

**June 7, 1970:  
The Who  
Makes Rock Respectable**

British rock group *The Who* performs its rock opera *Tommy* at New York's Metropolitan Opera in front of two sold-out audiences. Critics hailed the event as marking the acceptance of rock as a serious art form. *Who's Next* (1971) signaled the first serious use of the synthesizer in rock with memorable songs like "Baba O'Riley" and "Won't Get Fooled Again." Another story album, *Quadrophenia* (1973), began the "quadrasonic revolution," which fizzled when the public didn't go for the new sound system. The Who continue to record and tour both individually and as a group, and in 1975 *Tommy* was made into a feature film starring band member Roger Daltrey.

**August 24, 1970:  
Elton John Invades America**

British pop singer *Elton John* makes his U.S. debut at the Troubadour Club in Los Angeles. He drew rave reviews from critics and music personalities for his upbeat style, melodious tunes and poetic lyrics written by partner Bernie Taupin. It was all up from there—by late 1975, when the album *Rock of the Westies* hit #1 on the charts, Elton and Bernie were sitting on top of the rock world with 11 platinum albums and millions of fans. Known to hammer out entire albums in just a few days, Elton

and Bernie—the Rodgers and Hammerstein of rock—can look back on an incredible string of hit singles, as well. Among them: "Daniel," "Rocket Man," "Honky Cat," "Crocodile Rock," "Good-bye Yellow Brick Road" and "Bennie and the Jets."

**March 1, 1971:  
James Taylor  
Hits Cover of Time**

Soft rocker *James Taylor* appears on the cover of *Time* magazine at age 22. His mellow, sensitive sound and deep personal expression were lauded by *Time* as exemplifying "the new rock." Although rock proved too diverse for its collective future to be pinned on Taylor, he went on to become one of the decade's most successful vocalists. The 1971 album *Sweet Baby James*, with hit songs "Fire and Rain" and "Country Road," sold over three million copies. More albums followed, containing such hit songs as "You've Got a Friend," "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight," "Mexico" and "How Sweet It Is." Taylor's 1977 album, *JT*, was one of the top-selling LP's of the year, and the cut "Handy Man" won him a Grammy as "best male vocalist."

**June 18, 1971:  
Rod Stewart  
Wakes Up a Celebrity**

Rod Stewart's hoarse, raspy voice floods the airwaves, belting out a ballad

**THE BIG EVENTS**  
The Dazzling Highlights of a High-Flying Decade

by TIM SMIGHT

to a girl named "Maggie May." With that single, Rod Stewart, former lead singer for the first Jeff Beck group, became an "instant star." The album, *Every Picture Tells a Story*, contained three other hits: "Mandolin Wind," "Reason to Believe" and "(I Know) I'm Losing You." It quickly moved to #1 on the charts. Six more albums followed, all cracking the Top 10 with songs ranging from smooth blues ballads to smoking rock. With his expert touring band, Stewart has become one of the top performing acts in the world. Despite recurring domestic problems, he remains at the top of the rock scene in 1978 with successful U.S. and European tours and a new album, *Foot Loose & Fancy Free*.

**August 8, 1971:  
George Harrison Throws  
Garden Party for Bangladesh**

Ex-Beatle *George Harrison* stages a "Concert for Bangladesh" that fills New York's Madison Square Garden twice, raising over \$250,000 for the famine victims of war-torn East Paki-

stan. Along with Harrison, who was riding a wave of success following the release of his three-record album *All Things Must Pass*, the affair featured Leon Russell, Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr, Billy Preston, and a surprise visit from Bob Dylan. The event was filmed and recorded, and stands out as one of the most notable concerts of the decade.

**September 28, 1972:  
David Bowie Gives Us Glitter**

British phenomenon *David Bowie* makes his New York debut at Carnegie Hall shortly after the release of his second album, *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*. The performance featured elaborate sets, outrageous costumes and spaced-out imagery that pioneered the concept of "glitter rock." With songs ranging from hard-driving rockers about youth to mystical space voyages, Bowie wowed audiences and critics as the garishly clad Ziggy. Several chart-topping songs followed, including "Suffragette City," "Young Americans"

and "Fame." In 1976, Bowie appeared in a three-piece suit, sans makeup, and announced that he had "gone straight."

