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**THE ROCK BAND QUEEN AS A FORMATIVE
FORCE**

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FORCE**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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1 Introduction

Music essentially belongs to the life of every human being. Songs are delivered through diverse media and influence the state of mind of listeners. Music can also affect emotions, it can be further seen as a healing instrument or an instrument for the expression of attitudes and ideas. Powerful lyrics combined with melodic syntax can invoke strong responses as it can unify people and even nations. This Bachelor thesis deals with the rock band Queen and their impact on other music artists. Its objective is to demonstrate significant features of Queen's formative force and their influence in general and to examine the various performers gathering inspiration and ideas from Queen's complex and unique production. The topic was selected with esteem and appreciation to Queen's uniqueness, accomplishments and talent and with humble respect and dignity to all Queen's representatives.

The thesis is divided into two major parts, theoretical and practical. The first chapter introduces the four original Queen members with their short biographies to apprise us of the environment surrounding their childhood, teenage years and schooldays as well as the formation of Queen, with several changes of personnel before the final formation. The second chapter is primarily focused on Queen's production and the composition of their peerless music. The third chapter addresses unaccustomed directions on music field Queen pioneered and all of the highest awards they were honoured with. The fourth chapter is concerned with impact and influence of Queen on the next generations of music artists, concentrating on Queen's work placed within production of selected performers, namely The Darkness, Muse and Foxy Shazam.

In this thesis printed monographs, officially authorized by Queen as well as supplementary official documents about Queen and correlated artists are used primarily. The main goal of the thesis is to confirm Queen's impact on various artists through comparison of song compositions, resemblances in demeanour of artists and on stage performance. The thesis is supplemented with appendices demonstrating comparability and proving major impact of Queen's influence.

2 The Evolution of Queen

The rock band *Queen* was originally founded by three constituent members. Brian May was searching for a drummer for his group “1984”. At the time, Roger Taylor was studying dentistry at London Hospital Medical College. Taylor’s friend saw an advertisement on a bulletin board in Imperial College. An emergent group was in need of a drummer. Taylor sent his resume to Brian May and he was straightaway invited for rehearsal. A new group was formed and it was given the name “*Smile*”. The members were Brian May, as the main guitarist, Tim Staffel, a lead vocalist and bassist, and Roger Taylor, who played the drums. *Smile* did not have their own repertoire they were performing the song of other groups and singers mainly from Jimmy Hendrix, who was very popular at the time. In 1968, *Smile* began writing their own songs. Concerts were held at universities, colleges and at student unions. The group had their first concert at Imperial College on 26th October 1968. *Smile* was accepted by the audience and they were labelled a progressive rock band. Cornwall, the home of Roger Taylor, was a place where the group performed a majority of their concerts and they frequently appeared in Imperial College as well. [1]

Later in 1970, Farrokh Bulsara joined the group. The first concert with him as a lead singer of the group *Smile* was held on 27th June 1970 in City Hall in Truro. This concert was organised by Taylor’s mother Winifred Taylor in support of the British Red Cross.¹ The members already decided to change the group’s name to *Queen* in April 1970. The idea to title the group *Queen* originally came from Freddie and he convinced the other group members to opt for this title. The June concert was *Smile*’s last concert. Taylor did not want his mother to know, that *Smile* was falling apart, because he promised to participate in this concert. At the same time, the lead singer decided to change his last name to Mercury, taken from a divine harbinger. [2]

Mike Grose was considered for a long time as a fourth member of the group, playing the bass guitar. Taylor and Grose were friends since their college years and he occasionally performed with them. In 1970, he had decided to leave the band. Barry Mitchell joined *Queen* as an alternative member in August

¹ British Red Cross is a part of global voluntary network, helping people in the UK in crisis. [3]

1970. In January 1971, Mitchell left the group, displeased with the direction in which *Queen* was heading. Mitchell was replaced by Doug Bogie in the group, but after his unprofessional behaviour on stage during a concert, he was expelled from the group. The band was in need of a new bass guitarist. John Deacon met Brian May and Roger Taylor at discotheque. The conversation was directed to the newly founded group *Queen* and their ongoing problems with bass guitarists. Deacon did not have a permanent contract at that time and he agreed to come to the rehearsal. In 1970, Deacon became the fourth official *Queen* member. The first concert under this new formation was held in June 1971 in Surrey. [4]

2.1 Band Members

2.1.1 Brian Harold May

Brian Harold May was born on 19th June 1947 in Hampton to Ruth and Harold May. He attended primary school in Feltham. May developed an interest in music from early age. His parents decided to send him to piano and ukulele lessons. At the age of seven, May was given his first guitar and at the age of eight, he started to play harp and tin whistle. At school, he was a hardworking and talented student. Among his interests were photography and astronomy. In 1958, when he was eleven, he entered grammar school in Hampton, where he met Dave Dilloway and they became friends. Together with his father, May manufactured his first electric guitar known as "*Red Special*". The guitar was made from an oak tree originally functioning as a mantel piece. At school, he was a member of the debating club and amateur dramatic club. Together with his friend Tim Staffell, David Dilloway and Richard Thompson, May founded the band "*1984*" at grammar school. The first concert of *1984* was held in St. Mary Church Hall in Twickenham. In 1965, May graduated from grammar school and he entered the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he was given a scholarship. [5]

Graduating with a BSc. in Physics with honours he was given his diploma from Her Majesty the Queen. May had travelled to Switzerland, Matterhorn, where he constructed his own spectrometer. The climate was not suitable for May's observational research and together with his colleague, he relocated to

Tenerife. [6] [7] During university years, the group performed in smaller music clubs as forerunners for interpreters such as *Jimi Hendrix*² and *Pink Floyd*.³ Later when *Queen* became more popular May did not have time for studying and he decided to leave Imperial College. During the collaboration with *Queen*, May assisted at projects of various artists from music industry, mainly on co-production. [8]

2.1.2 Roger Meddows Taylor

Roger Meddows Taylor was born on 26th July 1949 in Norfolk to Winifred and Michael Taylor. His family was not music oriented, but he developed and embodied interest in music from an early age. Taylor attended primary school in King's Lynn, but after his younger sister was born, the family relocated to Truro, where he attended the Bosvigo County Primary School. In 1957, he started to learn playing the ukulele and soon after early success, Taylor along with his friends founded a band called "*Bubblingover Boys*". In 1960, Taylor entered Truro Cathedral School, where he sang in a choir. Singing training helped him to improve his vocal range. He also had to attend the choir in order to get scholarship. Taylor is well-known for his broad falsetto vocal range.⁴ [9]

Taylor's father bought him a bass drum for Christmas when he was twelve years old, which led to founding another band called "*Cousin Jacks*". This band did not last for a long period of time and they split up shortly afterwards. In 1965, Taylor joined the band "*Johnny Quale & the Reactions*", later the band shortened the name to "*Reaction*" and in a couple of years, they participated in a music competition "*Rock and Rhythm Championship*". They won fourth place in 1965, but one year later they won the first place. "*Reaction*" performed mainly in clubs alongside other famous groups of that time. [10]

To dedicate his life to music he relocated to London. Taylor started attending London Hospital Medical School in 1967, studying dentistry. In 1968,

² Jimi Hendrix was American singer, guitarist and songwriter. He was popular in 1960s and died in 1970 from drug-related complications. [11]

³ Pink Floyd are one of the most successful rock band. They were formed in London in 1965. [12]

⁴ 'Falsetto' describes adult male's head voice. The vocal cords vibrate in a length shorter than usual. [13]

he interrupted university education to concentrate on playing with *Smile*. [14] Taylor was working on a large number of solo projects while being a member of *Queen*. He also released several successful studio-albums. "*The Cross*" was founded by Taylor. His need to perform on stage, while *Queen* was no longer able to deliver live performance, he had to find a side project. Taylor never played the drums in *The Cross*, he was a lead vocalist. [15]

2.1.3 Freddie Mercury

Freddie Mercury was born as Farrokh Bulsara on 5th September 1946, to Jer and Bomi Bulsara in Stone Town, Zanzibar. The family was of Persian ancestry, but with British nationality. Bomi Bulsara worked for the British government as a civil servant. In 1951, Mercury started to attend missionary school and in 1954, he began to study at St. Peter's School for boys in Panchgani. Mercury's class-mates started to call him Freddie. Mercury's school results were above-average and he embodied artistic ability alongside playing table tennis, when he won a school championship at age of ten. He excelled in free-hand drawing portraits of friends. The headmaster of school suggested to his parents to increase school fees, because Mercury was also gifted in music and he began to attend piano lessons. He founded a school-band called "*Hectics*", with his class-mates. They predominantly played at school events, because they were not allowed to play outside the school premises. After successfully finishing school education in 1962, Mercury returned to parents' house. [16]

