There are some albums, however, that cover more than one era and can't be specifically tied to a certain period. This list has some recommended best-of/greatest hits compilations for major Bay Area artists that serve as good introductions, and also large box set anthologies if you want to go very deep into the catalog of a specific act.

To start with, there is one special box set that is recommended above all others as a comprehensive overview of San Francisco 1960s rock:

**Various Artists, *Love Is the Song We Sing: San Francisco Nuggets 1965-1970*** (Rhino, 2007). Extraordinary four-CD box set of San Francisco psychedelia and folk-rock, with everyone from the superstars (Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin) to no-names with one outstanding single. Oriented toward rarities, but includes its share of hits and famous album tracks too, like "White Rabbit," the Youngbloods' "Get Together," Blue Cheer's "Summertime Blues," Santana's "Soul Sacrifice," and It's a Beautiful Day's "White Bird." The accompanying 120-page booklet has in-depth detail about the groups, the songs, and their context, with many photos and reproductions of vintage posters. The only small flaw is that there are no tracks by Creedence Clearwater Revival, due to licensing reasons.

### **Best-of/Greatest Hits Compilations**

**Country Joe & the Fish, *The Collected Country Joe & the Fish*** (Vanguard, 1987). Their first album (1967's *Electric Music for the Mind and Body*) remains their best, but it doesn't have some other worthwhile music on this 19-song best-of, including their most famous song, the anti-Vietnam War anthem "I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag." Their mixture of folk, rock, blues, and psychedelia could be disorienting, but had more sense of humor, political consciousness, and overt drug influence than most psychedelic rock from San Francisco or anywhere else.

**Creedence Clearwater Revival, *Chronicle*** (Universal, 2008). Twenty of the hits and most popular LP tracks from the leading roots rock band of all time, and one of the most popular singles bands of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Includes standards like "Proud Mary," "Down on the Corner," "Bad Moon Rising," "Who'll Stop the Rain," and "Up Around the Bend."

**The Grateful Dead, *The Very Best of the Grateful Dead*** (Rhino, 2004). Though some of the songs on this 17-song compilation date from later than the early 1970s, this has most of the band's most popular tunes, including "Truckin'," "Sugar Magnolia," "Casey Jones," "Uncle John's Band," and "Friend of the Devil." A notable omission from their

'60s work is "St. Stephen," which is on the briefer *Skeletons from the Closet: The Best of the Grateful Dead*, which only contains recordings from the 1960s and early 1970s.

**Jefferson Airplane, *The Essential Jefferson Airplane*** (RCA, 2005). Two-CD set has most of their most popular tracks, particularly "White Rabbit," "Somebody to Love," "Lather," "Crown of Creation," and "Good Shepherd," and late-'60s songs showing their growth to a more hard rock/politically-oriented outfit, such as "Volunteers," "We Can Be Together," and "Wooden Ships." But why no "Today"?

**Janis Joplin, *The Essential Janis Joplin*** (Columbia/Legacy, 2003). Two-CD compilation has her best and most popular material both as a solo artist and as the lead singer of Big Brother & the Holding Company, including the hits and standards "Piece of My Heart," "Ball and Chain," "Get It While You Can," "Try (Just a Little Bit Harder)," "Move Over," and "Me and Bobby McGee."

**The Steve Miller Band, *Anthology*** (Capitol, 1972). The highlights from their first five albums in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including the FM radio favorites "Space Cowboy" and "Living in the U.S.A."

**Moby Grape, *Vintage: The Very Best of Moby Grape*** (Columbia/Legacy, 1993). Well-chosen two-CD, 48-track set has their first and best album (1967's *Moby Grape*), the best of their subsequent erratic LPs, and some previously unreleased material.

**Quicksilver Messenger Service, *Sons of Mercury 1968-1975*** (Rhino, 1991). Two-CD set properly and heavily weighted toward their late-'60s material, including some rarities found only on singles and compilations.

**Santana, *Greatest Hits*** (Columbia, 1974). Brief (ten-song) but effective summary of the highlights of their late-'60s/early-'70s recordings, including the famous "Black Magic Woman," "Oye Como Va," and "Evil Ways" (but, oddly, no "Soul Sacrifice"). For a much more comprehensive best-of that goes way beyond the early '70s (and has "Soul Sacrifice"), there's *The Essential Santana*.

**Sly & the Family Stone, *The Essential Sly & the Family Stone*** (Epic, 2002). Two-CD set of the hits and then some from the Bay Area group that combined soul, funk, and psychedelic rock, including the standards "Dance to the Music," "Hot Fun in the Summertime," "Everyday People," "Thank You," and "Family Affair."

**The Youngbloods, *Euphoria 1965-1969*** (Raven, 1998). Known mostly for their big hit "Get Together," the Youngbloods also had plenty of other good material in the gentle folk-rock vein, most featuring the fine lead vocals of Jesse Colin Young. Note that they were first based in Boston and New York, moving to San Francisco near the end of the 1960s.

## Box Sets

**Creedence Clearwater Revival, *Creedence Clearwater Revival*** (Fantasy, 2001). Six-CD set has everything from their seven studio albums and two live albums, as well as an entire CD of pre-1968 material (some previously unissued) recorded when they were known as the Golliwogs and, back in the early 1960s, Tommy Fogerty & the Blue Velvets.

**The Grateful Dead, *The Golden Road (1965-1973)*** (Rhino, 2001). Twelve-CD box has all nine of the studio and live albums issued by the Grateful Dead through 1973's awkwardly named *History of the Grateful Dead, Vol. 1 (Bear's Choice)*. It also has two entire discs of studio and live material (much of it previously unreleased) from 1965 and 1966 predating their first album, 1967's *The Grateful Dead*. In addition, live and rare bonus cuts are added to the most of the discs featuring specific albums. If you want to go beyond 1973, there's the similarly formatted twelve-CD box *Beyond Description (1973-1989)*, also on Rhino.

**Jefferson Airplane, *Loves You*** (RCA/BMG, 1992). Three-CD box mixing released and unreleased material from throughout the band's career, including most of their most popular songs.

**Janis Joplin, *Box of Pearls: The Janis Joplin Collection*** (Columbia/Legacy, 1999). Five-CD box has both of the albums by Big Brother & the Holding Company on which Joplin was lead singer, adding bonus tracks to each; both of her solo albums, adding bonus tracks to each; and a bonus EP-CD with more rare studio and live material. Many other live recordings and studio outtakes are scattered across various releases, including the less impressive three-CD box *Janis*.

**Sly & the Family Stone, *The Collection*** (Epic/Legacy, 2007). All seven of the albums they recorded for Epic between 1967 and 1974 in one box, adding 33 bonus tracks, the majority of them previously unreleased.

## Website:

**Concertvault.com:** Streaming for vintage concerts of all kinds not available on CD, including many by San Francisco '60s/'70s artists. Membership is \$3.99/month and \$39.99 year. Much of the material can be downloaded for a fee.