

the rolling stones not fade away

The Rolling Stones Not Fade Away

The Rolling Stones, one of the most iconic and enduring bands in rock history, have left an indelible mark on the music industry. Among their vast catalog of hits, "Not Fade Away" stands out as a classic track that exemplifies their raw energy, blues influence, and pioneering spirit. This article explores the origins, significance, and legacy of "Not Fade Away," shedding light on its role within The Rolling Stones' illustrious career and rock history as a whole.

Origins of "Not Fade Away"

The Song's Roots in Buddy Holly's Music

"Not Fade Away" was originally written and recorded by American rock and roll pioneer Buddy Holly in 1957. Holly's version was a lively, upbeat tune characterized by its simple yet infectious rhythm and heartfelt lyrics. The song's chord progression and melody drew heavily from the blues, showcasing Holly's ability to blend genres seamlessly.

The Rolling Stones' Cover and Its Evolution

The Rolling Stones first encountered "Not Fade Away" during their formative years in the early 1960s. Inspired by Holly's original, they decided to record their own version, infusing it with their raw, gritty sound. Their cover was first released in 1964 as a B-side to their debut single "Come On," but it quickly gained popularity, becoming a staple of their live performances.

The Significance of "Not Fade Away" in The Rolling Stones' Discography

A Pivotal Early Release

"Not Fade Away" marked a critical point in The Rolling Stones' early career. It showcased their ability to reinterpret and energize American rock and roll and blues standards, setting the tone for their subsequent success. The song's energetic rhythm and rebellious spirit resonated with young audiences, helping to establish their reputation as a formidable live act.

Influence on Their Musical Style

The song's blues roots and rhythmic drive served as a foundation for the band's evolving sound. It exemplifies their early tendency to blend raw blues, rock and roll, and rhythm & blues, which would later develop into their distinctive style. Additionally, "Not Fade Away" demonstrated their knack for cover versions, often transforming them into signature tunes.

Musical Composition and Performance

Structure and Key Elements

"Not Fade Away" features a straightforward 12-bar blues progression, a common structure in blues and early rock. Its key features include:

1. Repetitive, hypnotic rhythm that invites participation
2. Guitar riffs that emphasize groove over complexity
3. Simple yet soulful lyrics expressing resilience and hope

Performance Style

The Rolling Stones' rendition is notable for:

- Energetic guitar work by Keith Richards and Brian Jones
- Driving rhythm section with Charlie Watts on drums and Bill Wyman on bass
- Mick Jagger's charismatic vocals delivering the song's message with passion

The live performances of "Not Fade Away" often featured improvisation and audience engagement, embodying the band's reputation for electrifying concerts.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Impact on Rock Music

"Not Fade Away" has left a lasting legacy in rock music for several reasons:

1. It popularized the blues-based rock and roll sound among British bands

2. It influenced subsequent generations of musicians and bands
3. It demonstrated the power of reinterpretation in music

Cover Versions and Tributes

Beyond The Rolling Stones, "Not Fade Away" has been covered by numerous artists, including:

- Buddy Holly himself, in subsequent recordings
- Various garage and punk bands, inspired by its raw energy
- Modern acts paying homage in live performances and tribute albums

In Popular Culture

The song has appeared in numerous films, documentaries, and television shows, often symbolizing the rebellious spirit of youth and the enduring appeal of rock & roll. Its inclusion in movies like "The Deadly Spawn" and appearances in music documentaries underscore its cultural significance.

The Evolution of "Not Fade Away" in The Rolling Stones' Live Repertoire

Early Performances

Initially, "Not Fade Away" was a concert opener, energizing audiences with its rhythmic drive. The band's live renditions in the 1960s often featured extended improvisations and audience participation.

Later Interpretations

As the band's sound matured, their performances of "Not Fade Away" evolved, reflecting their experimental approach:

1. In the 1970s and 1980s, they incorporated more elaborate arrangements
2. During their 2006-2007 tours, they returned to the song's roots, emphasizing its bluesy feel

3. Recent performances continue to celebrate the song's raw energy and historical significance

Conclusion: The Enduring Spirit of "Not Fade Away"

"Not Fade Away" remains a testament to The Rolling Stones' ability to reinvent and energize American blues and rock & roll standards. Its simple, powerful message of resilience and its infectious rhythm have helped it endure across generations. The song's influence extends beyond its initial release, inspiring countless musicians and fans alike. As a cornerstone of their early repertoire and a symbol of their rebellious spirit, "Not Fade Away" exemplifies the enduring legacy of The Rolling Stones in shaping the sound and attitude of rock music.

