

OKLAHOMA MUSIC TRAIL

usic has long been an integral part of the Oklahoma experience. From the danceable fiddle tunes of the 1930s to the silky jazz melodies of the 1940s to the chart-topping songs that brought Oklahoma to the forefront of country music in the 21st century, the state's music history runs deep.

Whether you want to revisit a time when Western swing ruled the airwaves and the electric guitar's potential was still untapped or see more of the state where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain, we've got a trail to suit every musical taste.





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The emotion and improvisation of blues music *fit right* in to the rugged Oklahoma landscape.

The state's musicians and songwriters made an early impact on the sound and feel of the blues and churned out a steady stream of hits for the genre's top artists.

Blues music started in the Mississippi Delta but quickly took root in Oklahoma, where the moody, expressive form of music proved a perfect fit for the state.

Blues musician and educator **D.C. Minner** helped foster that rise.

The blues stalwart was born in 1935 in Rentiesville. After a stint as an Army medic in the Korean War, Minner played bass for **Larry Johnson** and **The New Breeds** and began performing behind greats like **Chuck**

Berry and Bo Diddley.

Minner eventually returned to his hometown, where he opened the Down Home Blues Club and Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame, which continues to host the Dusk 'Til Dawn Blues Festival, and worked with the Oklahoma Arts Council to introduce blues music to schoolchildren until his death in 2008.



Minner sometimes performed with Tulsa-born guitarist and songwriter **Lowell Fulson**, who helped shape blues music in the late 1940s. Fulson's post-war urban blues added horns to the typically electric-only instrument combos to start a hybrid form of blues and jazz known as "uptown blues."

Minner and Fulson weren't the only Oklahoma natives with a strong impact on blues music. **JJ Cale**, born in Oklahoma City and raised in Tulsa, earned the highest praise from **Neil Young**.

Young said Cale ranked with Jimi Hendrix as one of the best electric guitar players he'd ever heard.

ale also shined as a songwriter. His hybrid style consisted of blues, jazz, rock, country, and folk — a blend that came to be called the Tulsa Sound. In 1969, he signed with **Leon Russell's** Shelter Records and soon heard **Eric Clapton's** cover of his song, "After Midnight," play on the

radio. It was the break he needed to continue a lifetime of music. He recorded 18 albums and wrote hits like "Cocaine," which Clapton recorded, and **Lynyrd Skynyrd's** "Call Me the Breeze." His collaboration with Clapton, *The Road to Escondido*, won a 2008 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Blues Album.



After Cale died in 2013,
Clapton and others recorded
The Breeze: An Appreciation
of JJ Cale in 2014 to honor him.



I could show you three chords the structure of the blues — in 45 minutes. But it will take you the rest of your life to master it."



- D.C. Minner

The blues sound is going strong in Oklahoma, and events like the **Bricktown Blues & BBQ Festival** in Oklahoma City and the **BBQ 'N Blues Festival** in Cushing give fans a chance to hear local and regional artists. For a more regular blues fix, **Mojo's Blues Club** in Oklahoma City's Bricktown District features nightly live music.



2 - VZD'S RESTAURANT & BAR - Blues music is among the many genres heard at this legendary Oklahoma City club, which over the years has played host to everyone from Bo Diddley to the Red Hot Chili Peppers.









BLUES MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

OKLAHOMA CITY

TULSA

STOP 1 MOJO'S BLUES CLUB STOP 2 VZD's RESTAURANT & BAR STOP 6 THE CENTENNIAL **STOP 3** FRIENDS BAR & GRILL

EDMOND

STOP 4 UCO JAZZ LAB

STOP 5 CAIN'S BALLROOM LOUNGE AT VFW POST 577 **STOP 7** CIMARRON BAR

RENTIESVILLE

STOP 8 DOWN HOME **BLUES CLUB**





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From spirituals to contemporary music, the Oklahoma landscape has provided inspiration

for Christian and gospel music for many generations.

Songs dreamed up in the state's fields and valleys continue
to resonate with listeners from all spiritual walks of life.

Stevie Wonder, and Duke Ellington.

The fertile ground of Oklahoma has yielded some of **gospel's most enduring hymns** and one of contemporary Christian music's most honored artists.

Wallace Willis, a Choctaw freedman living near Hugo, is credited with originating the lyrics to "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" in 1840. Willis, the story goes, gazed upon the Red River and saw the Bible's River Jordan, and the song recalls the story of the prophet Elijah being taken heavenward. As a testament to its broad appeal, the cherished hymn has been re-recorded by Etta James, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, The Grateful Dead, Elvis Presley,

Swing low. sweet char i ot. Coming for to car sy me home.

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" Sheet Music



ccompanying Patty in
Oklahoma's gospel ranks is

Albert E. Brumley of Spiro, who wrote
more than 800 songs and hymns,
including "If We Never Meet Again
(This Side of Heaven)" and "Jesus,
Hold My Hand," before his death
in 1977. While picking cotton in an
Oklahoma field in 1929, Brumley
dreamed of ascending heavenward,
giving rise to his song "I'll Fly Away."
The southern gospel standard has
been recorded more than 1,000 times
by artists as diverse as Johnny Cash,
Aretha Franklin, and Andy Griffith,

making it the **most**recorded gospel
song in history.



Singing is my way to **tell my story** of hope, life, and love."

- Sandi Patty

The timeless tune saw another surge in popularity after bluegrass and country singer **Alison Krauss**' version appeared on the soundtrack of the 2000 film, *O' Brother, Where Art Thou?*, an album that was certified eight times platinum and won a Grammy Award for Album of the Year.



3 - PRAYING HANDS AT ORU - Visit the "World's Largest Praying Hands" on display in Tulsa. One of Oral Roberts University's most unique features, this 30-foot bronze sculpture was created by Leonard McMurray.



