

# REGGAE

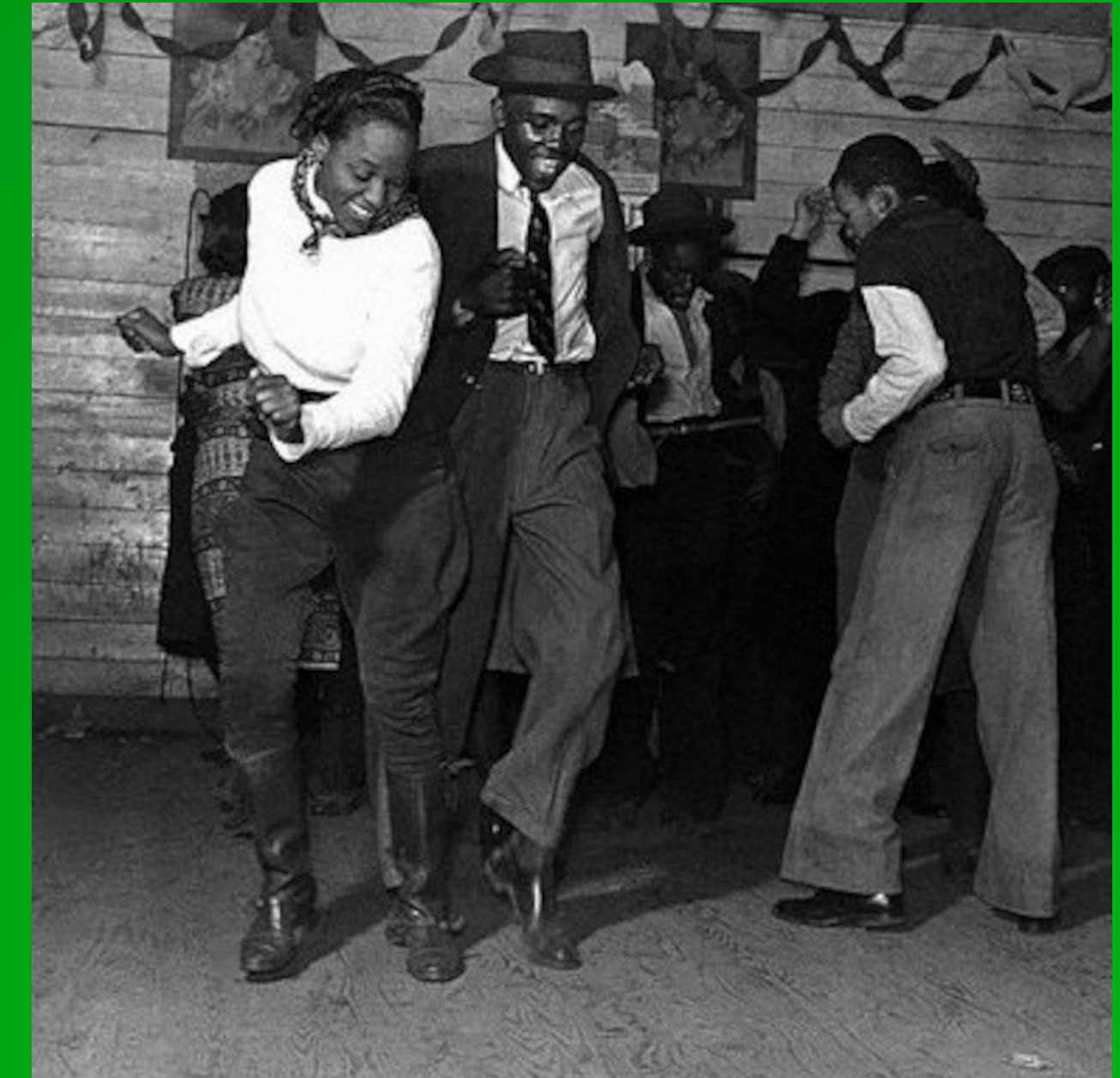


# Music



# Origins of Reggae Music

- Traditional Caribbean folk music is known as “Mento.” This music was performed on acoustic instruments - specifically the acoustic guitar, banjo, hand drums, and the rhumba box. It combined African rhythms with elements of European folk melodies.
- In the late 1940's, many Jamaicans began to purchase radios; through which they could listen to radio stations that were broadcasted from cities in the Southern United States (particularly New Orleans).
- By the 1950's, Caribbean mento began to blend with calypso music, American jazz, and rhythm and blues (R & B). Jamaican musicians also began to incorporate electric guitars, electric basses, electric organs, drum kits, and brass instruments.
- This resulted in the birth of a new form of Jamaican dance music called “Ska.”





