

FACT SHEET

Reggae artists

Jimmy Cliff

A pioneering Jamaican musician, Jimmy Cliff brought ska music to the UK and later to the world, but he never achieved widespread fame. His hits include 'Many Rivers To Cross' which has been popular as a cover song, and 'Wonderful World, Beautiful People'.

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Desmond Dekker

Dekker is credited with writing the first international reggae hit 'Israelites'. His lyrics displayed a sharp observation of everyday life, but like Jimmy Cliff, he was largely overshadowed by the international success of Bob Marley.

Peter Tosh

More politically active than Bob Marley, Peter Tosh started his career with the Wailers before going solo under the patronage of The Rolling Stones in the 1970s. He had a hit with the song 'No Nuclear War'.

The Specials

A short-lived but influential UK ska-influenced band, The Specials were an independent label band who released the hits 'Too Much Too Young' and 'Ghost Town'.

Madness

Formed in 1979 in Manchester, Madness were a fun-loving band with light pop/reggae inspired songs and a zany stage act. Their hits include 'It Must Be Love', 'House Of Fun', 'My Girl', 'Baggy Trousers' and 'The Harder They Come'.

UB40

One of the first integrated UK reggae bands, UB40 combined reggae and ska in a light, white reggae style. Their hits include a cover of the Neil Diamond song 'Red, Red Wine', and 'One In Ten' and 'Kingston Town'. ()