In 1964, Bulsara's family relocated back to Great Britain, since Zanzibar became an independent territory and was no longer a British colony. In the same year, Mercury attended Isleworth Polytechnic in Feltham where he studied arts. He graduated in 1966. The same year Mercury signed in to Ealing College of Art, specialising in graphic illustration. In 1969, Mercury graduated from Ealing College of Art and the same year he joined band "*lbex*". The band originated from Liverpool. Members of *lbex* and *Smile* befriended and Mercury began working with Taylor. They co-owned an antique clothing stall in Kensington. [17] [18]

Together with *Ibex*, Mercury travelled to Liverpool, where they lived. The group was not very popular around London, but Mercury wanted to live there and therefore he left the group. In 1970, Mercury worked for Austin Knights' Agency, illustrating children books and he founded band named "*Wreckage*" together with *Ibex* ex-member. They predominantly performed at colleges, but Mercury did not feel comfortable with the band and he left the same year joining *Smile*, later renamed to *Queen*. [19]

Mercury is a main designer of *Queen*'s logo, which represents four Zodiac symbol signs for each member, a Q letter and Phoenix. While being a member of *Queen*, Mercury collaborated with *Montserrat Caballé*.⁵ Together they performed "*Barcelona*", a song written by Mercury for the Summer Olympic Games in 1992. [20]

Freddie Mercury died from complications from AIDS in his home one 24th November 1991, at the age of 45. The remaining *Queen* members organised "*The Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert*" in Wembley Stadium in London on 20th April 1991. Together with various artists such as *David Bowie*, *Elisabeth Taylor*, *Paul Young*, *Phil Collins*, *Annie Lennox*, *Elton John*, *Bob Geldof*, *Liza Minnelli* and many others. [21] [22] *Queen* founded "*The Mercury Phoenix Trust*" to register and redistribute profit from the concert. The concert became a global success watched by a billion people around the globe. [23]

2.1.4 John Richard Deacon

John Richard Deacon was born on 19th August to Lilian Molly and Arthur Henry Deacon in Leicester. Deacon's father worked for the Norwich Union company. In 1956, Deacon entered Lindon Junior School in Evington. At age of seven, his parents endowed him with his first red plastic guitar "*Tommy Steele*". In 1960, the family relocated to Leicester and Deacon had to switch the school to Longnor Junior School. Together with his father, who sparked off his interests in electrotechnics, Deacon developed skills in repairing electrical gadgets such as a moving coil magnetophone. In 1962, Deacon entered Gartree High School in Leicester. At the same time he started to practise guitar-playing. The same

⁵ Montserrat Caballé is Spanish operatic soprano. Caballé is highly acclaimed for her performances in the operas of Giuseppe Verdi. [24]

year Deacon's father passed away. At age of fourteen, he founded his first band named "*Opposition*". In September 1965, the band performed their first concert with success. Since the situation of the group was not stable, they changed the name to "*New Opposition*" and later again to "*Art*". Although the band experienced several changes of personnel, they remained successful and achieved regular contract playing in small bars and clubs. [25]

In 1967, Deacon started to attend Beauchamp Grammar School in Leicester with interests in electrotechnics. In 1969, Deacon graduated from Beauchamp Grammar School and entered Chelsea College in London to continue focusing on electrotechnics and within the same year, Deacon left *Art* to concentrate on college. In 1971, he achieved First Class Honours Degree in Electronics. Together with his college friends they played music together, mainly for enjoyment. However Deacon wanted to keep in contact to music and after meeting the *Smile* members at discotheque, he was invited for a rehearsal. Deacon became the member of a band that was about to be renamed to *Queen*. [26] [27]

Deacon was the least active member of *Queen* having solely side projects outside of *Queen* with a group "*Immortals*". The group was founded in 1986, featuring the song "*No Turning Back*" as a part of a soundtrack to the film "*Biggles: Adventures in Time*". This was the only one track the band recorded, after that the band split. [28]

2.1.5 Queen after Mercury's Death

After Mercury's death in 1991, *Queen* continued with recording their last collective album "*Made in Heaven*" featuring Mercury's recordings taped on speakers. [29] Having been one of the most eminent live performers, *Queen* reunited on stage for a couple of concerts. The first one was "*The Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert*" in Wembley as a celebration of Mercury's life and career. The stadium was chosen for a particular reason as a place, where the band achieved their greatest triumphs in their home country. [30]

Five years after Mercury passed away, the three surviving members performed on 17th January 1997. The event for "*A Ballet for Life*" partly inspired with Mercury dealing with AIDS. The group was joined by Elton John and

together they performed "*The Show Must Go On*". This particular event was the last Deacon's performance with *Queen*. Shortly afterwards Deacon retired from music industry. Although Deacon remains a *Queen* member, he is not present at any event May and Taylor attend. [31]

Queen, through additional changes of personnel, continues performing. May and Taylor remain core band members. In 2005, *Queen* collaborated with Paul Rodgers on a world concert tour "*Queen + Paul Rodgers Tour*". Prior to this collaboration Rodgers supported May on stage during "*The Strat Pack: Live in Concert*" in 2004. [32]

Second and last "*The Rock The Cosmos Tour*" held in 2008 across the Globe, was their last collaboration. Featuring *Queen*'s prior recordings as well as newly-recorded tracks, the concerts scored international success. [33] In 2009, *Queen* collaborated with American singer Adam Lambert and occasionally performed together. In 2012, *Queen* and Adam Lambert conducted a European tour. "*Queen + A. Lambert 2014–2015 Tour*" opened the world tour in Chicago on 19th June 2014. Moreover, the whole show experienced positive reactions from audience. [34]

Mercury was the most important *Queen*'s member with his unique showmanship and flamboyant stage persona, and was irreplaceable. Although it has been 25 years since Freddie Mercury passed away, the legacy of *Queen* continues. The group is still active with imperceptible personnel changes. Even John Deacon as a dormant partner, approves entire activities around the group. *Queen* remains as one of the prime front runners of Rock and roll history.

3 Queen's Diversity

3.1 The Band's Origin and Specific Style

Right from the first *Queen's* appearance in the artistic world, the band had been creating a diverse style providing for its long-lasting success and progressiveness, addressing the 1970s music audience.

It is important to add that *The Beatles* split on 10th April 1970. *Led Zeppelin* was the most successful rock band of that era. Although *Queen* was compared to *Led Zeppelin* and though the band was highly influenced by *Led Zeppelin's* style, they started to be steadily distinguished by musical audience as divergent performers. [35] Its four members, every one of them a strong and different personality, participated in the production and creation of song-writing, designed their own album cover images, produced shows and shared philosophy of the band's musical and artistic development. Main concept of the band's production was to alter the music style with every new released studio album. This unspecified attitude allowed the group to spring across fashionable styles throughout their recording history. *Queen* surpassed others with unaccustomed thoughts and sounds because they "did not tremble" when facing new waves of sounds. [36]

Queen's main music genre was rock and progressive rock but the uniqueness of *Queen's* composition and their specific sound was created by May's guitar *Red Special* enhanced with Deacon's home-made "*Deacy Amp*"⁶. Another component of the band's sound which became their trademark was that they used their own vocals properly as their voices allowed them to sound like a massive overdubbed choir. [37]

3.1.1 Innovative Acoustics

Queen's versatility when it comes to music styles and genres is possible to be traced while listening to their studio albums. Their first two albums "*Queen*" and "*Queen 2*" were more classic rock and progressive-rock-oriented.

⁶ "Deacy Amp" is a home-made guitar amplifier created by John Deacon and used by Brian May during concerts. Amplifiers strengthen the weak electrical signals from a pickup on electric guitar. [38]

Queen were already developing their individual sound, including multi-tracking voice recordings. Their breakthrough came with “*Seven Seas Of Rhye*”. [39] They introduced more of glam rock sound with another released albums. Supposedly the most obvious change in their production is evident on the album “*A Night At The Opera*” where they presented their taste and sense for opera elements that they blended together with hard rock sound. [40] Another outstanding changeover is detectable on the seventh album “*Jazz*”, [41] where the composition is plunged in various music styles featuring jazz syntax. “*The Game*” is *Queen*’s most progressive album consisting of a mixture of various styles including then-popular funk rock and disco style. Along with experimentation with various styles, *Queen* continued to be faithful to their original classic rock roots and musical and spiritual beliefs. [42]

3.1.2 Bohemian Rhapsody and Beyond

Right from their entering the music industry in Great Britain, *Queen* were able to take top positions in the music charts with their songs. “*Bohemian Rhapsody*” from “*A Night At The Opera Album*” written by Freddie Mercury figures among the most celebrated hits. This 5:55-long piece blends passages of hard rock, ballad segment, opera elements and a guitar solo together.⁷ Multi-tracking and over dubbings were recorded in six different studios. Although the song was primarily refused to be played on the radio due its full-length, Kenny Everett⁸ took the recording and presented secretly the song. “*Bohemian Rhapsody*” was played 14 times over the weekend. The song was even nicknamed by May and *Queen*’s fans “*Bo Rap*”. Thanks to its unique and never-before-recorded composition, the song became an unforgettable hit and established *Queen* as a major force. [43]