In celebrating this classic track, we acknowledge not just its musical brilliance but also its role in cementing The Rolling Stones' place in music history. From humble beginnings as a cover song to a legendary staple, "Not Fade Away" continues to resonate, proving that some songs, much like the band itself, never truly fade away.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of 'Not Fade Away' by The Rolling Stones?

'Not Fade Away' was originally written and recorded by American rock and roll musician Buddy Holly in 1957. The Rolling Stones covered the song early in their career, and it became one of their popular live staples.

Which album features The Rolling Stones' cover of 'Not Fade Away'?

The Rolling Stones' cover of 'Not Fade Away' was included on their debut American album, 'The Rolling Stones,' released in 1964.

What significance does 'Not Fade Away' hold in The Rolling Stones' musical development?

'Not Fade Away' was one of the first songs that showcased The Rolling Stones' blues and rhythm and blues influences, helping to establish their musical style and energetic live performances.

Has 'Not Fade Away' been performed live by The Rolling Stones in recent years?

Yes, The Rolling Stones have periodically performed 'Not Fade Away' during their recent tours, often as a tribute to their early days and as a crowd favorite.

What are some notable covers or versions of 'Not Fade Away' besides The Rolling Stones?

Besides Buddy Holly's original version, notable covers include those by The Grateful Dead, who performed it frequently in their live sets, and other rock bands inspired by its rhythm and energy.

Why is 'Not Fade Away' considered a classic in rock history?

'Not Fade Away' is considered a classic because of its simple yet infectious rhythm, its role in shaping early rock and roll, and its influence on subsequent generations of musicians.

Are there any notable differences between the original Buddy Holly version and The Rolling Stones' cover?

Yes, Buddy Holly's original has a more straightforward, upbeat rockabilly style, while The Rolling Stones' cover features a rawer, blues-inflected sound with a heavier rhythm, reflecting their distinctive style.

Additional Resources

The Rolling Stones' "Not Fade Away": A Deep Dive into a Classic Rock Anthem

When discussing the foundational songs of rock and roll, few tracks resonate as powerfully as "Not Fade Away" by The Rolling Stones. This song, with its infectious rhythm and raw energy, not only marked a significant point in the band's early evolution but also exemplifies the spirit of 1960s rock. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the origins of "Not Fade Away," its musical structure, cultural significance, and enduring legacy, offering fans and newcomers alike a detailed understanding of this iconic track.

Origins and Historical Context of "Not Fade Away"

The Song's Roots in Buddy Holly's Hit

"Not Fade Away" was originally written and recorded by Buddy Holly and his band The Crickets in 1957. Holly's version is a spirited, upbeat tune characterized by its simple yet compelling chord progression and catchy chorus. Holly's influence on rock and roll is profound, and his songwriting served as an inspiration for many bands that followed,

including The Rolling Stones.

The Rolling Stones' Cover and Early Performances

The Rolling Stones first encountered "Not Fade Away" during their formative years in the early 1960s, as part of their burgeoning repertoire inspired by American blues and early rock & roll. Their cover version, recorded in 1964, was notably different from Holly's original—more raw, more energetic, with the distinct gritty sound that the band would become known for.

It was featured on their debut album, *The Rolling Stones* (also known as *England's Newest Hit Makers in the US*), released in 1964. The track helped establish the band's reputation for taking American roots music and transforming it into their own rebellious, electrified version.

Musical Composition and Structure

Key Elements of the Song

"Not Fade Away" is characterized by its simple yet compelling musical structure:

- **Chord Progression:** The song primarily revolves around a repetitive I-V-vi-IV progression, which provides a hypnotic, danceable groove.
- **Rhythm:** The song's beat is driven by a steady, shuffling rhythm that invites listeners to move. The rhythmic pattern is essential in creating its infectious feel.
- **Instrumentation:** The Rolling Stones' version features prominent electric guitar riffs, bass, drums, and vocals. Notably, the guitar work is raw and bluesy, adding to the song's gritty authenticity.
- **Vocal Style:** Mick Jagger's vocals convey a sense of urgency and rebellious energy, fitting the song's youthful, defiant theme.

The Arrangement

The band's arrangement emphasizes rhythm and groove over complex melodies. This simplicity allows the song's infectious energy to shine through and makes it accessible for live performances and dance settings.

Lyrical Themes and Interpretation

"Not Fade Away"'s lyrics are straightforward, emphasizing perseverance and resilience. The recurring refrain, "That's how it's gonna be," underscores an acceptance of life's inevitable changes and the desire to remain true to oneself.

Key themes include:

- **Endurance:** The title itself suggests that true feelings or passions won't fade away over time.

- Rebellion: The song's energetic delivery embodies youthful defiance and a desire to stand firm against the odds.
- Love and Loyalty: While not explicitly romantic, the lyrics can be interpreted as a declaration of steadfastness in relationships or principles.