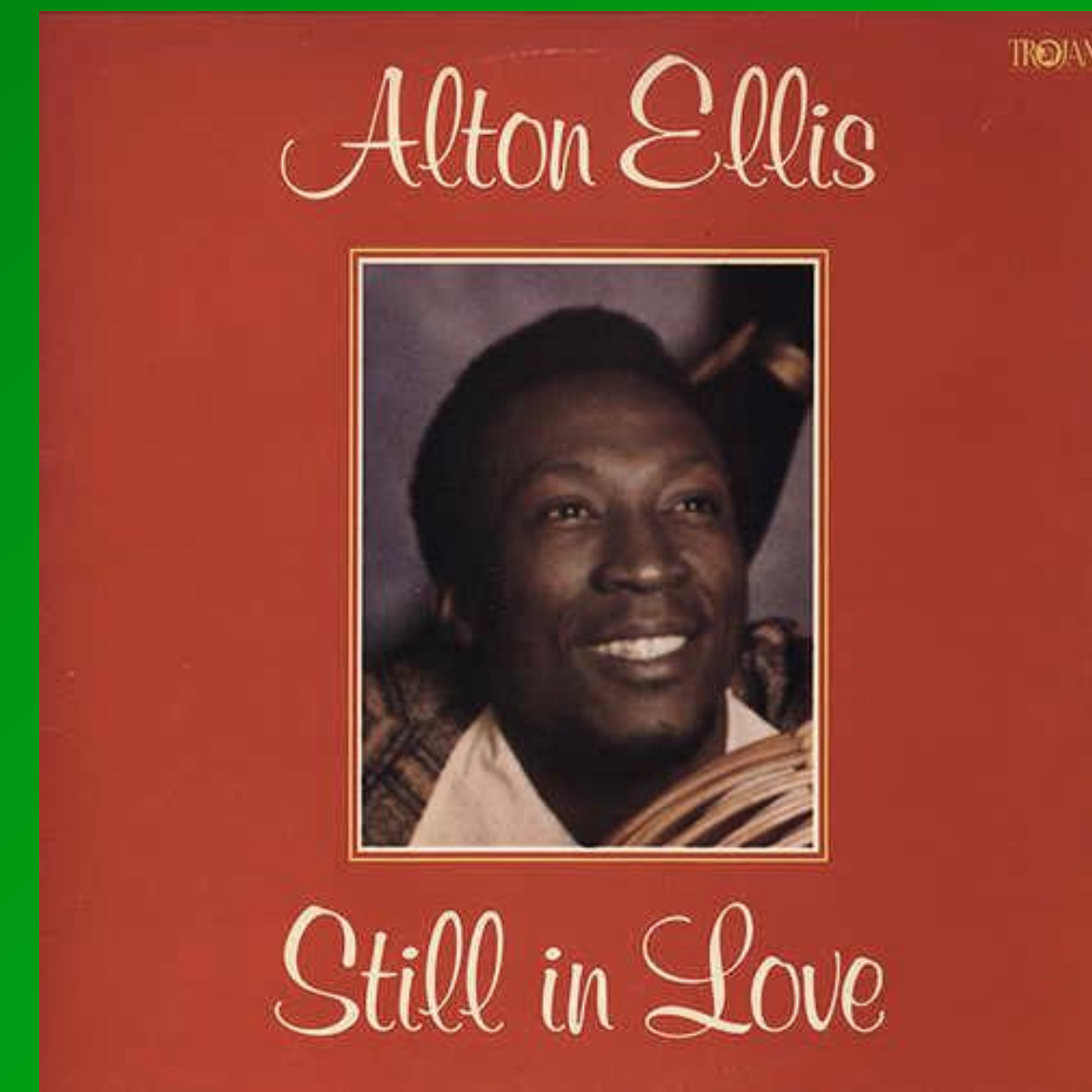
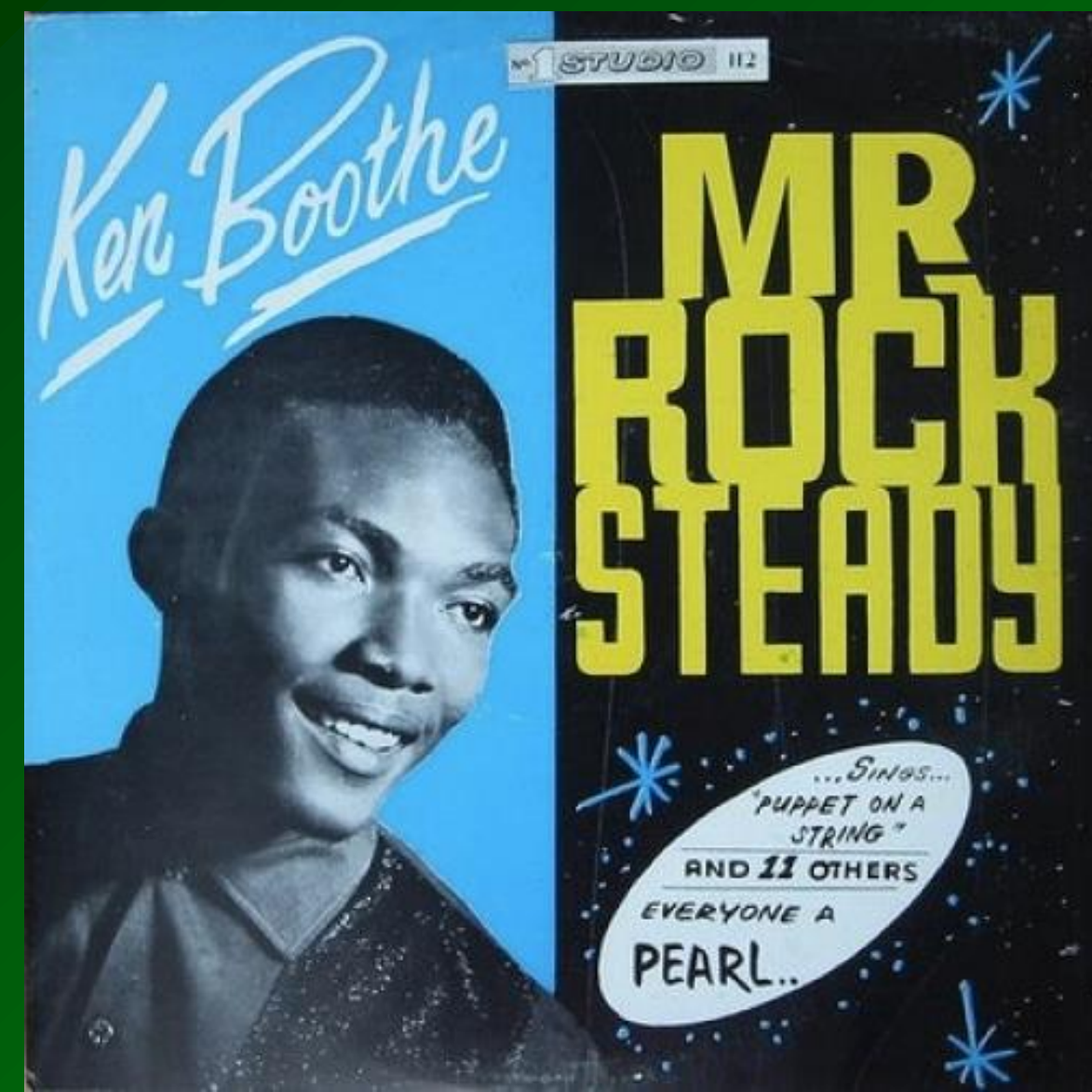
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# Ska and Rocksteady

