# **Musical Groups in the Movies: 1929-1970**

The history of musical groups in film is a long and storied one, dating back to the early days of sound. In the 1920s, musicals were a popular genre, and many of the biggest stars of the era were musical groups. The 1930s saw the rise of the Big Band era, and many of the most popular bands of the day found success in films. In the 1940s, the popularity of swing music led to a number of musicals featuring swing bands. And in the 1950s and 1960s, rock and roll took over the world, and musical groups became an essential part of the film landscape.



# Musical Groups in the Movies, 1929–1970 by Roy Liebman

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This article will take a look at some of the most notable musical groups that have appeared in films from 1929 to 1970. We will discuss their impact on the film industry, and we will also provide some interesting facts about their involvement in film.

# **The Early Years: 1929-1939**

The first musical group to appear in a film was the Vitaphone Orchestra, which provided the music for the 1929 film "The Jazz Singer." The

Vitaphone Orchestra was a group of studio musicians who specialized in playing popular music. They were led by conductor Nathaniel Shilkret, and they featured some of the most talented musicians of the era.

The Vitaphone Orchestra's success in "The Jazz Singer" led to a number of other musical groups being featured in films. In 1930, the Duke Ellington Orchestra appeared in the film "Check and Double Check." In 1931, the Benny Goodman Orchestra appeared in the film "The King of Jazz." And in 1932, the Glenn Miller Orchestra appeared in the film "Orchestra Wives."

These early musical groups played an important role in the development of the film musical. They helped to create a sense of excitement and energy, and they gave audiences a chance to see some of the most popular musicians of the day.

# The Big Band Era: 1940-1949

The Big Band era was a time of great popularity for musical groups. Swing music was the most popular genre of the day, and many of the biggest bands of the era were featured in films.

One of the most popular Big Band groups of the era was the Glenn Miller Orchestra. The Miller Orchestra appeared in a number of films, including "Sun Valley Serenade" (1941), "Orchestra Wives" (1942), and "Cinderella Jones" (1946).

Another popular Big Band group of the era was the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. The Dorsey Orchestra appeared in a number of films, including "Broadway Melody of 1940" (1940), "Las Vegas Nights" (1941), and "Till the Clouds Roll By" (1946).

The Big Band era came to an end with the advent of rock and roll in the mid-1950s. However, the bands of the era had a lasting impact on the film industry. Their music helped to create a sense of excitement and energy, and they gave audiences a chance to see some of the most talented musicians of the day.

#### The Rock and Roll Era: 1950-1970

The rock and roll era was a time of great change for the music industry. Rock and roll was a new genre of music that was more energetic and rebellious than the music of the past. And it quickly became the most popular genre of music in the world.

One of the most popular rock and roll groups of the era was the Beatles. The Beatles appeared in a number of films, including "A Hard Day's Night" (1964), "Help!" (1965), and "Yellow Submarine" (1968).

Another popular rock and roll group of the era was the Rolling Stones. The Rolling Stones appeared in a number of films, including "The T.A.M.I. Show" (1964), "Gimme Shelter" (1970), and "Performance" (1970).

The rock and roll era had a major impact on the film industry. Rock and roll groups helped to create a new kind of film musical. These musicals were more energetic and rebellious than the musicals of the past, and they gave audiences a chance to see some of the most popular musicians of the day.

The history of musical groups in film is a long and storied one. From the early days of sound to the psychedelic era, musical groups have played an important role in the film industry. They have helped to create a sense of

excitement and energy, and they have given audiences a chance to see some of the most talented musicians of the day.

The book "Musical Groups in the Movies: 1929-1970" is a comprehensive look at this history. The book features over 200 entries on musical groups that have appeared in films. Each entry includes a detailed history of the group, a filmography, and a discography. The book also includes a number of rare photographs and illustrations.

"Musical Groups in the Movies: 1929-1970" is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of film music. The book is a valuable resource for researchers, students, and fans of film and music.



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