

Chuck Berry...

Is on Top

(Album released in 1959)

Album review by: Corbin



Wouldn't be Chuck without his Guitar

Chuck Berry played a guitar in most, if not all of his songs in general.

His guitar's brand is Gibson, and the model he used in his early years was Gibson ES 350T, which was an electric guitar



How did he play the guitar?

Chuck played the guitar with a mix of blues and a driving rhythmic

Feel often played with all downstrokes with his fingers. He's really good at bending the strings and sliding it very aggressively.



How did Chuck perform exactly?

Chuck Berry had a lot of moves, he's a really impressive dancer while he's playing the guitar, the most famous move being The Duck Walk; he actually has two versions, and they are both really cool



The songs he wrote

He wrote many songs, and we'll focus on the songs in this current album, which includes:

Johnny B. Goode

Maybellene

Roll over Beethoven

Little Queenie

And more

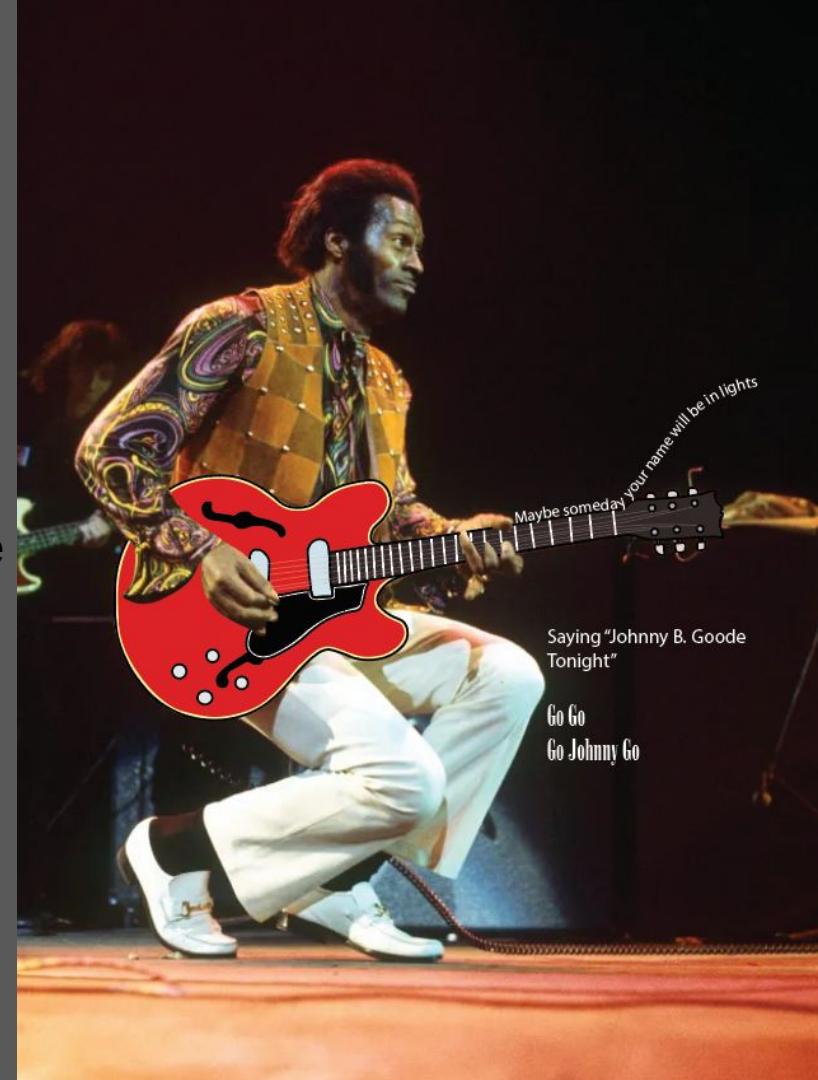
Johnny B. Goode (1958)

This song is the most famous song in the album as he sung it countless times.

The name is inspired by both his pianist in his band Johnnie Johnson, and Chuck's own life

(Image illustrated by Corbin in B block class)
(The song)

https://youtu.be/Y-9Y4CCIWhM?si=1_gkXVufsBC9LRDy



Chuck Berry and John Lennon???

Chuck Berry did sing Johnny B. Goode with John Lennon in 1972, and was the first and only time they sung together

They were filmed live on the Mike Douglas show

(the live performance)

https://youtu.be/0aoelh21_QU?si=L_kI4CVIIUEtNSE3

(Yoko's part, second video 1:55)

<https://youtu.be/pXgXviYAqPg?si=NbkpLA9Nw9qys9pr>

<https://www.facebook.com/lesserpandamasterpiece/videos/chuck-berry-john-lennon%EC%B2%99-%EB%B2%A0%EB%A6%AC-%EC%A1%B4-%EB%A0%88%EB%85%BC-memphis-tennessee-johnny-b-goode-the-mike-dougl/488502185327591/>



Chuck Berry and Bruce Springsteen

He also played Johnny B. Goode with Bruce Springsteen in 1995, along with The E Street Band that's for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame



<https://youtu.be/6swqjM9vSEE?si=37FJUp7jAO-qXJ7U>

Chuck Berry's unusual moment in 2014???

My teacher said that Chuck Berry never tunes his guitar, but in this clip, I will prove him wrong

Regardless of his age being in his 80s at the time

he is still loved and people cheered him on

(2:55)

<https://youtu.be/UHHZM4ecO98?si=hTRLDFaJwyrdUrca>



Maybellene (1955)

Chuck Berry's first hit and was adapted from the song "Ida Red"

It's considered a pioneer for Rock n Roll songs.

Even his guitar is named Maybellene

The lyrics describe a man in his V8 Ford chasing his unfaithful girlfriend in her Cadillac

(the song)

https://youtu.be/_ORrftU6sGA?si=-v0g3uCYAY7GAxeC

Roll Over Beethoven (1956)

Another good song from Chuck is Roll Over Beethoven, he got his main inspiration that he had was his rivalry with his sisters who kept hogging the family piano

(The song)

<https://youtu.be/xCNI9KWy2No?si=7CPHHQy702jB0RLb>

Berry Is on Top importance

This album was one of his most financially rewarding album .

Many artists have referred to this album as the “ Blueprint for Rock and Roll”.

A key influence for the British Invasion Bands, example The Beatles.