

Suggested music and radio show from the Korean Conflict era

Use these suggestions as background to better understand the situation of young Americans during the period of Korean Conflict. Unlike World War II, there were few popular songs about the war or war effort. This different approach between the two wars is one reason why the Korean War is sometimes considered forgotten. This list reflects different genre popular during the Korean War including traditional pop, country, blues, and a nascent rock and roll. This is a sampler of what America listened to. All of these are presented with references on the internet.

- "Mona Lisa." By Nat "King" Cole in 1950, written by Ray Evans and Jay Livingston.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M3uR24_V10&feature=related
 - Won Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1950. An example of a pop tune of its time.
- "Tennessee Waltz." By Patti Cline in 1950, written by Redd Steward, music by Pee Wee King.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek3eCbfqP0>
 - Number 5 song on 1950's Billboard. Country music.
- "Rollin' Stone." By Muddy Waters in 1950. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_vsvX2qiLM
 - traditional Blues song from the 1920s. Number 9 song on 1950's Billboard.
- "Rocket 88." By Jackie Brenston in 1951. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbfh1oVTk0>
 - Some music critics consider this to be the very first rock and roll song. Rhythm and Blues, number 2 in 1951's Billboard.
- "Jambalaya (On The Bayou)." By Hank Williams. in 1952.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnKOVpXhlnE>
 - number 2 on 1952's Billboard. Country music.
- "Crying In the Chapel." By the Orioles in 1953, written by Artie Glenn.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rp1B9QtdNXA>
 - Number 3 on 1953's Billboard. Rhythm and Blues song.
- "Rock Around The Clock." Bill Haley & His Comets, written by Max Freedman and John Myers.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5fsqYctXqM>
 - Not the first rock and roll song, nor the biggest selling of its time, it nonetheless is the song that brought rock and roll into main stream music as pop. Number 1 on 1954's Billboard, and entered in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1982.
- "Earth Angel." By the Penguin in 1954. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jznZQXaSYPo>
 - Number 3 on 1954's Billboard. Doo-wop song.
- "That's All Right." By Elvis Presley, written by Arthur Crudup.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIWlWA1YTBw>
 - Elvis Presley's first single recording. Number 5 on 1954's Billboard. Rockabilly genre.
- "Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight." By the Spaniels, written by Calvin Carter and James Hudson. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egX9N8yOgaU>
 - Number 7 on 1954's Billboard. Rhythm and Blues.

Radio shows during the conflict in Korea

- *The FBI in Peace and War* – 1944-1958, Crime Drama, Martin Blaine, Donald Briggs
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/65/Detective/FBI_In_War_And_Peace_The.html
 - Crime drama that spanned World War 2, the early Cold War, and the Korean War. It was the 8th most popular show on radio in 1955.

- *Our Miss Brooks* – 1948-1957, 30 min each, Comedy, Eve Arden, Gate Gordan
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/50/Comedy/Our_Miss_Brooks.html
 - A situation comedy about a high school English teacher. This show was also adapted to television and became a movie. Fifth most popular show on radio in 1955.

- *Dragnet* – 1949-1957, 30 min each, Crime, Jack Webb, Barton Yarborough
https://archive.org/details/Dragnet_OTR
 - Police Sgt Joe Friday, a Los Angeles police department detective, solves true crimes, handling then controversial topics on air. It became a very Popular television show in 1957.

- *Gun Smoke* – 1952-1961, 30 min each, Western, William Conrad, Georgia Ellis, Parley Baer
<http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/207/Westerns/Gunsmoke.html>
 - A classic western radio show that became a hit on television. US Marshall Matt Dillon keeps order in Dodge City, Kansas after the Civil War.

- *My Little Margie* – 1952-1955, 30 min each, Comedy, Gale Storm, Charles Farrell
<http://www.oldtimeradiodownloads.com/comedy/my-little-margie>
 - This situation comedy takes place in New York, where a progressive daughter tries to protect her popular but old-fashioned father.

Compiled in 2011 and 2016 for the Silver Spring Veterans Memorial, PA. Comments to bouchatc@hotmail.com