The Cultural Impact of "Not Fade Away"

A Rock & Roll Standard

With its catchy rhythm and relatable lyrics, "Not Fade Away" quickly became a staple in the early rock scene. The Rolling Stones' version was influential in popularizing the song beyond Buddy Holly's original, inspiring countless covers and performances.

Influence on the British Invasion

The song's success helped solidify The Rolling Stones' place in the British Invasion movement. Its energetic delivery and bluesy undertones embodied the rebellious spirit that many young bands aspired to emulate.

Notable Cover Versions

Apart from The Rolling Stones' rendition, "Not Fade Away" has been covered by numerous artists, including:

- The Grateful Dead: Their live version became a staple of their repertoire, showcasing the song's adaptability and lasting appeal.
- Bruce Springsteen: Performed it in live shows, emphasizing its influence on American rock.
- The Everly Brothers: Delivered a more harmony-driven version that highlights the song's versatility.

The Rolling Stones' Evolution with "Not Fade Away" in Live Performances

Early Live Shows

In their early days, The Rolling Stones frequently included "Not Fade Away" in their live setlists. It served as a high-energy crowd-pleaser, often closing shows with its infectious rhythm.

Later Renditions

As their style evolved, the band's live performances of "Not Fade Away" became more experimental and improvisational, reflecting their growth from raw blues-based rock to more complex and layered compositions.

Legacy in Live Recordings

Many of their live albums feature versions of “Not Fade Away,” capturing the song’s enduring popularity and the band’s ability to reinvent it across decades.

The Song’s Enduring Legacy and Modern Relevance

Influence on Subsequent Generations

“Not Fade Away” remains a testament to the power of simplicity in rock music. Its influence can be traced across generations of musicians who value groove, authenticity, and emotional resonance.

Cultural References and Media Appearances

The song has appeared in films, commercials, and TV shows, often used to evoke a sense of youthful energy or nostalgia. Its enduring presence underscores its significance in popular culture.

Cover Versions and Revivals

From punk bands to indie artists, “Not Fade Away” continues to inspire reinterpretations, ensuring its relevance for new audiences.

Conclusion: Why “Not Fade Away” Endures

“Not Fade Away” by The Rolling Stones exemplifies the essence of early rock & roll—simple yet powerful, energetic yet authentic. Its roots in Buddy Holly’s original recording, combined with The Rolling Stones’ gritty adaptation, created a song that has transcended its era to become a timeless anthem of perseverance and rebellion.

Whether experienced through classic recordings, live performances, or modern covers, the song’s infectious rhythm and universal themes ensure that it will continue to not fade away from the collective consciousness of rock fans worldwide. It remains a cornerstone in the history of rock music, symbolizing the enduring spirit of the genre.

In summary:

- “Not Fade Away” is a pivotal early rock & roll song originally by Buddy Holly.
- The Rolling Stones’ cover transformed it into a raw, energetic anthem.
- The song’s simple structure, infectious rhythm, and themes of resilience contribute to its lasting appeal.
- It played a key role in the British Invasion and influenced countless artists.
- Its legacy endures through live performances, covers, and cultural references.

Whether you’re a seasoned rock aficionado or a new listener, understanding the significance of “Not Fade Away” offers a window into the roots of modern rock — a

testament to music's power to inspire and endure.

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the rolling stones not fade away: *Not Fade Away* Jim Dodge, 2018-09-01 A road trip novel from the author of *Fup* that reads like Kerouac's *On the Road* as it might have been written by Hunter S. Thompson (*The Plain Dealer*). George Gastin is a Bay Area tow-truck operator who wrecks cars as part of an insurance scam. One of the cars he is hired to demolish is a snow-white Cadillac that was supposed to be a present for the Big Bopper, who died in the Iowa plane crash that killed Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens. Gastin has a change of heart and takes off in the car, heading for Texas where the Bopper is buried. Armed with a thousand hits of Benzedrine and chased by adversaries real and imagined, Gastin navigates a road trip that covers many miles and states of mind. Traveling in time from the Beat era to the dawn of the sixties, from the coffeehouses of North Beach to the open plains of America, Gastin picks up some extraordinary hitchhikers: the self-proclaimed world's greatest salesman, the Reverend Double-Gone Johnson, and a battered housewife with a box of old 45s. As the miles and sleepless hours roll by, Gastin's trip becomes a blur of fantasy and reality fueled by a soundtrack of classic rock 'n' roll. His surreal voyage into the chaos of night carries him into the heart of America's darkest psychological landscapes. *Not Fade Away* shakes, rattles, and rolls. — San Francisco Chronicle

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the rolling stones not fade away: *Big Bang, Baby* Richard Crouse, 2000-04-26 In the middle of the conservative 1950s, rock and roll hit popular culture like an explosion a Big Bang, Baby! And the fallout from that explosion is still electrifying music fans today. Popular music expert Richard Crouse has ventured deep into the far reaches of rock history to bring together this dynamic collection of facts and oddities. *Big Bang, Baby* will entertain and enlighten music fans of all eras and will challenge even experienced rock trivia junkies.

