

“The Motown Sound” Topics

Welcome to The Motown Sound!

Participants are welcome to choose a topic from the lists below or propose another relevant topic to the moderators.

We encourage you to use whatever format you prefer, including Power Point, artwork, a musical performance, or inviting an expert.

Resources abound online and in libraries. If you need help finding materials, let us know.

Nancy Clune
Bob Cohen

Focus on Individual Artists:

Joe Hunter
Jackie Wilson
Louis Jordan
Lionel Hampton
Smokey Robinson
Mary Wells
“Little” Stevie Wonder
Later Stevie Wonder
Marvin Gaye
Tammy Tyrell

Focus on Groups:

The Marvelettes
The Temptations
The Isley Brothers
The Supremes

Focus on Motown Topics:

Berry Gordy and the Founding of Motown
The Difference Between Soul Music, R&B, and Motown
The 1965 Tamla-Motown Review

American Bandstand and TV Competitors
Detroit Music Clubs
Motown Charm School
The Funk Brothers (in-house band)
Civil Rights in the 1960s/Songs of social justice
The Great Migration to Detroit
Motown Competitors (Chess, Stax/Volt, Sun, Peacock)
LP Record Production (the science of phonograph records)
Dancing in the Motown years (twist, frug, mashed potatoes)
Cholly Atkins' choreography
Backup Singers
Race Music/Black Radio
Fashion in the 1960s-1970s
Motown in LA (1972-)

Nancy Hayes Clune
413-923-8391