Moreover, the song became also an earworm for 1990s movie fans all over the world when it was introduced as an opening song in the now-legendary

⁷ Another song implementing a unique composition is “*Innuendo*” from the album “*Innuendo*” – a 6:29-long track with several inconsistent periods featuring flamenco and opera elements. [44]

⁸ Kenny Everett was famous British radio disc jockey for BBC Radio 1 and television comedian. [45]

movie “*Wayne’s World*”⁹, starring a young Mike Myers. *Queen’s* songs also accompanied other two movies that are well-known to the movie fans all over the world – “*Highlander*” (1986) and “*Flash Gordon*” (1980), which transformed *Queen* into a successful and formative band also in the movie industry. [46]

[47] The band crossed over the borders of music industry again with the singles “*We Will Rock You*” and “*We Are The Champions*” both songs from “*News Of The World*” album. For the unifying power, they spontaneously became the anthems¹⁰ of various football teams and winners of sport matches. “*I Want To Break Free*” from “*The Works*” album became a powerful hit in South Africa and South America when it turned into a protest song against political oppression. [48]

Queen were also very closely connected to the world outside of the music studios, searching for inspiration in the outer world and in everyday reality. For example, “*Bicycle Race*” from “*Jazz*” album, was inspired by *Tour de France*, a sport event, passing through Montreux at time of *Queen’s* presence in the recording studio there. [49] Another highly acclaimed song is “*One Vision*” from “*A Kind Of Magic*” album. The lyrics to the song were inspired by *Martin Luther King’s* speech “*I have a dream*”, one of the most motivational speeches of the 20th century. Also, the idea for “*Scandal’s*” lyrics from “*The Miracle*” album was a confession of the group members concerning the British press. They despised it. *Queen* were repeatedly dealing with press and critics considering their abilities and accomplishments as spurious and erring. And finally, “*Somebody To Love*,” a gospel aligned song from “*A Day At Races*” album was written by Mercury and inspired by Mercury’s love and admiration for Aretha Franklin.¹¹ From the writing aspect, Mercury preferred this song over “*Bohemian Rhapsody*”. [50]

⁹ *Wayne’s World* is an American comedy, written by Mike Myers also playing a lead role. [51]

¹⁰ Anthem is a song expressing patriotic sentiment. Anthem can be officially authorized by government or holds this position in popular feeling. [52]

¹¹ Aretha Franklin is an American soul singer. Franklin defined the golden age of soul. She is labelled as “*Queen of Soul*”. [53]

3.1.3 An Overview of Queen's Recordings in Context

Queen Studio Albums	Year of Release	Country of recording	Most successful songs	Charts	Firsts and Peculiarities
Queen	1973	London, UK	Liar, Keep Yourself Alive	No. 24 in UK	Recorded during nights. Uniqueness of composition and specific sound.
Queen 2	1974	London, UK	Seven Seas Of Rhye,	No. 5 in UK	Permission to record during the day, became successful after Queen appeared in "Top of the Pops" substituting David Bowie
Sheer Heart Attack	1974	4 different studios in England and Wales	Killer Queen	No. 2 in UK	Killer Queen became the first worldwide hit. First silver disc achievement for this album.
A Night at the Opera	1975	6 different studios in UK	Bohemian Rhapsody, You Are My Best Friend,	No. 1 in UK	Bohemian Rhapsody 9 weeks No. 1 hit, album was recorded for 4 months, one of the most expensive albums ever recorded
A Day at the Races	1976	London, UK	Somebody To Love, Tie Your Mother Down	No. 2 in UK, Japan, Netherlands	First album produced solely by Queen, one of the most distinguished albums by fans. First Queen's album to be advertised on TV
News of the World	1977	London, UK	We Are The Champions, We Will Rock You, Spread Your Wings	No. 4 in UK, No. 3 in USA	Achievement of platinum sales in USA, remains the worldwide best-selling studio albums
Jazz	1978	Montreux, Switzerland	Bicycle Race, Fat Bottomed Girls, Jealousy	No. 1 in Portugal, No. 4 in Japan	Gold sales status in UK, Platinum status in USA, various music styles, jazz syntax
Live Killers	1979	Recorded during Queen's European tour	We Will Rock You, Love Of My Life	No. 3 in UK, No. 16 in USA	Gold sales status in UK, Special single album release was issued in South Africa with all proceeds going to Kutlawamong School for the deaf and deaf-

					blind in Bophuthatswana ¹² to build a new wing of the school
The Game	1980	Munich, Germany	Crazy Little Things Called Love, Save Me, Play The Game	No. 1 in UK, No. 1 in USA	Gold sales status in UK, Turning point in funk and disco sound, first Queen album with synthesizers ¹³
Hot Space	1982	Montreux, Switzerland, Munich, Germany	Under Pressure, Body Language, Las Palabras De Amor	No. 4 in UK, No. 22 in USA, No. 1 in Austria	Gold sales status in UK and in USA, greatest divergence from band's typical rock roots
The Works	1984	Los Angeles, USA, Munich, Germany	Radio Ga Ga, I Want To Break Free, It's A Hard Life	No. 2 in UK, No. 1 in Portugal, No. 1 in Holland	Platinum sales status in UK, Gold sales status in USA. Return to rock roots. Every track available as a single
A Kind of Magic	1986	London, UK, Munich, Germany, Montreux, Switzerland	Friends Will Be Friends, A Kind Of Magic, One Vision, Who Wants To Live Forever	No. 1 in UK	Double platinum status in UK, several of the songs appear on the "Highlander" movie soundtrack
The Miracle	1989	London, UK, Montreux, Switzerland	I Want It All, Breakthru, The Invisible Man, Scandal	No. 1 in UK	Platinum sales status in UK, Gold status in US, all song credited as being written by the band collectively for the first time
Innuendo	1991	London, UK, Montreux, Switzerland	Innuendo, I'm Going Slightly Mad, Headlong, Show Must Go On	No. 1 in UK, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Finland	Platinum sales status in UK, Gold sales status in US, album valued by critics for a creative vivacity
Made in Heaven	1995	Montreux, Switzerland	Heaven For Everyone, Too Much Love Will Kill You, Let Me Live	No. 1 in UK, Austria, Denmark, Poland, Spain, New Zealand,	Gold sales status in USA, multiple platinum status across the world, recorded 4 years after Mercury's death, dedicated to Freddie Mercury

¹² Bophuthatswana is a former republic, as it was never internationally recognized as a republic. It consisted of seven territorial units located in north-central South Africa near a border with Botswana. The territory is a homeland for the Republic of South Africa's Tswana people. [54]

¹³ Synthesizer is a machine that electronically generates and modifies sound. It is used in live performances. [55]

3.2 Queen's Most Memorable Promotional Videos

Queen became famous among other things also for their promotional videos. The first one was made in order to support the number one hit "*Bohemian Rhapsody*". At that time, *Queen* were about to go on tour and due to the song's complexity, the members decided to create a promotional video, which would help them promote the track in "*Top of the Pops*"¹⁴. The kaleidoscope effects were used to create multiple camera angles. The dark-almost-gothic stylization previously used on the front cover of their second album became a truly iconic image inherently linked with this band. (See Appendix 4) *Queen* became the first band that released a promotional video single, with total costs reaching up to £3500. [56] Another milestone achieved by *Queen* in the music videos sphere was the making of video for "*These Are The Days Of Our Lives*". It was the first animated music video ever and it was done by "*Walt Disney animation studios*" in Hollywood. [57]

The "*Innuendo*" promo-video is one of the longest video ever made with duration over 6:34. The video was directed by *Rudi Dolezal*, a long time collaborator on *Queen's* video and concert shows. There are several versions available. Original video included footage from *the Second World War*. Prior to the "*Innuendo*" release, war broke out in *the Persian Gulf* and therefore it was improper to include the footage. [58]

Furthermore, *Queen* did not experiment only with the visual style of their videos, they were also keen on trying new settings for the video shooting itself. For example, for the video for the single "*Bicycle Race*" the band rented the *Wimbledon Stadium* for one day in order to shoot the promotional video that featured naked women circling around on bicycles, a controversial deed itself. The video was later forbidden in many countries due to its signs of sexism. [59] However, it was not the only one. The promotional video for "*I Want To Break Free*" was also classified as controversial as the *Queen* members were all dressed in drag.¹⁵ Taylor came up with this idea and it was intended to be a

¹⁴ Top of the Pops was British television programme broadcasted by BBC featuring British music chart. [60]