**July 28, 1973:  
Watkins Glen  
Brings Us Together**

Over 600,000 people turn out for a one-day rock festival at Watkins Glen Speedway in upstate New York. The huge turnout topped that of the Woodstock festival four years earlier and was interpreted by many to mean a rekindling of the "Woodstock spirit." Sixteen hours of music were provided by the Allman Brothers Band, the Grateful Dead, and The Band. The event came off without a hitch.

**December 8, 1973:  
Alice Cooper Has a  
Nightmare in Wonderland**

Hard rocker *Alice Cooper* begins a tour in Nashville that sells out halls nationwide. His nightmarish act, featuring live snakes, guillotines, and the butchering of dolls and mannequins, added a new dimension to rock music: "shock rock" hit the big time. Cooper had burst onto the scene two years earlier, screaming out the frustrations and emotions of youth with the single "I'm Eighteen." Two albums, *School's Out* and *Billion Dollar Babies*, had topped the charts by the time of the 1973 tour. Cooper's angry, intense music and showmanship influenced the

later work of such heavy metal groups as Aerosmith, Deep Purple and Kiss. By 1975, with the release of the single "Only Women Bleed," Cooper himself had mellowed considerably.

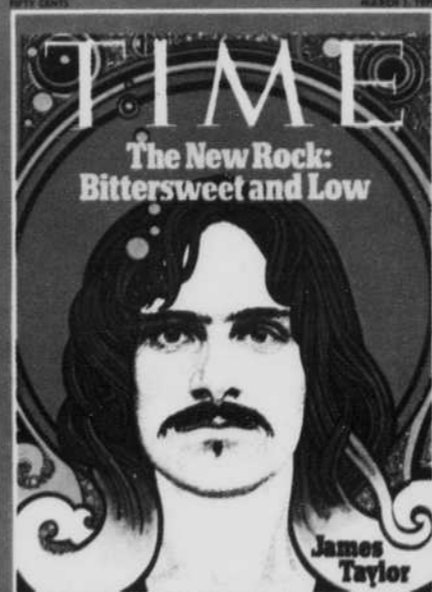
**February 14, 1974:  
Bob Dylan Brings  
It All Back Home—Again**

Sixties' hero *Bob Dylan*, accompanied by *The Band*, completes a six-week 21-city U.S. tour with a concert at the Los Angeles Forum. Over 650,000 fans flocked to see Dylan on the tour. Mail order requests for tickets were upwards of 15 million, including 300,000 requests for the 18,500 seats at the final Forum concert. Although he had appeared in a film (*Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*) and had performed at the Concert for Bangladesh in 1971, the tour marked Dylan's first series of live appearances in eight years. Two years later, in 1976, he toured again, accompanied by The Band and a large group of friends including Joan Baez, Roger McGuinn and poet Allen Ginsberg. Picking up guests along the way, the "Rolling Thunder Revue" generated both a television special and a feature film, *Renaldo and Clara*.

