Music Trivia for Seniors

Big Band and the 1940s

1. Which bandleader had a hit with "In the Mood" (recorded in 1939)?

2. Which bandleader disappeared on a flight over the English Channel in 1944?

3. Which sister trio sang "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (1941)?

4. Who was known as "the King of Swing"?

5. Which singer was nicknamed "Ol' Blue Eyes"?

6. Which bandleader's orchestra recorded the 1940 hit "I'll Never Smile Again," with a young Ol' Blue Eyes on vocals?

7. Which singer was known as "the First Lady of Song"?

8. "Take the 'A' Train" was the signature tune of which orchestra?

9. Which singer was nicknamed "Lady Day"?

10. "Chattanooga Choo Choo" (1941) was a hit for which band?

Music Trivia for Seniors

1950s Rock and Roll

11. Who was known as "the King of Rock and Roll"?

12. What was the King of Rock and Roll's first No. 1 hit on the Billboard pop chart (1956)?

13. On which TV variety show was Elvis famously shown only from the waist up in January 1957?

14. Who had a No. 1 hit with "Rock Around the Clock" in 1955?

15. Who wrote and recorded "Johnny B. Goode" (1958)?

16. Which singer died in a February 1959 plane crash with Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper?

17. Which 1971 Don McLean song was inspired by the 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly?

18. Who had a hit with "Great Balls of Fire" (1957)?

19. Who had a big 1956 hit with "Blueberry Hill"?

20. Who first recorded "Tutti Frutti" (1955)?

21. Who hosted the long-running TV dance show American Bandstand?

Music Trivia for Seniors

1950s Rock and Roll (continued)

22. Which doo-wop group recorded "Earth Angel"?

23. "Peggy Sue" (1957) was a hit for which singer?

24. Who had a No. 1 hit with "Mack the Knife" in 1959?

The 1960s

25. Which British band made its famous first live U.S. TV appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964?

26. Name the four members of the "Fab Four."

27. Which group had a No. 1 hit with "My Girl" (1965)?

28. Which singer led the Supremes?

29. Which record label did Berry Gordy found in Detroit?

30. Who had a 1967 No. 1 hit with "Respect"?

31. Which singer was known as "the Queen of Soul"?

32. Which California band recorded "Good Vibrations" (1966)?

Music Trivia for Seniors

The 1960s (continued)

33. Who recorded "(Sittin’ On) The Dock of the Bay," released in January 1968, weeks after his death?

34. Which 1969 music festival took place on a dairy farm in Bethel, New York?

35. Who wrote "Blowin’ in the Wind"?

36. Which band recorded "(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction" (1965)?

37. Who sang "Stand by Me" (1961)?

38. Who had a 1964 hit with "Oh, Pretty Woman"?

39. Whose version of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" was a No. 1 hit in 1968?

40. Which singer had a hit with "Sweet Caroline" (1969)?

The 1970s

41. Which Swedish group won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest with "Waterloo"?

42. Which duo recorded "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (1970)?

Music Trivia for Seniors

The 1970s (continued)

43. Which brothers' group sang "Stayin' Alive"?

44. Which singer is known as "the Piano Man"?

45. Which band released "Hotel California"?

46. Who had a hit with "I Will Survive" (released in 1978)?

47. Which brother-and-sister duo had a 1970 hit with "(They Long to Be) Close to You"?

Country and Gospel

48. Which country singer was known as "the Man in Black"?

49. Who had a 1961 hit with "Crazy"?

50. Who wrote the song "Crazy"?

51. Which Nashville country music radio show has been broadcast since 1925?

52. Who sang "Coal Miner's Daughter" (1970)?

53. Who wrote and recorded "Jolene" and "9 to 5"?

Music Trivia for Seniors

Country and Gospel (continued)

54. Who wrote and recorded "Your Cheatin' Heart"?

55. Which singer was known as "the Queen of Gospel"?

Musicals and the Movies

56. Which musical features the song "Do-Re-Mi"?

57. Who starred as Maria von Trapp in the 1965 film musical?

58. In which 1939 film did Judy Garland sing "Over the Rainbow"?

59. Who danced with an umbrella in Singin' in the Rain (1952)?

60. Which musical is about the rival Jets and Sharks?

61. Which musical opens with "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'"?

62. Audrey Hepburn sang "Moon River" in which 1961 film?

63. Who composed "Rhapsody in Blue" (1924)?

64. Which musical features "Some Enchanted Evening"?

65. Which two stars led the 1978 film Grease?

Music Trivia for Seniors

Nicknames and Instruments

66. Which singer was nicknamed "the Velvet Fog"?

67. Who was known as "the Godfather of Soul"?

68. Which flamboyant pianist was famous for keeping a candelabra on his piano?

69. Who had a 1960 No. 1 hit with "Georgia on My Mind"?

70. Which instrument did "Satchmo" play?

71. Who recorded "What a Wonderful World" (1967)?

72. How many strings does a standard guitar have?

73. How many keys does a standard modern piano have?

74. Which instrument did "the King of Swing" play?

75. Which composer wrote the "Moonlight" Sonata?

Music Trivia for Seniors — Answers

1. Glenn Miller
2. Glenn Miller
3. The Andrews Sisters
4. Benny Goodman
5. Frank Sinatra
6. Tommy Dorsey
7. Ella Fitzgerald
8. Duke Ellington’s orchestra
9. Billie Holiday
10. Glenn Miller and His Orchestra
11. Elvis Presley
12. "Heartbreak Hotel"
13. The Ed Sullivan Show
14. Bill Haley & His Comets
15. Chuck Berry
16. Buddy Holly
17. "American Pie"
18. Jerry Lee Lewis
19. Fats Domino
20. Little Richard
21. Dick Clark
22. The Penguins
23. Buddy Holly
24. Bobby Darin
25. The Beatles
26. John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr
27. The Temptations
28. Diana Ross
29. Motown (also accept Tamla, its first label)
30. Aretha Franklin
31. Aretha Franklin
32. The Beach Boys
33. Otis Redding
34. Woodstock
35. Bob Dylan
36. The Rolling Stones
37. Ben E. King
38. Roy Orbison
39. Marvin Gaye
40. Neil Diamond
41. ABBA
42. Simon & Garfunkel
43. The Bee Gees
44. Billy Joel
45. Eagles
46. Gloria Gaynor
47. The Carpenters
48. Johnny Cash
49. Patsy Cline
50. Willie Nelson
51. The Grand Ole Opry
52. Loretta Lynn
53. Dolly Parton
54. Hank Williams
55. Mahalia Jackson
56. The Sound of Music
57. Julie Andrews
58. The Wizard of Oz
59. Gene Kelly

Music Trivia for Seniors — Answers

60. West Side Story
61. Oklahoma!
62. Breakfast at Tiffany’s
63. George Gershwin
64. South Pacific
65. John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John
66. Mel Tormé
67. James Brown
68. Liberace
69. Ray Charles
70. The trumpet (also accept cornet)
71. Louis Armstrong
72. Six
73. 88
74. The clarinet
75. Ludwig van Beethoven