CHRISTIAN & GOSPEL MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

OWASSO

STOP 1 ENERJE EVENT CENTER **STOP 2** OWASSO GOSPEL OPRY

TULSA

STOP 3 PRAYING HANDS AT ORU

EDMOND

STOP 4 GIANT CROSS

OKLAHOMA CITY

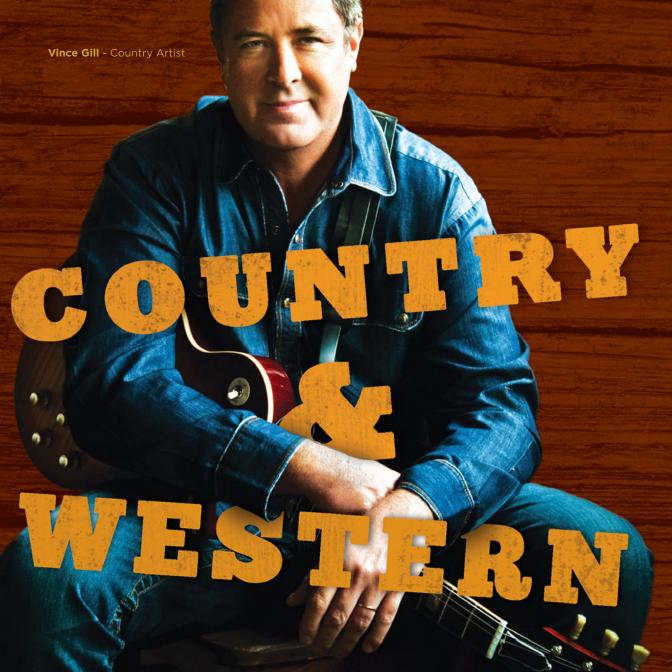
STOP 5 CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH

EUFAULA

STOP 6 PLUMB THEATRE & LONGTOWN OPRY



VIEW TRAIL DETAILS AT TravelOK.com/MusicTrail

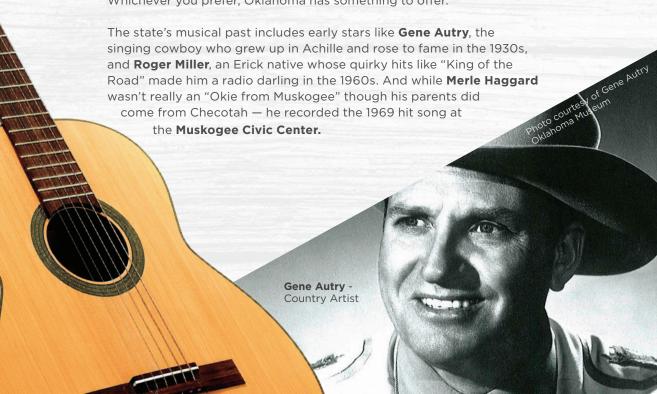


Many of the biggest acts in country and western music once hung their hats in Oklahoma.

The state has long been turning out stars, including one of the best-selling musical artists of all time.

Country and western music comes in many forms — traditional country crooning, pop-influenced Nashville sound, and twangy red dirt music.

Whichever you prefer, Oklahoma has something to offer.





Country music in the state really heated up in the 1980s and '90s, as voices from Oklahoma dominated radio play and industry awards.

First came **Reba McEntire**, whose career took off after she signed with MCA Nashville in 1983. The McAlester-born and Chockie-raised singer's many hits include "Whoever's in New England" and "Is There Life Out There."

A string of Oklahoma stars followed McEntire's lead. Yukon native **Garth Brooks** led the pack, with his career taking off in 1989 after the release of his self-titled debut album.

Brooks went on to become the No. 1 selling solo artist in United States history with 148 million albums sold.



Garth Brooks -Country Artist

Vince Gill of Oklahoma
City and Brooks & Dunn,
featuring Ronnie Dunn
of Tulsa, also consistently
produced hit songs
throughout the 1990s. Gill
brought home a Grammy
Award in each year of the
decade for songs like "When I
Call Your Name" and "No Future in
the Past," while Brooks & Dunn became
the best-selling duo in country music history
behind hits like "Boot Scootin' Boogie."

From 1986 to 1998, McEntire, Brooks, Gill, and Brooks & Dunn combined to win eight Country
Music Association Entertainer of the Year Awards.

Blake Shelton Country Artist

The surge of Oklahomans in country music continued, with Moore native **Toby Keith's** popularity soaring in the late 1990s with hits like "How Do You Like Me Now?" Ada native **Blake Shelton's** career has climbed steadily since he released his first album in 2001, and he became a household name in 2011 for his role as a coach on the NBC reality singing show *The Voice*. Reality television also kick-started **Carrie Underwood's** rise to fame, and the Checotah native has gone on to win seven Grammy Awards since becoming the 2005 American Idol.

klahoma country musicians also are shining outside of Nashville. Red dirt music, which takes its name from the color of the Oklahoma soil, was born in Stillwater and thrived there with artists like **Jason Boland & The Stragglers** and the Red Dirt Rangers. The Bob Childers Gypsy Café Songwriter Festival, held annually at multiple sites in Stillwater, celebrates this Oklahoma roots music and honors songwriter Bob Childers, who died in 2008. Childers is known as the "godfather of red dirt music," and his former Stillwater residence, The Farm, is considered the birthplace of the genre. Willies Saloon and Tumbleweed Dance Hall, also in Stillwater, both host live red dirt and popular country acts.



This is the **heart and soul and home**of country music."

- Garth Brooks

Fans can learn more about Oklahoma's country music heritage at several places around the state. Muskogee is home to the **Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame**, and Bricktown in Oklahoma City is where music aficionados will find the **American Banjo Museum**.





17 - MEADOWLAKE RANCH - Stay in one of Meadowlake Ranch's luxury lakeside cabins and go fishing, horseback riding, and rifle shooting after you've had a big country breakfast. 21 - TOBY KEITH'S I LOVE THIS BAR & GRILL - Take a seat at Toby Keith's restaurant and enjoy Southern-style favorites and plenty of Western décor.





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COUNTRY & WESTERN

MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS



STOP 1 GENE AUTRY OKLAHOMA MUSEUM

TISHOMINGO

STOP 2 OLE RED

ADA

STOP 3 MCSWAIN THEATER
STOP 4 ADA WATER TOWER

NORMAN

STOP 5 HOLLYWOOD
CORNERS

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 6 WORMY DOG SALOON

STOP 7 CENTENNIAL RODEO OPRY

STOP 8 LANGSTON'S WESTERN WEAR

STOP 9 CATTLEMEN'S STEAKHOUSE

STOP 10 GRAHAM CENTRAL STATION

STOP 11 NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

GUTHRIE

STOP 12 DOUBLE STOP FIDDLE SHOP & MUSIC HALL STOP 13 SORRELL CUSTOM BOOTS

STILLWATER

STOP 14 TUMBLEWEED DANCE HALL

STOP 15 WILLIES SALOON STOP 16 GARTH BROOKS' FORMER RESIDENCE

SAND SPRINGS

STOP 17 MEADOWLAKE RANCH

TULSA

STOP 18 GO WEST EVENT CENTER STOP 19 GILCREASE MUSEUM STOP 20 CARAVAN CATTLE COMPANY

CATOOSA

STOP 21 TOBY KEITH'S I LOVE THIS BAR & GRILL

CHECOTAH

STOP 22 WHERE 69 MEETS 40



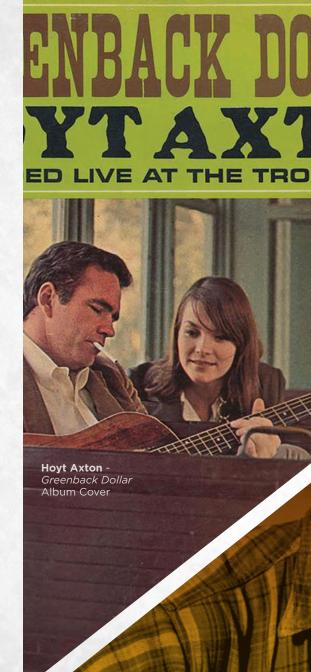
The state's diverse cultural heritage made it a perfect breeding ground for the music of the common man. As an Oklahoma native son and one of the genre's biggest names rolled up his sleeves and got to work, **folk music came into its own.**

F O L K



Folk music and Oklahoma just seem to go together.