**April 10, 1974:  
Bruce Springsteen  
Declared Rock's Future**

Rock critic *Jon Landau* catches *Bruce Springsteen's* show in Boston

Roger Daltrey



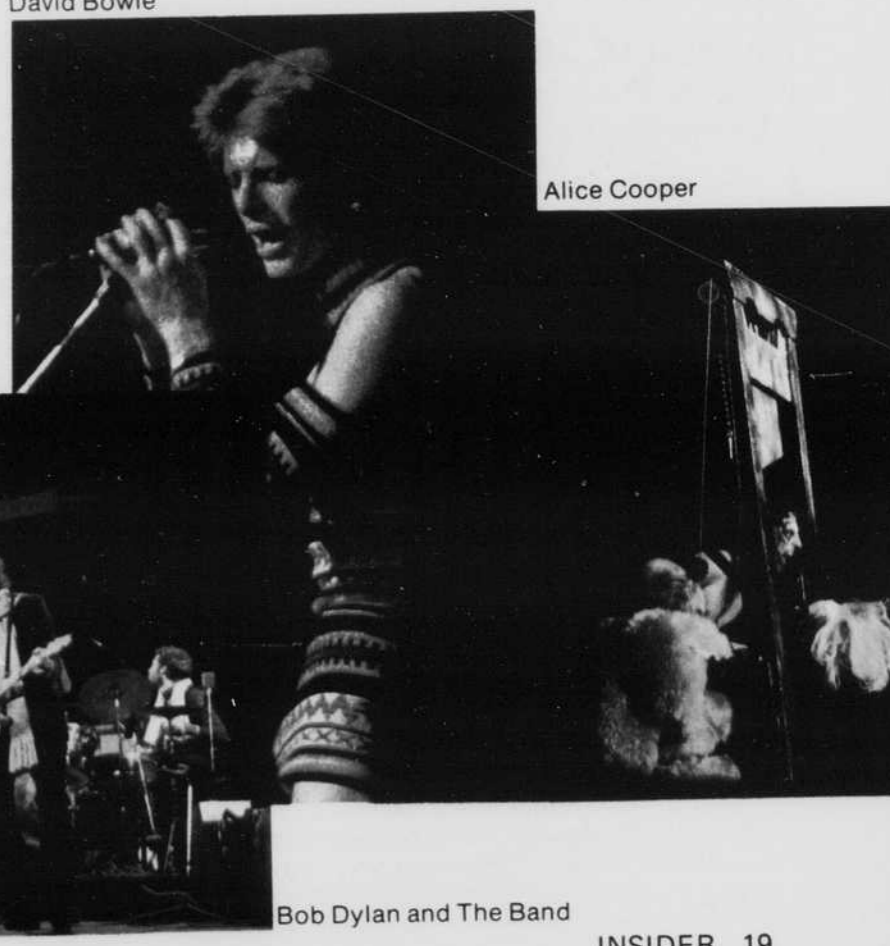
Rod Stewart



Bruce Springsteen



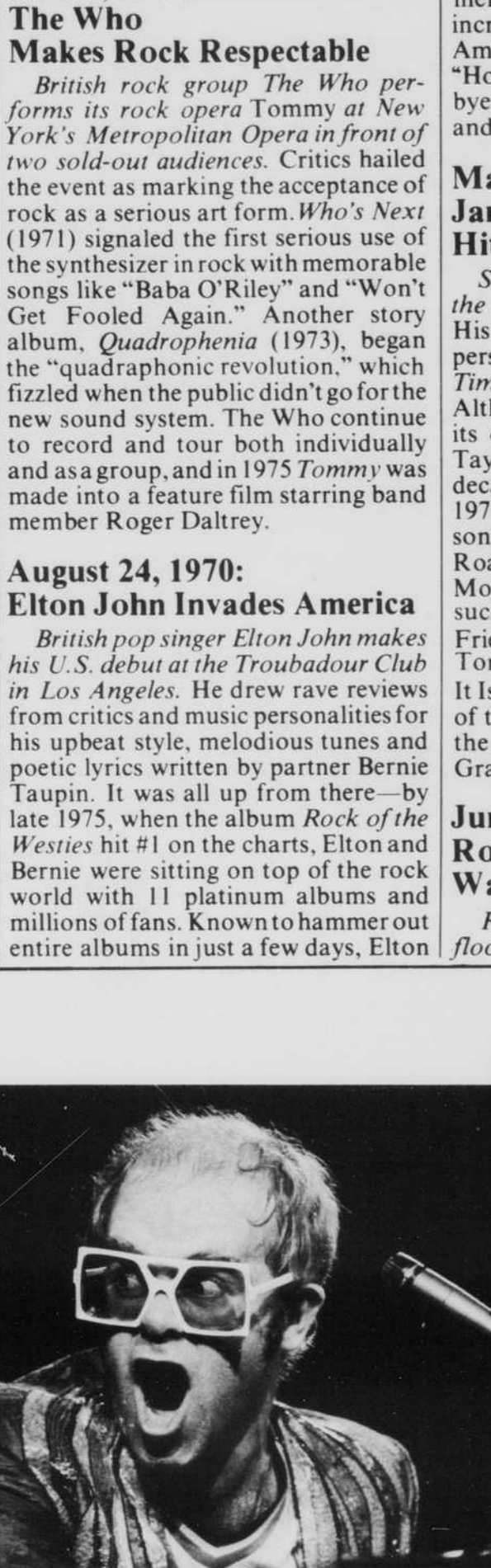
David Bowie



Alice Cooper

Bob Dylan and The Band

Elton John



Elton John