¹⁵ "Drag" or "drag queen" is a practice of wearing the clothes of the opposite sex. Drag is considered performance art when presented to an audience [61]

parody and also a tribute to a long-running British soap opera “*Coronation Street*”. Roger Taylor describes *Queen*’s intention of this video as follows: ‘*We wanted people to know that we didn't take ourselves too seriously, that we could still laugh at ourselves. I think we proved that.*’ The video was banned by “*MTV*”. The broadcasting of this video was not allowed until 1991. Despite the agitation, it has become one of the most notable and high-powered of *Queen*’s promo videos. [62]

3.3 *Queen*’s Most Remarkable and Impressive Realizations

Every released studio album was followed up by an album-tour cycle. *Queen*’s tour in Japan from 1981, where the group was highly acclaimed counts among the highest achievements. Also, during the concerts for “*News of the World*” in Munich in May in 1978, the show was broadcast on screen and so *Queen* became the first band using screen broadcasting on their concerts. [63] With the “*Magic Tour*” in 1984, *Queen* was the first band to play nine concerts in *Sun City, South Africa*. Although the group was later accused of supporting apartheid, they rejected this accusation and claimed that they were performing for a diverse audience and opposed apartheid. With the “*Magic Tour*” *Queen* was also the first group performing in *the Eastern Block* in Budapest. [64] [65] *Queen* experienced their greatest success in *Rio de Janeiro in Brazil* in 1985, where the band sold out one of the world's biggest football stadiums within hours, performing in front of *250 000 visitors* the first night and *150 000 visitors* the second night. Unofficially the numbers were matching higher attendance up to *250 000 visitors* each night. Both concerts started at around 2 a.m. The shows were recorded and afterwards broadcast on television with more than *200 million* viewers in South America. [66]

Queen was voted as best performer of all times by the press and the fans for its attendance on the fundraising concert “*Live Aid*” for Ethiopia in Wembley Stadium on 13th July 1986. *Queen* rehearsed more professionally than anyone else. The running time for a particular performer was only 18 minutes. The show was broadcast by *BBC* and *Radio One*. The concert was broadcast in 160 countries around the Globe and viewed by one and half billion viewers. [67] [68]

Their uniqueness also manifested itself in the diverse development of their characteristic shows. It was typical of *Queen* to involve the audience in the show by vocal warming-up the crowd with Mercury's performances, as they perceived concerts as a kind of entertainment for their supporters. Mercury developed a flamboyant-stage-persona style influenced by his admiration for *Liza Minnelli*¹⁶. The theatrical Broadway elements distinguished the band from others. They rehearsed relentlessly before every concert, using their own electronic equipment and lighting. Taylor and May vocally accompanied Mercury, the lead vocalist. The use of tailored-made costumes at early stage of their career, created by celebrated British designer *Zandra Rhodes* became their trade mark as well as using the make-up and black nail polish in 1970s. The concerts alternated together with *Queens*'s music style and every tour was conceived with a different show format (see Appendix 1). [69] [70]

The singles released by the group from their studio albums were published on VHSs and DVDs. "*Greatest Flix*", "*Magic Years*", "*Live At Wembley'86*" and "*Made In Heaven*" figure among the most successful ones. [71] The history of *Queen* is chronologically registered in various official publications authorized by the group. There are also many *Queen* comic books which have appeared throughout the years in support of the band. EMI has published song books and music sheets for fans as well as Tour Programs to promote the release of every studio album. [72]

3.4 Awards and Success Surpassing the Purely Musical Sphere

Having sold more than 150 million albums worldwide, *Queen* have not only been contributing to the music industry but they also raised, or rather are still raising, a charity fund through the "*The Mercury Phoenix Trust*". Among the most considerable awards honoured to *Queen* are "*Living Legends*" received at "*The Classic Rock and Roll of Honour*" ceremony in November 2015. [73] In

¹⁶ Liza Minnelli is an American actress and singer known for her performances in musicals. For her most famous performance in *Cabaret* film from 1972 she won Academy Award and Emmy Award. [74]

2003, *Queen* were honoured by being awarded a place in “*The Songwriters Hall of Fame*”. In 1987, the group received “*The Ivor Novello Award*”¹⁷ for Outstanding Contribution to British Music. [75] [76]

“*Bohemian Rhapsody*” is registered in “*The 2002 Guinness Book of Records*” which lists “*Bohemian Rhapsody*” as the top British single of all time. The year 2015 was the 40th anniversary of the hit and by the time of the release in 1975, the song spent nine weeks in the UK charts at No. 1, the song peaked at No. 1 of UK chart again after Mercury’s death in 1991 and stayed there for five weeks. [77] In the same year, *Queen* were honoured by *Capital FM Awards* for their “*Outstanding Contribution to Music*” and they also received their own star on *the Hollywood Walk of Fame* in Los Angeles on 18th October 2002. Normally, such a credit is not given to musicians. [78] [79]

Another acknowledging of their success came from *The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame* in the USA into which they were introduced on 19th March 2001. *Queen* were honoured many times for their best-selling singles and albums such as for “*Killer Queen*” from “*Sheer Heart Attack*” album in 1975. “*Killer Queen*” was written by Freddie Mercury and he received his first “*The Ivor Novello Award*” for it. [80] Mercury received his second award for “*Bohemian Rhapsody*”. [81] The “*Greatest Hits II*” album has to date achieved 5 times platinum award. It is also No. 1 compilation hit album around the world. [82]

4 Elementary classification of Rock and its Subgenres

Before showing examples of how *Queen* influenced successive generations of music artists, it might be useful to introduce and summarily subdivide rock genres covered by *Queen*’s recordings.

Rock as a music style is complexly stratified and includes a wide range of subgenres. As already mentioned, *Queen* distinguished themselves with a broad range of sounds on every album with incomparable content and style. Therefore, *Queen* is a formidable example for submission into one particular

¹⁷ The Ivor Novello Awards are awards for song writing and composing, They are named after Ivor Novello, Welsh composer and play writer [83]

genre. The main *Queen*'s style is a rock¹⁸ or classic rock music style, which is characterized by a guitar-driven strong sound, supplemented with guitar solos and drums accompanied with a singing line and originated from Rock & Roll. Classic rock later developed into heavier sound with bass guitars and was called hard rock. Additional rock subgenres which are recognizable in *Queen*'s works is a progressive rock synonymously called art rock, distinguishing itself with carefully-worked-out compositional structure of lyrics and sound. Track composition is generally longer, elements of different music genres like jazz¹⁹ and pop²⁰ can be enclosed. [84]

On the other hand, glam rock is differentiated from other rock genres essentially in visual aspects. The emphasis is put on costumes; flamboyance of a group or of a main lead singer and the production is distinctive in elaborate stage productions. The musical aspect of glam as an alternative, glitter rock is very diverse and hard to define as well as other genres. These are unfolded from one another. They are often blended and composed. Modifications of certain styles frequently originate from an earlier genre with minor divergence. For better understanding, a transparent diagram of the music genre, which was featured in American film "*The School of Rock*" (See Appendix 2.) [85]

5 Queen as a Formative Force in Music Industry

Due to a unique music sound complexity, an ability of playing various instruments and an art of composing their own repertoire with catchy melodies and memorable lyrics, *Queen* became one of the leading groups of Rock and roll history. Their visible influence on the music field can be heard in works of various artists.

¹⁸ Rock or classic rock is characterized by a strong beat with use of rock instruments such as electric guitars, bass guitar, drums and other rock instruments. Rock is a kind of music with simple tunes and very strong beat. Rock emerged in the 1950s. [86]

¹⁹ Jazz is a musical form, often improvisational, developed by African Americans and influenced by both European harmonic structure and African rhythms. It was developed partially from ragtime and blues. [87]

²⁰ Pop or pop music has primarily come into usage to describe music that evolved out of the Rock and roll revolution of the mid-1950's and continues in a definable path. [88]

5.1 The Darkness

Despite the fact that every music band is unique in its own way, certain influences can be recognized. Among the most recognisable worshipers of *Queen*'s symphonic legacy are groups such as "*The Darkness*" with noticeable acoustic structure of songs and clothing features most likely drawing inspiration from *Queen*'s repertoire (For comparison see Appendix 3).