A genre of protest with a focus on the working man is fit for a state with the motto "labor omnia vincit," which translates to "labor conquers all things."



Early settlers brought their own music traditions — Appalachian bluegrass, ragtime jazz — to the state. That music, like the people who played it, changed when it got to Oklahoma. Songs continued to tell stories of the common man, but they took on a harder and sometimes sadder edge to match the realities of life on the frontier in early Oklahoma.

The legacy of **Woody Guthrie**, perhaps the best-known folk singer in American history, lives on in his hometown

of Okemah, which hosts the **Woody Guthrie Folk Festival** every summer, and at the **Woody Guthrie Center** in Tulsa, a multimedia homage to the beloved singer and songwriter and his legacy. His songs about the Great Depression and Dust Bowl speak about hard times and injustice, and more than 50 years after his death, young people identify with his social protest and activism.

Woody Guthrie - Folk Artist

Woody Guthrie's Former Home F

hough his song "Christ for President" wasn't recorded in his lifetime, Guthrie's lyrics exemplify his spirit of social justice.

"Every year we waste enough/
To feed the ones who starve/

We build our
civilization up/
And we shoot it
down with wars."

Guthrie set the folk bar high, and many Oklahoma musicians are upholding that tradition. In fact, the Okemah area is still turning out musical standouts.

John Fullbright, who grew up in nearby Bearden, earned praise from critics and a Grammy nomination for Best Americana Album for his 2012 debut album From the Ground Up.



I am out to sing songs that will prove to you that **this is your world**, no matter what color, what size you are, how you are built."

- Woody Guthrie

Plenty of venues and bars in the state host folk music on a regular basis, but one Fullbright and others keep returning to is Oklahoma City's **The Blue Door**, which has nearly nightly shows featuring artists and songwriters from around the country. An intimate "listening room" where 100 concert-goers sit in folding chairs directly in front of a low stage, The Blue Door hosts the biggest names in folk, including home-state heroes like the **Red Dirt Rangers** of Stillwater and **Jimmy Webb** of Elk City.



FOLK MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

TULSA

STOP 1 WOODY GUTHRIE CENTER

OKEMAH

STOP 2 HIGHLAND CEMETERY

STOP 3 WOODY GUTHRIE

STATUE AND MURALS

STOP 4 GUTHRIE'S BOYHOOD HOMESITE, LONDON HOUSE

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 5 AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM
STOP 6 THE BLUE DOOR



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A rhythmic, danceable form of music that blended jazz, soul, and R&B came to life in the 1960s, and funk's nevolay continued into the 1980s, when three brothers from Tulsa topped the charts with their own distinct brand. Travel**OK**.com Funk music's rhythmic style drew in listeners, and **The Gap Band had a** captive audience for many decades.

Brothers **Robert**, **Charlie**, and **Ronnie Wilson** formed the group in 1967, and the band's run of hits continued until 1995.

Originally named the **Greenwood**, **Archer**, **and Pine Street Band** for the Tulsa roads that border Tulsa's famed Greenwood Historical District, the brothers caught a break when they were asked to play bass, horns, and vocals for **Leon Russell's** 1974 album *Stop All That Jazz*. In 1979, the band's song "Shake" was the No. 4 R&B hit, and the following year, *The Gap Band III* went platinum and scored a Top 5 R&B hit "Yearning for Your Love." Famous for its psychedelic-funk sound, The Gap Band's music remains a favorite source of samples and inspiration for hip-hop and R&B artists. In 2015, the Wilson brothers earned writing credits for their influence on the hit song "Uptown Funk" by **Mark Ronson** and featuring **Bruno Mars**.

Show & Dance After-Party Poster -Featuring The Gap Band

GAP BA

P. M. TIL 3 A.

Gap Band Avenue - Tulsa





We were **playing grown folks' music** when we was still kids."

- Charlie Wilson on The Gap Band

Charlie Wilson, The Gap Band's lead vocalist, launched a successful solo career after overcoming drug and alcohol addictions. "Uncle Charlie," as his friend **Snoop Dogg** nicknamed him, is a thirteen-time Grammy nominee who records with contemporary R&B stars like **Justin Timberlake** and **Pharrell Williams**.

His live performances
still draw big crowds at
venues like Oklahoma
City's Chesapeake
Energy Arena, where
he performed in 2017.

nother Oklahoma native was there at the start of funk and helped mold the genre's early sound.

Known as the founding father of funk guitar, the self-taught **Jimmy**"Chank" Nolen began learning by listening to blues on the radio as a teenager in the 1940s.

Most famous for his "chicken-scratch" style, the Oklahoma City-born Nolen would press the guitar strings lightly to the fingerboard and let go immediately, while quickly strumming with the opposite hand near the bridge.

Nolen joined the **James Brown** band in 1965 and played with the group until his death in 1983. His scratching style can be heard on hits like "I Got You (I Feel Good)" and "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag." Nolen and his bandmates influenced decades of guitarists and funk musicians after them and routinely are credited with moving soul into funk.





Jazz music brought Oklahoma neighborhoods to life at night,

with Deep Deuce serving as a playing ground for artists who had a huge impact on the genre's vocal and instrumental stylings. One son of Deep Deuce laid the groundwork for the modern jazz guitar.

While jazz music is known for its beginnings in New Orleans and its heyday in Kansas City, its migration can be traced through much of Oklahoma.

Musicians in the state were instrumental in creating Kansas
City-style jazz by infusing more blues into the genre than what
came out of Dixieland. After the Depression left jobs lost and clubs
closed, traveling jazz bands roamed the Southwest, making major
stops in Tulsa, Muskogee, and Oklahoma City.

Photo courtesy of Chet Baker Estate In the 1940s, one of the largest African American neighborhoods in the state was the **Deep Deuce** area of Oklahoma City. Historically significant as a metropolitan center for jazz music. Deep Deuce had thriving nightclubs, supper clubs, and a dancehall. Chet Baker - Jazz Trumpet Player



Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Jackie Robinson, Nat King Cole, and Joe Louis all stayed and played in Deep Deuce.