- Ska music was relatively fast in tempo, with musical accents placed on “off-beats.” It was ideal for dancing. During the 1960s, however, when American soul music became slower and smoother, ska musicians began to adapt to these changes. The result was a new form of Jamaican music which came to be known as “Rocksteady.”
- Rocksteady was much more mellow and relaxed than Ska. Lyrics were more focused on romance, and brass horns were less prominent in the music.





# Reggae

- In the late 1960's, popular Jamaican ska and rocksteady groups such as "Toots and the Maytals," "The Heptones," and "The Wailers" were inspired by American funk bands to place more emphasis on bass lines and drum beats. In doing so, their musical styles had, once again, led the to development of a new genre.
- In 1968, Toots and the Maytals released a new single titled "Do the Reggay." This led to the naming and introduction of the new musical genre as "Reggae."
- Reggae songs shifted away from romance, and focused more on topics involving civil rights, politics, freedom, and protests.







# TOOTS & THE MAYTALS

## FUNKY KINGSTON

Sit right down  
Pump and Pride  
Louie Louie  
I can't believe  
Redemption song  
Daddy  
Funky Kingston  
It was written down



# Rise in Popularity

- By the 1970's, the lyrics and content of Reggae music became increasingly influenced by Rastafari culture.
- The Rastafarians are a religious group whose beliefs are based on Jamaican interpretations of the Bible. Many Rastafarians believed that Reggae music should be used to spread their ideas and beliefs around the world.
- The successful 1972 Jamaican crime film "The Harder They Come" became famous for its reggae soundtrack, and is said to have introduced the world to reggae music.





# Bob Marley and The Wailers

- Born Robert Nesta Marley, in 1945, Bob Marley was a Jamaican singer, song writer, and performing musician who went on to become the most prominent and successful reggae artist of all time.
- In 1963, Bob Marley formed Jamaican music group “The Wailers” with self-taught musicians Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer. By 1970, the group had transitioned through all three stages of popular Jamaican music (ska, rocksteady, and reggae).
- In 1974, Tosh and Wailer left the group and the name was changed to “Bob Marley and the Wailers.” The group achieved major international success.



