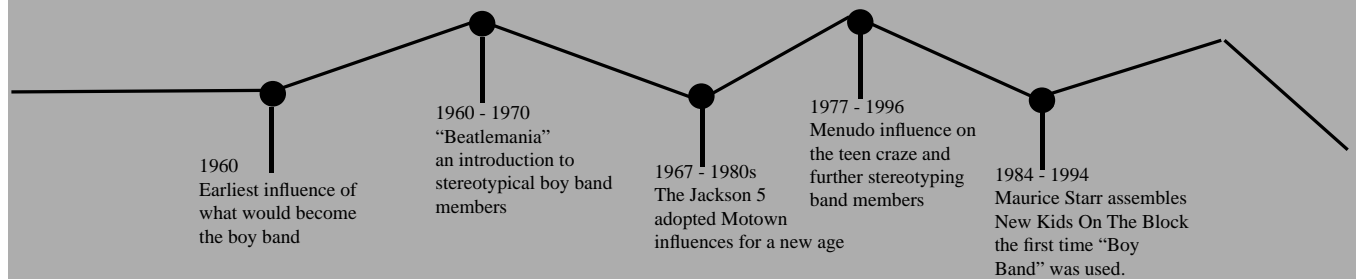


Boy Band (n): a type of pop group featuring three or more young male singers. The members are generally expected to perform as dancers as well, often executing highly choreographed sequences to their own music. One could label a band a “boy band” for following mainstream music trends, changing their appearances to adapt to new fashion, having skilled dancers, and performing elaborate shows. They can evolve out of church choral or Gospel music groups, but are often put together by managers or producers who audition the groups for their appearance, dance moves, rap skills, and singing ability, and often seem to be prefabricated. But one thing they all have in common is that they have three to six members, with singing and dancing in their repertoire.



1960 – 1980s: The Temptations

Motown male vocal groups were one of the major influences on the boy band craze of the late 1990s. Their emphasis on vocal harmony paired with Smokey Robinson’s writing talent made The Temptations the most successful group in black music history. Their hits included “My Girl”, “Ain’t Too Proud to Beg”, and “Papa Was a Rollin’ Stone”.



1960 – 1970: The Beatles

Yes, they were the most influential, earth-shattering group of the twentieth century, but “Beatlemania” started a pattern picked up by many later boy bands. The four-member group combined musical prowess with the strong “Beatles” image (through their appearances, films, and publicity), and had thousands of fans screaming on both sides of the Atlantic.



1967 – 1980s: The Jackson 5

Before Michael Jackson became a pop sensation in his own right, he and his brothers rocked the charts with hits like “ABC”, “I Want You Back”, and “I’ll Be There”. With a mixture of R&B, soul, and funk, they adapted the Motown model for a new decade.



1977-1996: Menudo

This Puerto Rican boy band was one of the most popular teen groups of the 80s and 90s. It was especially known for its “revolving door” policy; when a band member hit his growth spurt or his voice began to change, he was replaced by a younger singer.



1984-1994: New Kids on the Block

An early boy band assembled by Maurice Starr, who wanted to try to replicate the popular Jackson 5/New Edition sound with white teens. Singles included “I’ll Be Loving You (Forever)” and “Step by Step”. They also pioneered many of the traditions of boy band form, including the reliance on dance moves, the “power ballad”, and the holiday album.