The neighborhood was also where two jazz legends, guitarist **Charlie Christian** and singer **Jimmy Rushing**, got their start.

Christian started out with the trumpet before quickly moving on to the guitar at age twelve. He got his start busking with his father and two brothers on the streets of wealthy, white Oklahoma City neighborhoods, then started making the rounds in the Deep Deuce nightclubs.

"This guy changed the sound of music forever, and he first started doing it in Oklahoma City."

- Phil Schaap, Jazz at Lincoln Center-Manhattan curator, on Charlie Christian

Christian discovered the electric guitar in 1937 and would go on to be the country's first significant soloist on the instrument, pioneering a single-string technique that artists like B.B. King and Chuck Berry later emulated. Christian, who died in 1942 at age twenty-five, remains a major influence in



Rushing was lead vocalist for Walter Page's Oklahoma City Blue Devils, the Bennie Moten Band, and the Count Basie Orchestra. The big-voiced, muchimitated Rushing had a vocal range from baritone to tenor. After leaving Basie, Rushing had a successful solo career. He was one of many jazz stars to collaborate with **Duke Ellington** on Ellington's Jazz Party album in 1959. Rushing died in 1972 after suffering from leukemia.

Rushing released his final solo album, The You and Me That Used to Be, in 1971. The album earned him Downbeat magazine's "Jazz Album of the Year" and "Best Male Vocalist" awards.

het Baker of Yale also had a huge impact on the future of jazz.

Baker was born in 1929 and first picked up the trumpet at age 11. In the 1950s, he played with two influential saxophonists and composers. First, Baker played with **Charlie Parker** in a series of gigs, and then with saxophonist **Gerry Mulligan's** quartet on songs like "Walkin' Shoes" and "My Funny Valentine." Baker also

sang, releasing the album

Chet Baker Sings in 1956
and eventually touring
with his own quartet. He
even took on a few acting
roles, including the 1955
action-adventure film Hell's
Horizon, before deciding
to stick with music. He
continued to tour and record
in the United States and Europe,
including the critically acclaimed

album She Is Too Good to You in

1974, until his death in 1988.

Photographs of Oklahoma jazz greats like Christian, Rushing, and Baker line the walls of the **Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame** inside the historic Tulsa Union Depot.

The Jazz Hall honors
more than 100 inductees
who have contributed
significantly to the
Oklahoma jazz scene,
and an on-site music
library holds video, audio,
artifacts, and photographs.

It also serves as a concert venue, regularly hosting shows and free jam sessions on Tuesdays.

Two Oklahoma universities also provide a venue for live jazz music. The **UCO Jazz Lab** in Edmond and the **NSU Jazz Lab** in Tahlequah offer performances from college students and national acts.







for jazz music in Oklahoma City during the early 1900s. Charlie Christian and Jimmy Rushing were both from this area and had a profound influence on the genre.

10 - CHARLIE CHRISTIAN MOSAIC
AT BRICKTOWN BALLPARK - Charlie
Christian is memorialized with a mosaic
mural near the entrance of Chickasaw
Bricktown Ballpark.



JAZZ MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

TAHLEQUAH

STOP 1 NSU JAZZ LAB

EDMOND

STOP 6 UCO JAZZ LAB

TULSA

STOP 2 HODGES BEND STOP 3 OKLAHOMA JAZZ HALL OF FAME

STOP 4 GREENWOOD CULTURAL CENTER

YALE

STOP 5 BIRTHPLACE OF CHET BAKER

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 7 STAG LOUNGE
STOP 8 DEEP DEUCE

STOP 9 AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM

STOP 10 CHARLIE CHRISTIAN MOSAIC AT BRICKTOWN BALLPARK

> STOP 11 JAZMO'Z BOURBON STREET CAFE





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Musical theater draws in many who love the combination of **singing**, **dancing**, **and spoken dialogue**.

At a time when Oklahoma's image needed a lift after the dark days of the Dust Bowl, the state's wide-open plains and waving wheat became the perfect setting for a musical that would change the genre.

On March 31, 1943, Oklahoma! opened on Broadway. With its unforgettable characters and plot, the first musical written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II broke the mold for musical comedies. Oklahoma! also charmed audiences and shined a positive spotlight on the state as it played for five years on Broadway.

"Surrey with the Fringe on Top" -From the musical, Oklahoma!

Photo copyright Full Feather Photography



In 1953, *Oklahoma!* hit the big screen, and the "surrey with the fringe on top" and other memorabilia from the movie can be seen at the **Claremore Museum of History**.

But there's more than music history in Oklahoma. Venues like the **Performing Arts Center** in downtown Tulsa and the Oklahoma City arts district's **Civic Center Music Hall** host touring musicals and local theater companies like **Lyric Theatre**.

A chorus of award-winning performers got their start with Oklahoma City University's musical theater program,

and you can see the school's latest crop of stars in **Oklahoma**Opera & Music Theater

productions at OCU's **Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center** in uptown Oklahoma City.

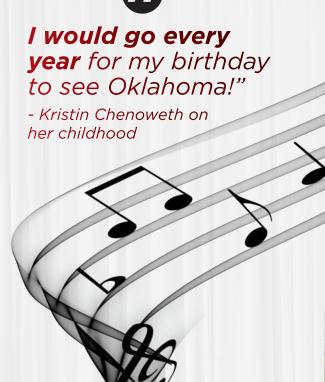
Among OCU's best-known alumni are two of Broadway's leading ladies — **Kristin Chenoweth** of Broken Arrow and **Kelli O'Hara** of Elk City, both Tony Award winners.



henoweth won a Tony Award in 1999 for her performance in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and in 2003 she enchanted audiences as Glinda in *Wicked*. She has also had recurring guest star roles on many television shows, including *The West Wing* and *Glee*. She's taken the stage in her hometown at the **Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center**, which has a theater in the building named after her.

\\ O'Hara made her Broadway debut in 2000 in Jekyll & Hyde

and went on to star in *The Light in the Piazza* (2005), *South Pacific* (2008), and *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (2012). She has also starred on the small screen, with roles on ABC's *All My Children* and CBS's *Numb3rs*. In 2015, she earned her first Tony Award for "Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical" after starring as Anna Leonowens in a revival of *The King and I*.



4 - POLLARD THEATRE - In charming downtown Guthrie, the Pollard Theatre welcomes audiences for six different shows each season. Known as one of the best musical theater companies in the state, the Pollard Theatre Company produces the popular *A Territorial Christmas Carol* each year.