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groundbreaking, *Electric Shock* tells the story of popular music, from the birth of recording in the 1890s to the digital age, from the first pop superstars of the twentieth century to the omnipresence of music in our lives, in hit singles, ringtones and on Spotify. Over that time, popular music has transformed the world in which we live. Its rhythms have influenced how we walk down the street, how we face ourselves in the mirror, and how we handle the outside world in our daily conversations and encounters. It has influenced our morals and social mores; it has transformed our attitudes towards race and gender, religion and politics. From the beginning of recording, when a musical performance could be preserved for the first time, to the digital age, when all of recorded music is only a mouse-click away; from the straitlaced ballads of the Victorian era and the 'coon songs' that shocked America in the early twentieth century to gangsta rap, death metal and the multiple strands of modern dance music: Peter Doggett takes us on a rollercoaster ride through the history of music. Within a narrative full of anecdotes and characters, *Electric Shock* mixes musical critique with wider social and cultural history and shows how revolutionary changes in technology have turned popular music into the lifeblood of the modern world.

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this book you'll proudly proclaim, "I fart, therefore I am."

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the rolling stones not fade away: How to Write Guitar Riffs Rikky Rooksby, 2021-12-01

Countless great songs are based on riffs—catchy guitar phrases that repeat until they're seared into your brain forever—or snappy chord sequences as memorable as any melody. Riffs get people excited, whether they are musicians or listeners. Advertising agencies use riffs on television, internet videos, and cinema trailers. Riffs sell concert tickets, guitars, and downloads. Youtube is full of guitarists playing riffs. This book now in its third and updated edition digs deep into the world of the guitar riff, identifying 30 distinct types and illustrating them with reference to 150 examples: from Howlin Wolf to Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Chuck Berry to Limp Bizkit, the Kinks to the Strokes, Black Sabbath to the White Stripes, Coldplay and Kings of Leon. The book includes 56 tracks of audio, illustrating all types of riffs covered, plus notation and TAB for 40 original example riffs composed by the author. In the book you can trace the connections between riff types and the scales, modes, or chords from which they're drawn learn the guitar tips and arranging techniques to get the best from your riffs read an exclusive interview with Led Zeppelin and Them Crooked Vultures bassist John Paul Jones, a multi-instrumentalist, writer, and arranger with 50 years experience in riff-based music.

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the rolling stones not fade away: Living Through Pop Andrew Blake, 2002-01-04

In 1956 many people thought rock 'n' roll was a passing fad, yet over forty years later, more than ever, Popular Music is a part of contemporary culture, reinventing itself for successive generations. Pop embraces its own history, with musicians from every genre routinely sampling the sounds of the past. present. *Living Through Pop* explores popular music's history, and the ways in which it has been produced by musicians, broadcasters, critics and fans. In discussing this complex relationship between the past and the present, the contributors investigate significant moments in music's history, from the Rolling Stones and the Velvet Underground to the Sex Pistols and the Verve, from drum 'n' bass to European extreme techno.

the rolling stones not fade away: Redemption Song Chris Salewicz, 2024-07-02

Based on exclusive access to Joe Strummer's friends, relatives, and fellow musicians, this biography penetrates the soul of a rock and roll icon. The Clash was—and still is—one of the most important groups of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Indebted to rockabilly, reggae, Memphis soul, cowboy justice, and '60s protest, the overtly political band railed against war, racism, and a dead-end economy, and in the process imparted a conscience to punk. Joe Strummer was the Clash's front man, a rock-and-roll hero seen by many as the personification of outlaw integrity and street cool. The political heart of the Clash, Strummer synthesized gritty toughness and poetic sensitivity in a manner that still resonates with listeners, and his untimely death in December 2002 shook the

world. Chris Salewicz was a friend to Strummer for close to three decades and has covered the Clash's career and the entire punk movement from its inception. He uses this vantage point to write *Redemption Song*—the definitive biography of Strummer, placing him in a long line of protest singers that includes Woody Guthrie, John Lennon, and Bob Marley, and charting his enormous success, his bleak years in the wilderness after the Clash's bitter breakup, and his triumphant return to stardom at the end of his life. Definitively captures the man's humanity—his complex, volatile and vulnerable soul. —Jon Savage, author of *England's Dreaming* Includes photographs

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