The Darkness is a British rock band from Suffolk, formed in 1999. The original band members were Justin David Hawkins, a lead vocal singer and guitarist, his younger brother Daniel Francis Hawkins with supporting vocals and guitar, a long time school friend Francis Gilles Poullain-Patterson known as Frankie Poullain, also with supporting vocals and a bass guitar player and drummer Edwin James "Ed" Graham. [89]

Under this formation *The Darkness* achieved international success in 2003, with their debut album "*Permission to land*" and the group toured all over Europe and United States. The album peaked at No. 1 in Great Britain and the sales of the album achieved quadruple platinum status. In the following year, the group won *Brit Awards* for *Best British Group*, *Best British Rock Act* and *Mastercard British Album*. [90] [91]

With their second album released in 2005, "*One Way Ticket to Hell... and Back*" *The Darkness* maintained resembling level of their previous success, but the group began to fall apart from inside. Poullain left the group due to differing opinions and Hawkins struggled with alcohol and drug addiction and he decided to enter a drug rehab facility treatment. [92]

After the band's first break up, the group released "*The Platinum Collection*" in 2006. The front cover of the album strongly resembles *Queen*'s front cover for "*Bohemian Rhapsody*" single. This front cover version of one of the most remarkable *Queen*'s song was released in 1975 for Italian music market. A different format of the cover version was chosen for the UK and USA. (For better illustration see Appendix 4). [93] [94]

In 2012, the band reconciled and released their third album "*Hot cakes*". The album was received positively. In 2012, the group opened for *Lady Gaga*'s "*The Born This Way Ball*" tour in Africa and Europe. [95] After several changes in personnel, the group now consists of three original members. Original

drummer Graham left the group in 2005, and he was replaced by Rufus Taylor, a son of *Queen*'s drummer Roger Taylor. In 2015, *The Darkness* released their last album "*Last of Our Time*". They are currently touring with "*THE BACK TO THE USSA*" tour 2016 USA. [96] *Lady Gaga*, mentioned above, is yet another example of a music performer with obvious influence from *Queen*. The female artist chose a moniker "*GaGa*", added Lady in front of it from *Queen*'s hit "*Radio Ga Ga*". The singer claimed herself to be influenced mainly by *Queen*'s glam rock melodies and onstage showmanship, although she is mainly pop-music oriented. [97]

5.1.1 Lyrics Resemblance

The Darkness follow *Queen* also in their formation. Both bands consist of four talented musicians; all of them are gifted instrument players. In addition, members of *The Darkness* are likewise songwriters. *The Darkness* also won "*Ivor Novello Award*" in category "*Songwriters of the Year*" in 2004 for "*I Believe In A Thing Called Love*". This particular song embodies similar features in lyrics such as *Queen*'s song "*Crazy Little Thing Called Love*." (For more detailed comparison, see Appendix 5). [98] The song composition of other songs especially from *The Darkness*'s first album "*Permission To Land*" also resembles *Queen*'s lyrics. Therefore, they have been repeatedly denounced by *Queen*'s fans for being copycats of their repertoire, although they are not a cover band just as they compose own music.

Another parallel that can be stated is a similar admission towards the whole music industry and the group having its place in it. Since the beginning, the group worked relentlessly and rehearsed frequently. They wanted to be seen as a band, which is having fun with delivering music to audience, doing it predominantly for entertainment and their enjoyment not for wealth or achieving international superstar status. Similarly to *Queen*, *The Darkness* also had difficulties with signing a contract with a record company and dealing with critics reprehending their absence of talent. [99]

5.1.2 Tune and Singing

The Darkness was a noteworthy rock group from yet another perspective. They had chosen not to follow the path of rock music, but vice versa with returning the classic rock back to its roots of 1970s and 1980s sound. Traditionally *Queen*'s acoustics are performed by May with long guitar solos supported with bass guitar and imbedded in a song composition. *The Darkness*'s electric guitar performance is mainly provided by brothers Hawkins, both of them powerful guitar players. They alternate each other as it depends on a complexity of syntax. Resemblances are detectable even in lesser known ballad-oriented philosophically directed compositions such as "Curse Of The Tollund Man" from "Love Is Only A Feeling" single by *The Darkness* when matched to *Queen*'s "39" song from "A Night At The Opera". [100] [101]

Justin Hawkins as a lead singer disposes with a powerful tenor²¹ voice, hitting B2 to E6 notes, literally 3 octaves and 3 notes. He is capable of singing falsettos almost the same way *Queen*'s drummer Taylor. On the other hand, Mercury undoubtedly had a broader voice range from F2 to F6, 4 octaves, different sources suggest an even broader capability. What made his performance unique was clarity of pronunciation while singing and natural ability to reach incredible lengths. [102] The same way Mercury was accompanied by background singers Taylor and May, Hawkins is supported by his fellow group members.

5.1.3 On Stage Performance

The Darkness resemblance with *Queen* is not covered only by their style of music. They also inspired themselves with the way they deliver their music to audience. Most visible features, where *The Darkness* drawn Mercury's experience is his onstage flamboyance during concert performances. Hawkins himself admitted that for him as for a concert visitor is very important that a particular show is presented as an ensemble. The emphasis is placed on the

²¹ Tenor is the highest male vocal range, extending from the second B to the G above. It is an extremely high voice. [103]

group delivering an outstanding performance as well as the spectacle which should amuse and inspire the audience. [104]

The showmanship is adapted from Mercury's crowd interaction. Winning a crowd and showing them that they are part of the show, that they are included in the concert. The same way are led the performances by *The Darkness*. Hawkins continues to use the same mixture of practices Mercury was famous for. Another great example is demonstrated in the group's wardrobe. This influence is adapted from *Queen's* early on stage performances, where Mercury was wearing open-chested leotards and ballet slippers. Hawkins is also known for wearing comparable leotard outfits. Also, Hawkins uses a wardrobe of leather trousers and bare-chested image, a typical stereotype of Mercury's live on stage apparel performance.

5.1.4 Further Minor Resemblances

The Darkness produced their second album "*One Way Ticket To Hell... And Back*" in collaboration with Roy Thomas Baker whose name was also connected with *Queen* some years ago. Baker is well known for producing *Queen's* two albums and his name is also behind "*Bohemian Rhapsody*". [105]

On 25th November 2011, *The Darkness* performed a comeback tour at the Hammersmith Apollo in London. Brian May joined the group on stage for three songs. One of them was a cover version of *Queen's* song "*Tie Your Mother Down*". [106] The group mentioned *Queen* as their icon among other groups of the classic rock era. Hawkins proved that *Queen* have a personal endearment for him, having himself tattooed with two images related to *Queen*. One of them is an illustration of vintage mid-'80s synthesizer the DX7 type used by *Queen*. Another *Queen's* tattoo symbolizes the front cover of *Queen's* tenth studio album "*Hot Space*". The cover illustrates four images of faces. Hawkins had these portraits inked on four fingers of his hand. (See the image in Appendix 6)

Despite having been mainly influenced by *Queen* as well as alternative groups, *The Darkness* remains the last of their kind which they proved with the title of "*Last Of Our Kind*" album. [107] *The Darkness* attempt to stay open to new music challenges to come and advance their activity through their work.

They pay tribute to the golden era of classic rock, taking the music very genuinely and authentically as they are being critical about themselves. Likewise *Queen*, the vision that music has no boundaries and can be produced to everyone simply for pleasure and enjoyment reigns for both groups.

5.2 Muse

Besides *The Darkness*, *Muse* are another representative of modern performers, who can be taken as a profoundly influenced artist by *Queen*'s successfully engineered artistic production. In case of *Muse*, the impact is mostly evident in the music conception and therefore they are often likened to *Queen*.

Muse come from Devon, England. The group was founded in 1994 and it consists of three members. Matthew James Bellamy is the main group singer also a guitarist, piano and keyboards player. Christopher Tony Wolstenholme, who supports backing vocals and he is also bass guitar player. Dominic James Howard plays predominantly drums. The three school friends started to perform together at age of 13 and repeatedly altered the band's name until 1997, later they authorized a name *Muse* with which they scored international success. [108] *Muse* have so far published seven studio albums, two live albums and one compilation album. As well as *Queen*, *Muse* also had difficulties with landing a recording contract at the beginning of their music career. Their main music genres are progressive rock and alternative rock, however, with advanced electronic sound. [109] Therefore, *Muse* is described as the modern *Queen* version, but there are also noticeable further influences from various artists playing the same genre.

5.2.1 Song Composition

Further similarities with *Queen* could be traced to the song composition of both groups. For instance, the second album "*Absolution*" was described in "Rolling Stone" online magazine as follows: '*The album found the band inching closer toward Queen territory, especially on the theatrical "Time Is Running Out," [...]*. [110] There are several further reasons why *Muse* are matching *Queen*. A distinguishable pattern can be seen in greater connection and in

diverse and literary comparable writing, although *Queen*'s lyrics are more sophisticated and complex. (For comparison see Appendix 7). Although there can be confirmed no direct influence in lyrics department, as every group writes the lyrics inspired by their life events or confessions which they want to express, there are other songs containing similarities. (For detailed comparison see Appendix 8).