MUSICAL THEATER

MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

CLAREMORE

STOP 1 CLAREMORE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

BROKEN ARROW

STOP 2 BROKEN ARROW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TULSA

STOP 3 TULSA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

GUTHRIE

STOP 4 THE POLLARD THEATRE

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 5 OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

STOP 6 LYRIC THEATRE OF OKLAHOMA

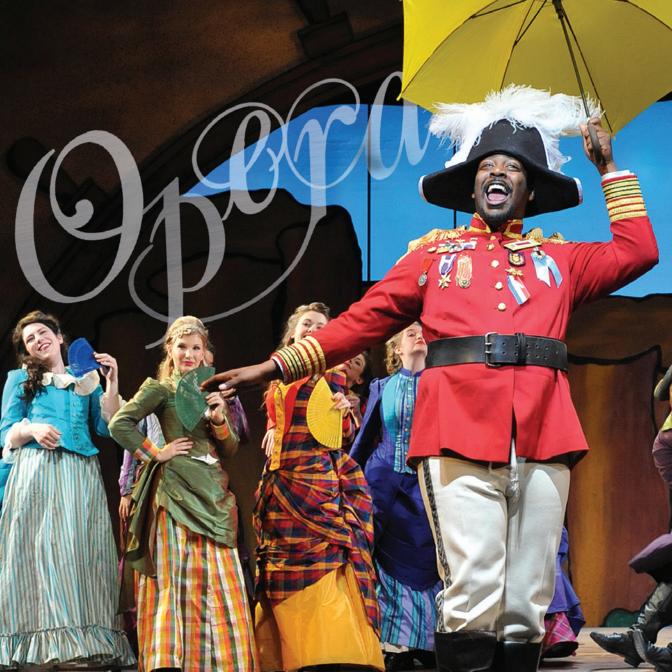
STOP 7 CARPENTER SQUARE THEATRE

STOP 8 CIVIC CENTER MUSIC HALL



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Oklahoma's love for opera was sparked early on, with Tulsa staging its first opera, Gounod's Faust, in 1904.

In the 1910s and '20s, Tulsa's **Brady Theater**, which was originally known as Convention Hall, hosted performances by opera greats such as **Enrico Caruso**. The Tulsa Opera Club was formed in 1948 to help further the genre in Tulsa, a move that proved successful as the **Tulsa Opera** gained financial support and national prominence. It now stages three operas each season at the downtown **Tulsa Performing Arts Center**. The Tulsa Opera attracts legends like **Simon Estes**, **Beverly Sills**, and **Luciano Pavarotti** and brings international stars like Muskogee native **Sarah Coburn** back to their home state to perform.



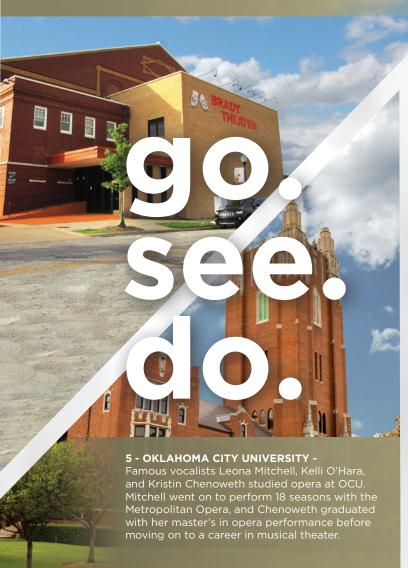


nid remains Mitchell's home base, and she has a strong presence in her home state. She has performed at events like the Oklahoma Centennial Spectacular and at Governor Mary Fallin's inauguration, and she served as an artist in residence at Edmond's University of Central Oklahoma in 2006. In 2001, Enid opened the Leona Mitchell Southern Heights Heritage Center and Museum, an educational culture center that houses some of Mitchell's memorabilia and hosts a yearly music camp to teach area children about opera.



I've been so happy to represent my state all over the world, to bring Oklahoma all over the world."

- Leona Mitchell, opera singer and Enid native **2 - BRADY THEATER -** It has been reported that Tulsa's Brady Theater is haunted by a famous opera singer. In 1920, Enrico Caruso performed at this historic Oklahoma venue. He was out in the rain for an extended period of time while in Tulsa and contracted an ailment of the lungs, which eventually took his life. Many people believe that he haunts Brady Theater as revenge for his untimely death.



OPERA MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

ENID

STOP 1 ENID SYMPHONY CENTER

TULSA

STOP 2 BRADY THEATER

STOP 3 TULSA PERFORMING

ARTS CENTER

STOP 4 TULSA OPERA

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 5 OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

STOP 6 CIVIC CENTER MUSIC HALL

NORMAN

STOP 7 UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA OPERA

STOP 8 CIMARRON OPERA



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Popular music is always evolving, but at the heart of every charttopper is a good, catchy tune. Oklahomans have put particularly memorable number from the late 1990s.



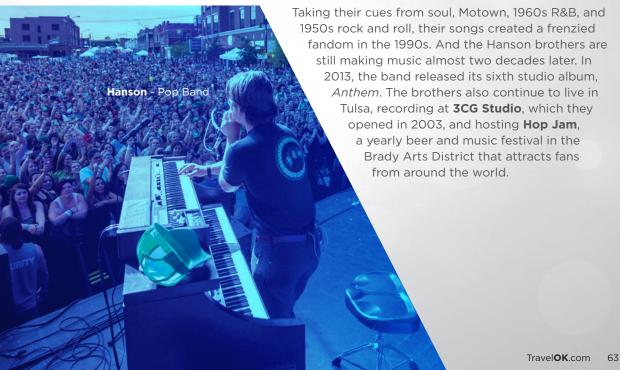
Fans' fickle tastes make popular music an **ever-changing genre**, with only a short span of time separating what's hot from what's not.

Oklahomans have been big contributors to pop music, probably none making as much of a splash as three brothers from Tulsa.

Pop-rock band **Hanson** has sold more than 16 million records worldwide, making it one of Oklahoma's most famous musical groups. The band, made up of brothers **Isaac**, **Taylor**, and **Zac Hanson**, started out playing Oklahoma events and venues like downtown Tulsa's annual **Mayfest** and Oklahoma City's **Frontier City** theme park.

The group saw its 1996 single "MMMBop" reach No. 1 in twenty countries before youngest member Zac was even a teenager. Soon, Hanson was playing to packed houses around the world.





he Hansons aren't the only Oklahomans known for creating iconic pop songs.

Claremore-born **Patti Page** ruled the charts in the 1950s. Her silky-voiced recording of "Tennessee Waltz" sold 10 million copies, and hits like "Doggie in the Window" and "Old Cape Cod" followed to make her the decade's topselling female vocalist.



Page went on to appear in movies, including "Elmer Gantry" and "Boys Night Out" in the 1960s,

and continued to sing professionally into her seventies, winning a Grammy Award in 1999 for her "Live at Carnegie Hall" album. She died in 2013 at age 85.