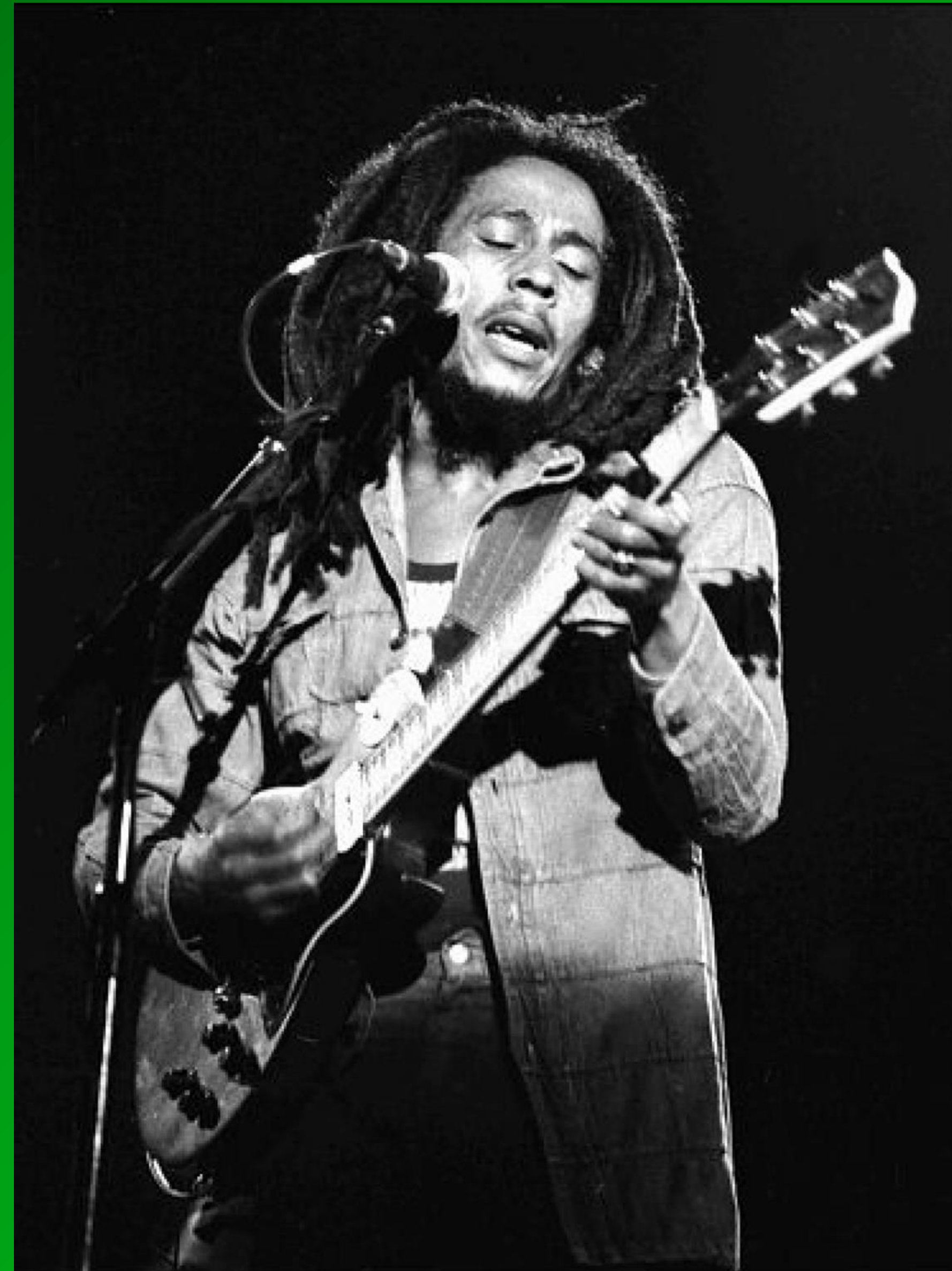






# Bob Marley

- Bob Marley was responsible for spreading the popularity of Jamaican music around the world. As a result, he became a global figure in popular music and culture during his lifetime.
- Known for his live performances and spirituality, Bob Marley was a lifelong practicing Rastafarian who is now considered a global symbol of Jamaican culture and identity, and a Rastafari icon.
- Marley passed away on May 11th in 1981 from skin cancer. He was only 36 years old.









# Closure

- Many people still enjoy listening to reggae music around the world today. Do you enjoy listening to reggae? Why or why not?