The influence can be also studied in their affection for choir-like grandiose singing and with production of syntax structure which blends together various music styles like jazz, flamenco and opera sound. When it comes to similarities with particular songs *Muse*'s hit "*United States Of Eurasia*" from their studio album "*Resistance*" embodies resemblances to *Queen*'s songs. Already with first piano notes and guitar riffs, the song composition supplemented with *Queen*-style overdubbed vocals, the whole syntax strongly resembles *Queen*'s "*Innuendo*" or "*Bohemian Rhapsody*". Furthermore, the ending part features *Chopin*'s "*Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 2*"²² Even Brian May noted similarity within this song and he expressed his opinion saying that '*[Muse] said they liked [Queen] and that [they]ve been an influence, which is obviously nice for someone like [May] to hear*'. [111] [112]

Another inspiration from *Queen* comes with mastery of May like traditional acoustic guitar craftsmanship. Bellamy being talented guitarist is capable of performing sophisticated melodies. *Bellamy*'s dynamic voice can be compared to *Mercury*'s voice when it comes to his broad voice range, although both vocalists possess unique and incomparable voice types. *Muse*'s lead singer is able to hit A2, A4 and A5, over three and half octaves. This allows him to deliver an expansive range of falsettos. [113]

5.2.2 On Stage Performance

Moreover, *Muse* are able to deliver spectacular on-stage performances during their live shows. The way Bellamy commands the stage and the way he interacts with audience is comparable to *Mercury*'s stage presence. A great emphasis is also given to rehearsals and concert preparation. *Muse* are greatly

²² Frédéric Chopin was Polish French composer of the Romantic period, best known for his piano solo pieces [114]

appreciated as artists being honoured with various music awards such as multiple “*Grammy Awards*” in 2011 for “*Best Rock Performance by a Duo or a Group with Vocals*” for already mentioned album “*Resistance*” and in 2016 they won “*Grammy Award*” in category “*Best Rock Album*” for “*Drones*”. Alongside, they were honoured with “*Ivor Novello Award*” in category International achievement for “*Resistance*”. [115]

Muse members are *Queen* devotees and they admitted using ideas from a number of their influential classic music icons, both with lyrics and melody. Bellamy supports this fact saying that ‘*one of the strengths of the band, is the massive range of musical influences [...] From Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Blondie, and, more than anything, Queen.*’ [116]

Muse are yet another example of how *Queen*’s individuality and distinctiveness forced their instrumentality and form. *Queen* is for the band inspirational part for their composition but they should not be seen as *Queen*’s clone or copycat, however, they likely match as a modern and youthful incarnation of *Queen*. Following the footsteps of their model with attempting to achieve unexplored and innovative directions, *Muse* showed that they are a progressive group in the same way *Queen* were in 1970s and 1980s. Selling out stadiums, *Muse* have already achieved international success and they are being highly acclaimed by their devotees and critics for their contributions on music field.

5.3 Foxy Shazam

Besides *Muse*, “*Foxy Shazam*” represent other unique yet highly influenced performer inclining towards songful and tuneful *Queen*’s territory. Aforementioned, relatively new-born American formation originates from Ohio and they were formed in 2004. Just like in the case of numerous music bands, additional member replacements occurred during their music career. Although the group scored international success and released five studio albums, *Foxy Shazam* disbanded in October 2014. [117] Before disbanding for an unknown length of time, the group was performing and was composed of main vocalist Eric Sean Nally, guitarist Loren Daniel Turner, pianist Schuyler Vaughn White,

bass player Daisy Caplan, trumpeter and back-up vocalist Alex Nauth and finally Aaron McVeigh, drum player. [118]

Their main music genre was pop and rock, the sub-genre-melding sound blended between hard rock, alternative rock and glam rock. The group's main benefit was their eccentric lead singer Nally and his howling vocals. He resembles Mercury not only because of his physical appearance thanks to his moustache and rather with his singing ability. His voice resembles Mercury's voice. Listening to diverse songs, the likeness is noticeable, with his broad range hitting the highest notes and in particular a similar vocal timbre.

By finding influence from *Queen*, *Foxy Shazam's* song "*(It's) Too Late Babe*" from their fourth studio album "*The Church of Rock and Roll*" embodies similar structure of the whole syntax alike classic rock *Queen's* style. The opening part with singing section is accompanied by piano and drums which gradually verges to a longer May-like guitar solo and more dynamic drum beat. The whole syntax is accompanied by over-dubbed choir typical for *Queen* and finally concluded with graduating electronic guitar ending. [119]

This significant mark is hearable on the first *Queen's* studio album (See table 1., p. 12), where the beat also moves forward and back. Intensity of guitar solos interweaves, the whole arrangement of above mentioned songs is similar to *Queen's* "*Doing All Right*". The whole album "*The Church of Rock and Roll*" is predominantly hard and glam rock directed and therefore with the acoustic sound is more 70s and 80s orientated. Another parallel can be heard in *Shazam's* song "*The Temple*" from the same album, evoking hard rock vibes in chord progression of *Queen's* "*Son And Daughter*" from their first album "*Queen*". The resemblance to *Queen's* sound is not accidental. The producer in charge for this particular studio album was *The Darkness's* lead singer, Justin Hawkins. [120]

Foxy Shazam's song composition embodies direct influence towards *Queen's* territory the lyrics on the other hand are mainly modest, easily memorised but there can be recognized alike content by some songs. (For comparison see Appendix 9)

5.3.1 On stage presence

Although *Foxy Shazam* is incomparable to *Queen* in their grandeur, challenging the largest stadiums and ginormous attendance of their concert tours, the group retains their own supporters of non-mainstream. Nally treats the audience magnificently and interacts with them in the way similar to Mercury. Although he proceeds to extremities, uses vulgar language, tells jokes to audience and uses his cheekiness, his confidence coming out from the performance as well as Nally's mastering the stage can be compared to *Queen* absolute proof of importance to enthuse the fans.

Last but not least, rock genre retains its attractiveness for new generations of listeners. *Foxy Shazam* is an example of a rock band finding inspiration in *Queen's* music legacy and also endeavour to diversify from a large quantity of disparate music bands and performers. [121]

6 Queen's Legacy

Despite the abovementioned groups creating their own repertoire, they follow or embrace specific elements from *Queen's* work. *Queen* as individual rock group of 1970s and 1980s flared as a leader, advancing new sounds, using new technologies, but still remaining distinguishable for their devotees. *Queen's* greatest contribution to music industry is their leading force as a band of four talented men. All of them without music education, but determined to prove their talents and abilities. At first, *Queen* were a modest formation performing for students at colleges, however after early achievements they overgrew into being a legend. There is a great number of modern bands drawing inspiration from *Queen's* music recordings and compositions, lyrics or wardrobe. *Queen* had the potential to combine diverse music genres. Although the band was not fashionable thing of a moment it continued with being recognized by fans all over the world.

Queen also came up with the overall showmanship and theatrical stage show pioneering the concept of "the bigger the better" in volume, lighting of the stage and Mercury's posturing with half microphone stand. Their tours became iconic thanks to fashionable perception of Mercury's persona as well as due to delivering brilliant performances. Although critics largely acclaimed *Queen's*

work only afterwards, they achieved international success; they were never celebrated or praised by them directly. *Queen* continued to be a leading force on the music field as a result of long-standing improvement in their work having innovative approaches. Not being afraid of modish effects as well as being truthful and sincere to their feelings.

Altogether, *Queen* was not divergent from other groups due to their personnel composition. Their collective thinking and acceptance of feelings and ideas of other members, allowed them to achieve international success. Their collaboration during rehearsals was groundwork for following accomplishments. *Queen* was never viewed as Freddie Mercury and *Queen* or vice versa. Although Mercury was the most noticeable character of the group, their loyalty and solidarity attitude through last year of Mercury's life shows additional illustration of devotion for one another. *Queen* maintain leading force for next generation of performers not only through their complex music legacy, but they also represent individuals with strong will and ability to establish themselves, although they were refused and struggled for existence in the very beginning of their music path.

7 Conclusion

Music has the power to influence its listeners in various forms and has no boundaries therefore it can be delivered to everyone. Music has been continually developing through progressive and modern sounds, fashionable directions and upcoming artist. On the other hand, there are groups such as Queen with the power of being attractive for next generations of listeners and being major influence for artists.

The objective of this thesis was to demonstrate the characteristic features of Queen's work and the resemblance in production of three selected music artists. Furthermore, the thesis aimed to illustrate on various examples impact Queen have had on next generations of performers.

The second chapter introduced Queen and its members. The third chapter is devoted to Queen as a leading force on the music field with all their achievements, being pioneers on various areas connected with music industry. Queen began with its performance and recordings in a golden era of Rock and roll. After The Beatles disbanded, it was expected a new band would follow in their steps, as there was an empty place and listeners demanded compensation for The Beatles. The subchapter 3.4, is devoted to awards Queen were honoured with, although the spectrum of achievements could not be introduced for its extensiveness. The subchapter 3.6, is aimed at elementary classification of rock and its subgenres to understand diversity of music genres and to approximate Queen's main music genres.