I was a kid from Oklahoma who never wanted to be a singer, but was told I could sing. And things snowballed."

- Patti Page

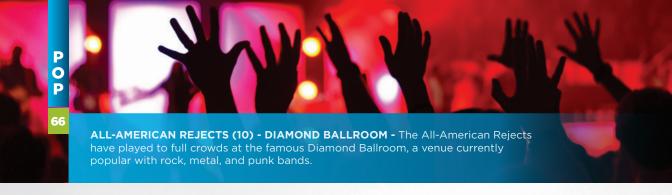
The state's musical artists have also had a hand in creating many pop hits.

Hoyt Axton, a folk singer who grew up in Comanche, wrote several hits in the 1960s and '70s, including the No. 1 song "Joy to the World" and "Never Been to Spain" for Three Dog Night and "Greenback Dollar" for the Kingston Trio.

Songs penned by **Jimmy Webb**, who was born in Elk City in 1946, have been recorded by artists like **Frank Sinatra**, **Glen Campbell**, and **Barbra Streisand**. His best-known works include "Up, Up and Away," "By the Time I Get to

Phoenix," and "Wichita Lineman."
He is the only artist to receive Grammy
Awards for music, lyrics, and orchestration
and is the youngest man to be inducted
into the National Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Tulsa-born Ryan Tedder has also written a string of pop hits, including Beyonce's "Halo," Adele's "Rumour Has It," and Ellie Goulding's "Burn." Tedder also fronts the pop-rock band OneRepublic and is a sought-after producer, working with artists like U2 and Elton John. In 2014, Billboard magazine dubbed Tedder "The Undercover King of Pop."



JIMMY WEBB (12) - LAKE ALTUS-LUGERT AT QUARTZ MOUNTAIN -

During his childhood, Jimmy Webb spent time at a Baptist camp located near Lake Altus-Lugert and Quartz Mountain Nature Park. Today, visitors can enjoy fishing, boating, hiking, bird watching, and more within this recreation hot spot in southwest Oklahoma.

Go. see.

JIMMY WEBB (3) - BLUE DOOR - The intimate setting of this listening room, which seats around 100, draws singer-songwriters of all genres who appreciate its incredible acoustics and laid-back vibe.



VIEW TRAIL DETAILS AT TravelOK.com/MusicTrail

POP MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS

TULSA

STOP 1 BRADY THEATER

STILLWATER

STOP 2 BOOMER LAKE

STOP 3 STILLWATER HIGH

STOP 4 DADDY O'S MUSIC CO.

STOP 5 COLLEGE BAR

EDMOND

STOP 6 DEER CREEK HIGH

STOP 7 HOBBY'S HOAGIES

STOP 8 SANTA FE HIGH

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 9 89TH STREET COLLECTIVE

STOP 10 DIAMOND BALLROOM

B.J. THOMAS

HUGO

STOP 1 BIRTHPLACE

HANSON

TULSA

STOP 1 CAIN'S BALLROOM

STOP 2 3CG STUDIO

STOP 3 BLUE ROSE CAFE

STOP 4 ARKANSAS RIVER

STOP 5 BROOKSIDE DISTRICT

STOP 6 PHILBROOK MUSEUM OF ART

STOP 7 BURGER STREET

STOP 8 SAFARI JOE'S H2O WATER &

ADVENTURE PARK

STOP 9 WOODLAND HILLS MALL

BROKEN ARROW

STOP 10 OKLAHOMA

JOE'S BBQ

MOUNDS

STOP 11 HANSON'S HOME

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 12 FRONTIER CITY

STOP 13 MUSTANG BREWERY

WAYNOKA

STOP 14 LITTLE SAHARA

STATE PARK

JIMMY WEBB

LAVERNE

STOP 1 LAVERNE HIGH

WATONGA

STOP 2 ROMAN NOSE

STATE PARK

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 3 THE BLUE DOOR

STOP 4 OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOI

STOP 5 SKIRVIN TOWER

STOP 6 BRICKTOWN

STOP 7 CATTLEMEN'S

STOP 8 JACKSON JR. HIGH

DAVIS

STOP 10 FALLS CREEK BAPTIST CAMP

MEDICINE PARK

FI FMFNTARY

STOP 11 MEDICINE PARK

LONE WOLF

STOP 12 LAKE ALTUS-LUGERT AT QUARTZ MOUNTAIN

PATTI PAGE

CLAREMORE

STOP 1 PATTI PAGE BLVD

TULSA

STOP 2 THE CAMPBELL HOTEL

STOP 3 KTUL RADIO

STOP 4 BRADY THEATER

STOP 5 DANIEL WEBSTER HIGH

STOP 6 CLINTON JUNIOR HIGH

STOP 7 PATTI PAGE'S

PARENTS' HOUSE

STOP 8 CHILDHOOD HOME

HOYT AXTON

DUNCAN

STOP 1 BIRTHPLACE

ROGER MILLER

ERICK

STOP 1 ROGER MILLER BLVD

STOP 2 ERICK HIGH

STOP 3 CHILDHOOD HOME

RYAN TEDDER

JENKS

STOP 1 JENKS HIGH

TULSA

STOP 2 MARFF CENTER

STOP 3 ORAL ROBERTS

UNIVERSITY

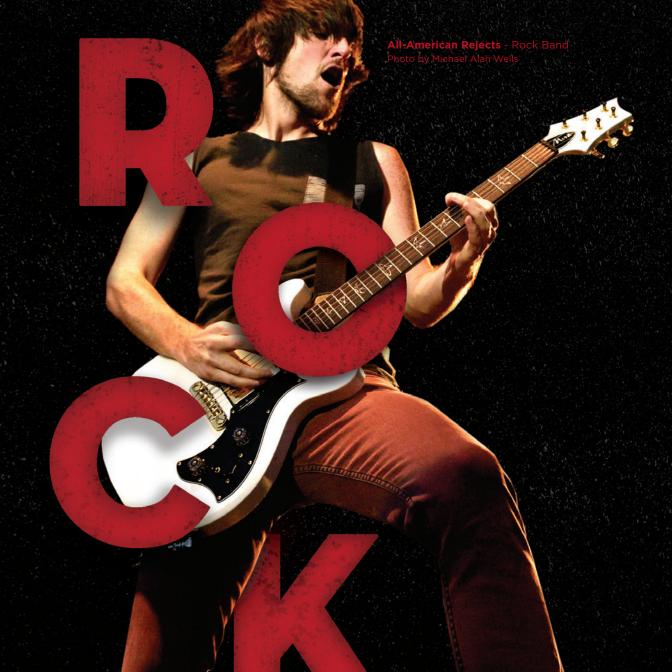
STOP 4 SOUTHERN HILLS

COUNTRY CLUB

STOP 5 HIDEAWAY PIZZA

LANGLEY

STOP 6 GRAND LAKE



Rock music took the state — and the rest of the country — by storm in the 1950s. **Oklahomans quickly added their own twist to the genre**, honing a distinctive sound and captivating audiences with their live shows.

