Imagination and Life

By Violette Burge

“What is jazz, man if you have to ask you’ll never know.” ~ Louis Armstrong. I love music. I listen to it all the time. In fact I’m listening to some right now, and when I saw writing about music in Arizona from the 1920s to 1950s was an option, it hit close to home. My great grandpa Cliff owned a ranch with his brothers called “Wood Brothers Panorama Ranch” during the 1920s to 1950s and would have local musicians play when people were visiting his ranch. Music always finds its way into your heart and will come in different pitches, melodies, styles, ways, shapes, and forms. Almost everyone loves some type of music, and the most loved music is usually the most popular music, so these are the top music styles in Arizona from the 1920s - 1950s.

Folklorico is a traditional music from Mexico with rich sounds fro, the violin, vihuela, guitar, guitarrón and a trumpet. In the 1920s, during the probation of alcohol was set forth by president Herbert Hoover, speakeasies were popping up all over the country. In Tucson, one of the first speakeasies was at the original El Charro Cafe in downtown Tucson. My tía Carlotta tells me stories of her great aunt, Monica Dunn, who would host friends after-hours to listen to live music and sip tequila from her family’s teacups. Back then, you might see a mariachi band, folklorico dancers, a swing band, or even a
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local jazz musician. On many nights, she would host a folklorico club with Taxi girls who would dance with men to folklorico music.

Jazz was a very popular music at the time and some of the most recognizable Jazz musicians came through Tucson at the time to play at local clubs. Louis Armstrong was a jazz musician from New Orleans who is known as the King of Jazz and would travel all over the country performing at Jazz clubs and was even rumored to have played at the renown private Jazz club off of Speedway and Main. I love jazz because of all the instruments and jazz, rock, and country music are really the only genres of music nowadays that actually have instruments and aren't electronically generated. One of the original Jazz lounges in Arizona is in Tucson called Chicago Bar and the University of Arizona has an awesome music program that specializes in this genre. Jazz is an amazing music that doesn't get half enough credit as it should and is an awesome genre of music.

Rock and Roll was in its early stages during the 1950s and was about to be one of the top music genres. Linda Ronstat is an artist from Arizona and performed rock and roll and other genres of music. Rock and Roll started out as one thing and now has new branches of it like heavy
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mettle, punk rock, and funk rock. Rock music whale awesome hasn't gone without its hard times and battles to keep its position in the popular music genres. In the 19 50s most churches banned their followers from listening to rock considering the quote “Devils music”.

This essay is from the soul and from my true love of music I hope that you can see this whale judging my essay. “Where words fail music speaks”~Hans Christian Andersen. From rock to jazz to folklorico they all come from the same place: the heart and every note, every song every beat and melody has a place in someone's heart. “One good thing about music is when it hits you feel no pain”~ Bob marley. “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything” ~ Plato.