The fourth chapter is aimed at three selected music bands from present-day and their works. For comparison, lyrics of their songs, video recordings and audio recordings such as CD's and documentaries about all participants with interviews and tour documentaries were used as well as printed publications such as *Queen: Jak to začalo*, *Legenda Queen: 40 let skupiny*. Another book which helped with orientation through Queen's concerts was *Queen live: koncertní dokument*. All publications are translated into Czech language. The fifth chapter is devoted to Queen, main characterization of the group as a complex unit and Queen's legacy.

The goal was to prove Queen's leading force and impact in music industry. Although three groups were selected from immense variety of groups,

the hypothesis – that Queen have been one of the major influences in world of music - was proven, accompanied with examples of performers being influenced by Queen in diverse spheres of their own production.

The most problematic part of the Bachelors thesis was to find unambiguous music samples from works of selected artists and comparable lyrics. Clear model of influence were The Darkness, where the impact of Queen is blended overall in every aspect of their work.

The extent of this bachelor's thesis is not complete. Additional chapters or subchapters can be added continuing with Queen's impact on another sphere of actions such as animal rights. Brian May being campaigner for animal rights as well as an advocate for political and social change. Another theme could direct us to "Mercury Phoenix Trust" charity organisation founded after Mercury's death in 1991. Alternatively, the topic of the thesis might be further directed towards diverse artists such as Queen revivals, particularly within the Czech Republic with their long tradition and successful achievements. The thesis could be also directed towards the "We Will Rock You Musical" and many others, but that is "the song of the future".

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10 Abstract

The purpose of this Bachelor thesis is to demonstrate Queen's impact on three selected music groups. The thesis is completed with appendices demonstrating Queen's impact.

The thesis is divided into two main parts – the theoretical part and practical part. The theoretical part consists of four chapters and subchapters. The second chapter introduces Queen and its members. The third chapter is aimed at Queen's diversity and their work as well as most recognisable awards and achievements. The fourth chapter introduces main rock genres and subgenres as well as additional music genres Queen accomplished their success. The practical part demonstrates Queen's influence on selected artists featuring examples from lyrics writings, resemblance in song composition and on stage performance.

11 Resumé

Cílem této bakalářské práce je prokázat vliv skupiny Queen na tři zvolené hudební skupiny. Práce je doplněna přílohami, prokazující vliv skupiny Queen na vybrané umělce.

Práce je rozdělena na dvě hlavní části – na část teoretickou a část praktickou. Teoretická část je rozdělena do čtyř hlavních kapitol a podkapitol. Druhá kapitola představuje skupinu Queen a její členy. Třetí kapitola je zaměřena na rozmanitou tvorbu skupiny a na nejvýznamnější ocenění a úspěchy. Čtvrtá kapitola zahrnuje stručný přehled hlavních rockových žánrů a podžánrů, stejně tak ostatní hudební oblasti, kde skupina dosáhla úspěchů. Praktická část demonstruje vliv skupiny Queen na vybraných umělcích s uvedenými příklady textů, podobností hudebních skladeb a vystupováním na jevišti.