Oklahomans know how to put on a show, and rock music provides the perfect outlet for that creativity.

With his flowing white beard, sunglasses, and cowboy hat, Lawton-born Leon Russell cut a commanding figure at the piano. Russell, who died in 2016 at age 74, was a musical renaissance man who helped start the Tulsa Sound and make it famous. Tulsa Sound music combined rockabilly, rock and roll, blues, and country. Russell started studying classical piano at age four, and by high school, he was playing clubs in Tulsa. He toured briefly with Jerry Lee Lewis in the 1950s, worked as a session musician, and acted as tour director, lead guitarist, and pianist for Joe Cocker's Mad Dogs and Englishmen tour in the seventies.





Eric Clapton, Steve Winwood, and members of the Rolling Stones and the Beatles.

Over the years, Russell continued to record his own music while writing hits for other artists, like **B.B. King's** "Hummingbird." His vocal stylings and stage presence captivated a young **Elton John** in the 1960s and '70s, and in 2010, John repaid the favor by inviting him to collaborate on a record, *The Union*.

Their live show might not look much like Russell's, but Oklahoma City-based psychedelic art rockers **The Flaming Lips** have been thrilling audiences with outlandish, colorful, costumed, and confetti-ridden concerts since 1983.

With three Grammy Awards, the group continues to tour the world, playing its ethereal, psychedelic-rock sound to sold-out crowds.

The Flaming Lips Concert -

Oklahoma City

The band's theatrical performances and ardent fans are the subject of two documentaries by Moore native **Bradley Beesley**: *The Fearless Freaks*, which traces the group from its beginning, and *UFOs at the Zoo*: *The Flaming Lips Live in Oklahoma City*, which chronicles a legendary concert at **The Zoo Amphitheatre** in Oklahoma City. The group also paired with Beasley for a science fiction film. *Christmas on Mars*.

klahoma has also turned out a couple of recent rock bands.

Tyson Ritter and Nick Wheeler formed the All-American Rejects in 2000 while they were Stillwater High School students and eventually added Edmond natives Mike Kennerty and Chris Gaylor.

The band's self-titled debut album went platinum in 2003, and subsequent albums have seen similar results

and spawned hits like "Dirty Little Secret" and "Gives You Hell."



He was my idol. He was the man I wanted to play like, sing like, and look like."

- Elton John on Leon Russell

The members of **Kings of Leon** also have deep Oklahoma ties. The three Followill brothers, **Caleb**, **Nathan**, and **Jared**, who make up the group along with their cousin **Matthew**, spent their childhood crisscrossing Oklahoma and Tennessee with their father, an itinerant Pentecostal preacher. Their southerninfused garage rock and unique backstory quickly made the group's debut album *Youth & Young Manhood* a hit in England, and success in the United States soon followed.





6 - 89TH STREET COLLECTIVE - A venue for up-and-coming local bands, the 89th Street Collective once booked the All-American Rejects when they were still trying to make a name for themselves on the local club scene.

CO. SE

7 - ZOO AMPHITHEATRE - ZZ Top, Judas Priest, Foreigner, Styx, the Eagles, Metallica, Aerosmith and more have made the Zoo Amphitheatre one of Oklahoma City's premier concert venues.

12 - TWO FROGS GRILL - Known for its delicious food and rock and roll décor, Two Frogs Grill in Ardmore has earned its place in the history of Oklahoma rock.



ROCK MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

CATOOSA

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 1 HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

TULSA

STOP 6 89TH STREET COLLECTIVE STOP 7 THE ZOO AMPHITHEATRE STOP 8 THE BLUE NOTE

STOP 2 CAIN'S BALLROOM STOP 3 SOUNDPONY LOUNGE

STOP 4 BRADY THEATER

STILLWATER

STOP 5 COLLEGE BAR

STOP 9 DIAMOND BALLROOM

NORMAN

STOP 10 THE OPOLIS STOP 11 THE DELI

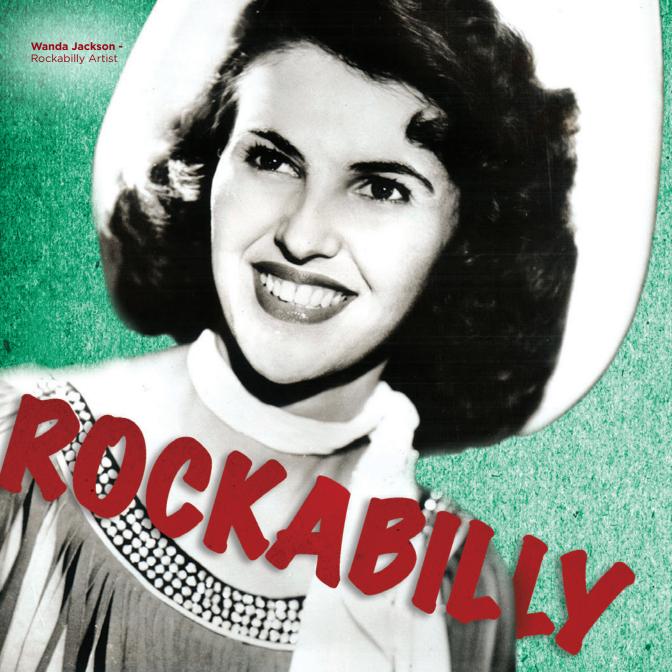
ARDMORE

STOP 12 TWO FROGS GRILL



VIEW TRAIL DETAILS AT TravelOK.com/MusicTrail





A broad and innovative style known as **rockabilly**was a perfect fit for an Oklahoma girl

in the 1950s. With a little push from the king of rock
and roll, the queen of rockabilly got her start.

In the early days of rock and roll, artists added elements of country, blues, and jazz to form an up-tempo, danceable form of rock music called rockabilly.

One such musical innovator, **Wanda Jackson**, grew up in Maud. Jackson launched her career with a 1954 country hit, "You Can't Have My Love," a duet with **Billy Gray**. She then toured with **Elvis Presley**, who encouraged her to adopt a more rock-and-roll style.

Jackson did just that, signing with Capitol Records and showing her versatility by recording rockabilly music in addition to standard country fare. The move worked, and hits like "Rock Your Baby," "Mean, Mean Man," and "Let's Have a Party" soon followed, earning Jackson the title "Queen of Rockabilly."