12 Appendices

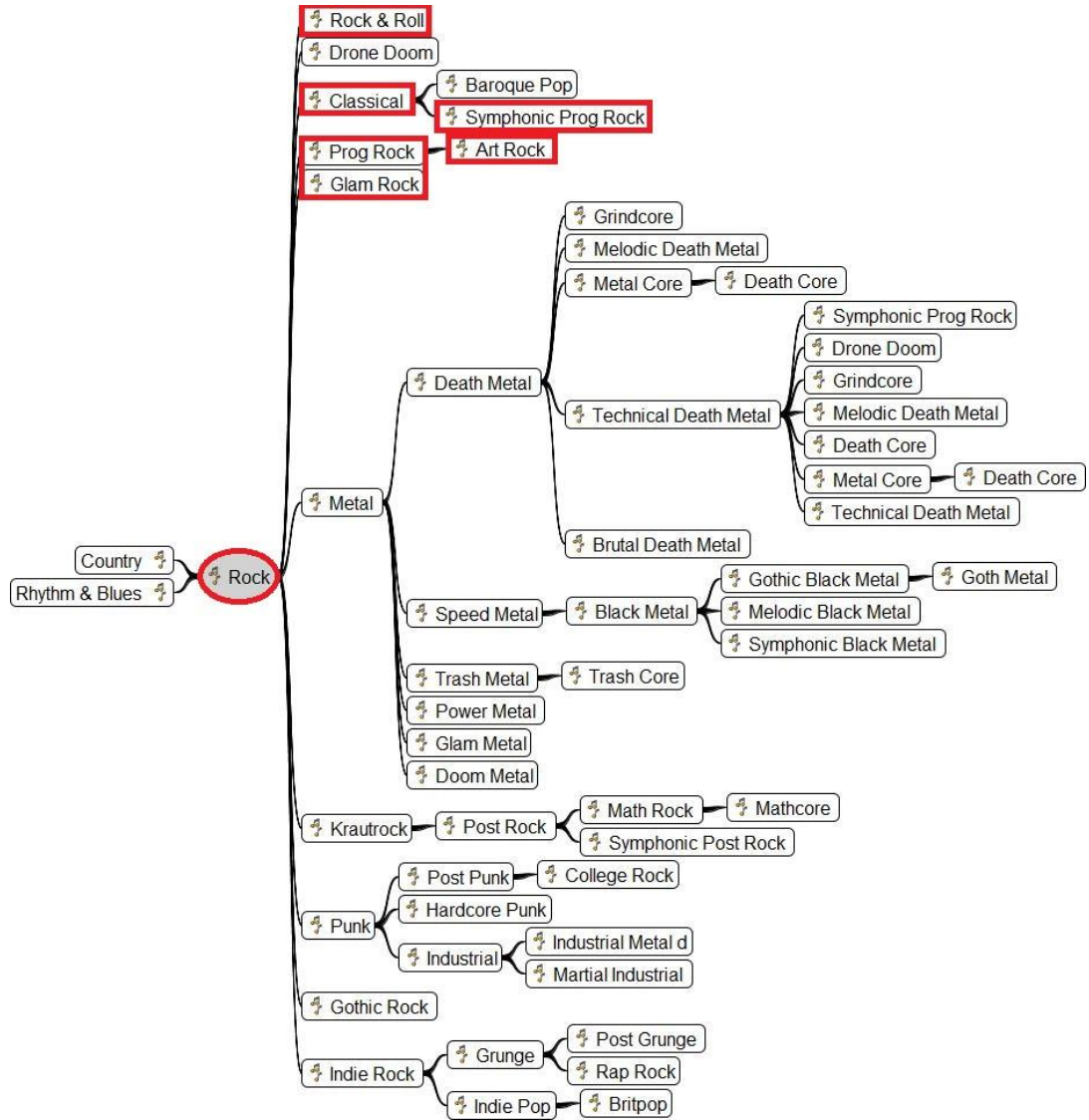
Appendix 1

Queen in tailored costumes by British designer Zandra Rhodes



Appendix 2

Illustration of Queen's Main Music Genres



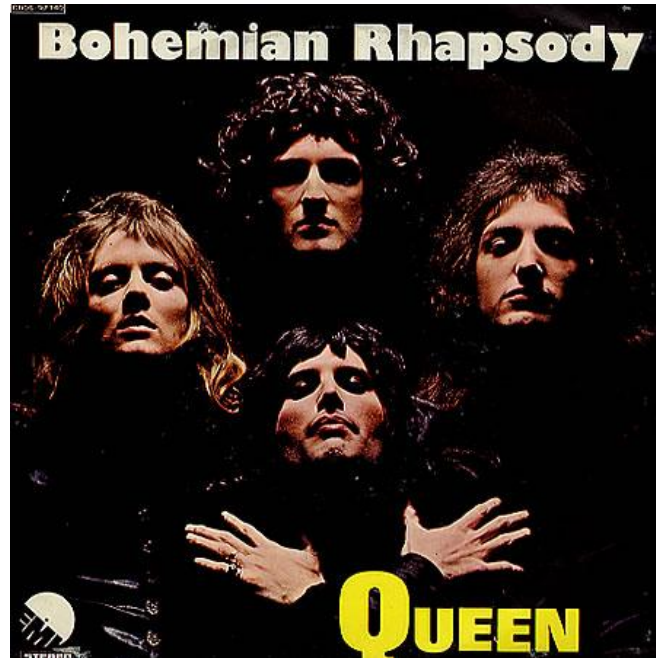
Appendix 3

Justin Hawkins and Freddie Mercury in Open-chested Leotards

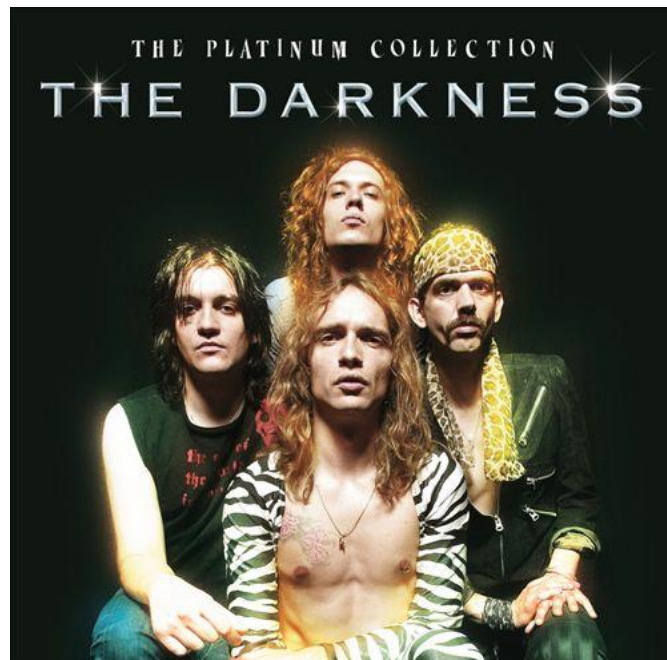


Appendix 4

Bohemian Rhapsody Single Front Cover



The Darkness The Platinum Collection Front Cover



Appendix 5

Crazy Little Thing Called Love by Queen

This thing called love I just can't handle it
 This thing called love I must get round to it
 I ain't ready
 Crazy little thing called love

This thing (this thing) called love (called love)
 It cries (like a baby)
 In a cradle all night
 It swings (wooh wooh)
 It jives (wooh wooh)
 It shakes all over like a jelly fis
 I kind of like it
 Crazy little thing called love

There goes my baby
 She knows how to Rock'n'Roll
 She drives my crazy
 She gives me hot and cold fever
 Then she leaves me in a cool cool sweat

I gotta be cool relax get hip!
 Get on my track's
 Take a back seat
 Hitch hike
 And take a long ride on my motor bike
 Until I'm ready
 Crazy little thing called love

I gotta be cool relax get hip!
 Get on my track's
 Take a back seat
 Hitch hike
 And take a long ride on my motor bike
 Until I'm ready (ready Freddie)
 Crazy little thing called love

This thing called love I just can't handle it
 This thing called love I must get round to it
 I ain't ready
 Crazy little thing called love...

I Believe In A Thing Called Love by the Darkness

Can't explain all the feelings that you're making
 me feel
 My heart's in overdrive and you're behind the
 steering wheel

Touching you, touching me
 touching you, god you're touching me

I believe in a thing called love
 Just listen to the rhythm of my heart
 There's a chance we could make it now
 We'll be rocking 'til the sun goes down
 I believe in a thing called love
 Ooh!

I wanna kiss you every minute, every hour,
 every day
 You got me in a spin but everythin' is A.OK!

Touching you, touching me
 touching you, god you're touching me

I believe in a thing called love
 Just listen to the rhythm of my heart
 There's a chance we could make it now
 We'll be rocking 'til the sun goes down
 I believe in a thing called love
 Ooh! Guitar!

Touching you, touching me
 touching you, god you're touching me

I believe in a thing called love
 Just listen to the rhythm of my heart
 There's a chance we could make it now
 We'll be rocking 'til the sun goes down
 I believe in a thing called love
 Ooh!

Appendix 6

Justin Hawkins's Tattoo



Appendix 7

Sweet Lady by Queen

You call me up and treat me like a dog
 You call me up and tear me up inside
 You've got me on a lead
 Ooh you bring me down you shout around
 You don't believe that I'm alone
 Ooh you don't believe me

Sweet lady sweet lady
 Sweet lady stay sweet you say

You call me up and feed me all the lines
 You call me sweet like I'm some kind of cheese
 Waiting on the shelf
 You eat me up you hold me down
 I'm just a fool to make you a home
 Ooh you really do and you say

Sweet lady sweet lady
 Sweet lady ooh c'mon stay sweet

My sweet lady
 Though it seems like we wait for ever
 Stay sweet baby
 Believe and we've got everything we need
 Sweet lady sweet lady
 Sweet lady stay sweet
 Stay sweet sweet lady

Oh runaway come on
 Yeah yeah
 Yeah yeah
 Sweet lady

Hate This & I'll Love You by Muse

Oh I am growing tired
 Of allowing you to steal
 Everything I have
 You're making me feel
 Like I was born to service you
 But I am growing by the hour

You left us far behind
 So we all discard our souls
 And blaze through your skies
 So unafraid to die

'Cause I was born to destroy you
 And I am growing by the hour
 And I'm getting strong in every way
 Yeah, Yeah

You led me on
 You led me on
 You

Oh, and I'm getting strong in every way
 Yeah, Yeah

Appendix 8

Princes Of The Universe

by Queen

Here we are, born to be kings
 We're the princes of the universe
 Here we belong, fighting to survive
 In a world with the darkest powers
 And here we are, we're the princes of the universe
 Here we belong, fighting for survival
 We've come to be the rulers of your world
 I am immortal, I have inside me blood of kings
 I have no rival, no man can be my equal
 Take me to the future of your world

Born to be kings, princes of the universe
 Fighting and free, got your world in my hand
 I'm here for your love and I'll make my stand
 We were born to be princes of the universe

No man could understand, my power is in my own hand
 Oooh, oooh, oooh, oooh, people talk about you
 People say you've had your day
 I'm a man that will go far
 Fly the moon and reach for the stars
 With my sword and head held high
 Got to pass the test first time - yeah

I know that people talk about me, I hear it every day
 But I can prove you wrong because I'm right first time

Yeah - yeah - alright
 Watch this man fly!
 Bring on the girls!

Here we are, born to be kings, we're the princes of the universe
 Here we belong, born to be kings, princes of the universe
 Fighting and free, got the world in my hands
 I'm here for your love, and I'll make my stand
 We were born to be princes of the universe

Knights Of Cydonia

by Muse

Come ride with me
 Through the veins of history
 I'll show you a god who
 Falls asleep on the job

And how can we win
 When fools can be kings
 Don't waste your time
 Or time will waste you

No one's gonna take me alive
 The time has come to make things right
 You and I must fight for our rights
 You and I must fight to survive

No one's gonna take me alive
 The time has come to make things right
 You and I must fight for our rights
 You and I must fight to survive

No one's gonna take me alive
 The time has come to make things right
 You and I must fight for our rights
 You and I must fight to survive

Appendix 9

It's Late

by Queen

You say you love me
 And I hardly know your name
 And if I say I love you in the candlelight
 There's no-one but myself to blame
 But there's something inside
 That's turning my mind away
 Oh how I could love you
 If I could let you stay

It's late, but I'm bleeding deep inside
 It's late, is it just my sickly pride?
 Too late, even now the feeling seems to steal away
 So late, though I'm crying I can't help but hear you say
 It's late it's late it's late
 But not too late

The way you love me
 Is the sweetest love around
 But after all this time
 The more I'm trying
 The more I seem to let you down
 Now you tell me you're leaving
 And I just can't believe it's true
 Oh you know that I can love you
 Though I know I can't be true
 Oh you made me love you
 Don't tell me that we're through

It's late, but it's driving me so mad
 It's late, yes I know but don't try to tell me that it's
 Too late, save our love you can't turn out the lights
 So late, I've been wrong but I'll learn to be right
 It's late it's late it's late
 But not too late

I've been so long
 You've been so long
 We've been so long trying to work it out
 I ain't got long
 You ain't got long
 We gotta know what this life is all about

Too late much too late
 You're staring at me
 With suspicion in your eye
 You say what game are you playing?
 What's this that you're saying?
 I know that I can't reply
 If I take you tonight
 Is it making my life a lie?
 Oh you make me wonder
 Did I live my life alright?

It's late, but it's time to set me free
 It's late, yes I know

Wasted Feelings

by Foxy Shazam

Feelings of color are painting another
 closet inside which to hide
 Like a crow on a wire, with longing
 desire, waiting for the things below to die

What a wonderful way to waste a feeling
 There's gotta be some kind a way we can work it out
 What a wonderful way to waste a feeling
 Open up the window, let the inside out

Why are we crying?
 Why are we crying girl?

Perfectly crafted, that's why it's lasted
 There, inside, for so long

What a wonderful way to waste a feeling
 There's gotta be some kind a way we can work it out
 What a wonderful way to waste a feeling
 Open up the window, let the inside out

Why are we crying?
 Why are we crying girl?

Like a kite on a wire, the wind blows me higher
 Higher from the ground where I used to be