Wanda Jackson - Rockabilly Singer



ne of Jackson's early songs, "Honey Bop," was co-written by a fellow Oklahoman, **Mae Boren Axton**. Axton, the mother of singer and songwriter **Hoyt Axton**, was born in Texas but grew up in Lawton and Choctaw.





She was cool before they had a name for it."

- Jack White on Wanda Jackson in The New York Times

Axton earned a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma before working as a disc jockey in Florida and a publicist for country star **Hank Snow**. But it was Elvis Presley's career that got the biggest boost from one of Axton's songs.

Axton co-wrote "Heartbreak Hotel," a gloomy tune that caught the ear of a young Presley.

Axton's tale of loneliness went on to become Presley's first No. 1 single and the top-selling record of 1956.

1 - MAUD HISTORICAL MUSEUM - The museum is housed in the old Irby Drug Building and showcases memorabilia and photos from the Queen of Rockabilly as well as the drugstore's original soda fountain.

F Main

WA Atha D

ROCKABILLY MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

Historical S

MAUD

STOP 1 MAUD HISTORICAL MUSEUM **STOP 2** WANDA JACKSON BLVD

OKLAHOMA CITY

STOP 3 WANDA JACKSON WAY
STOP 4 WANDA JACKSON'S OKC
CHILDHOOD HOME
STOP 5 CAPITOL HILL HIGH SCHOOL
STOP 6 CENTENNIAL RODEO OPRY



TravelOK.com/MusicTrail

6 - CENTENNIAL RODEO OPRY - Located in the heart of Stockyards City in Oklahoma City, the Opry hosts up-and-coming country singers as well as legends including Wanda Jackson.



In the decade before World War II, a new sound swept the nation, one that inspired everyone who heard it to get up and dance.

That music — western swing — was centered in Oklahoma and got a boost from a radio broadcast that beamed a Texan's Tulsa tunes from coast to coast.



After starting his musical journey in Texas with the **Light Crust Doughboys**, **Bob Wills** formed his own group, **Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys**.

Wills added a jazz and blues twist to the traditional dancehall tunes, giving rise to a sound called western swing and turning **Cain's Ballroom** in downtown Tulsa into a legendary music venue.







Adding instruments like a steel guitar, electric guitar, drums, and multiple horns gave the band a multitude of sounds, from the straightforward fiddles of "Take Me Back to Tulsa" to the bigband style of "New San Antonio Rose."

Wills' western swing style evolved and thrived in Oklahoma.

Tulsa-based radio station **KVOO** regularly broadcast Wills' performances, introducing his sound to a national audience. The Texas Playboys also traveled around Oklahoma, playing at venues like the **Plantation Inn** in Medicine Park.



ills' contributions to music earned him a place in the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1968 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

Cain's Ballroom earned its nickname as the "Carnegie Hall of Western Swing" by hosting the Texas Playboys from 1935 to 1942. It continues to be the one of the state's most iconic music venues, hosting acts several times a week.

The old dancehall stays true to its roots, hosting acts like **Asleep at the Wheel**, a contemporary western swing group that has produced three Bob Wills tribute albums, including the 2015 release *Still the King: Celebrating the Music of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys*.



I grew up on music that we called western swing/It don't matter who's in Austin, Bob Wills is still the king."

Waylon Jennings,"Bob Wills Is Still the King"

1 - CAIN'S BALLROOM - From 1935 to 1942, Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys broadcast a daily show from Cain's Ballroom, taking his popular western swing music and delivering it to fans from coast to coast. Cain's still honors Wills, celebrating his life and music every year with the annual Bob Wills Birthday Bash.

AUG. 6, 1926 .

MAR. 14, 1993

WESTERN SWING MUSIC TRAIL DESTINATIONS

TULSA

STOP 1 CAIN'S BALLROOM

STOP 2 CORNER OF ARCHER & GREENWOOD

STOP 3 KVOO RADIO

STOP 4 MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY



4 - MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY - The "King of Western Swing" passed away in 1975. His grave can be found in section 15, lot 560, space 2 in Tulsa's Memorial Park Cemetery.

MUSIC FESTIVALS EVENTS

From the hearts of cities to backwoods campsites, **Oklahoma's festival scene is growing rapidly.** Throughout the year, popular new events share the stage with longtime favorites to give the state's music fans plenty of options.



The Charlie Christian International Music Festival brings jazz, blues, and gospel music to Oklahoma City each spring. The event honors Charlie Christian, who grew up in Oklahoma City and went on to revolutionize the electric guitar. If that doesn't quench your thirst for the blues, there's plenty more at Oklahoma City's Bricktown Blues and BBQ Festival, a June event that gives local acts a chance to shine.



Hard-rock fans can get their metal fix on Memorial Day weekend at **Rocklahoma** in Pryor. The camping festival serves up shows from bands like **Papa Roach** and **Theory of a Deadman** on four stages.

Tulsa hosts several festivals throughout the year, including two in May — the **Tulsa International Mayfest**, which features art and music in downtown, and the **Hop Jam**, a craft beer and music festival started by the music group **Hanson** that ends with a free concert in the Brady Arts District.

Okemah honors native son **Woody Guthrie** with a yearly birthday bash known as the **Woody Guthrie Folk Festival**. WoodyFest takes place on the weekend closest to July 14, which was Guthrie's birthday, and features more than ninety folk and bluegrass artists. Musicians can earn their way onto the stage by entering a songwriting contest and talent show held by the Woody Guthrie Coalition earlier in the year.



Whether you prefer live music with a mosh pit or an orchestra pit,

nothing compares to watching a high-energy performance as part of a crowd that shares your musical passion. Music festivals offer the perfect opportunity, and in Oklahoma, you can find many opportunities to see local and national artists of every genre hit the stage.

FESTIVE



Since 1956, *Oklahoma Today* has served as the official magazine of Oklahoma — featuring articles about Oklahoma's musical artists, events, and performance venues throughout the state. Subscribe online at **OklahomaToday.com**.





Oklahoma Film + Music Office is the number one resource for filmmakers and music professionals in and out of state. Explore OKFilmMusic.org to connect with film productions and the Oklahoma Music Guide, a useful directory to find musicians, music businesses, and venues in Oklahoma.



From **music** to **dining** and **key historical attractions**, there is a specialized Oklahoma guide for everyone to enjoy!

TravelOK.com/Brochures





The "Rhythm and Routes" music trail takes you across the state to learn about the legendary musicians and venues behind Oklahoma's rich musical heritage. With videos, timelines, photo galleries, and trivia questions, the site is a treasure trove of information on each inductee, and you'll want to visit frequently as new artists and venues are inducted monthly.

For detailed music trail itineraries, artist bios, and upcoming music events, visit:

Travelok.com/MusicTrail.

THANK YOU

to the OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OKPOP MUSEUM, & OKLAHOMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME
for generously providing photography.



