

Old Rock's Influence Today

Is this the era of a '60's revival?

The votes have been cast, tallied, and the nominations for this year's Grammy Awards have been announced. That's nothing new; it's a ritual that has been going on for more than 25 years. What is new is that most of the nominees are old.

A glance at the list of nominees reveals the names of veteran performers who have been in the music business for more years than we have been

alive: Barbara Streisand and Aretha Franklin have been nominated for best female vocalist; both are 44 years old. Male vocalist nominee Paul Simon is 45 years old and even the youngest of the old, Steve Winwood at the age of 38, is old enough to have college-age children.

But this new phenomenon has been sneaking up on the music world over the past few years.

"I thought that was it... But then everybody else seemed to want to do the song — Cole Porter asked if he could do it and he made it a country western hit."

— Ben E. King

In 1984 Tina Turner won two Grammys at the age of 46, and sales of her records are still going strong. And a look down the chart or an afternoon spent watching MTV will show the extent of the last generation's influence on today's music.

While new artists come and go, and rock is parcelled out under the labels of punk and new wave and whatever else, the old guard of rock artists continue to survive and adapt.

John Fogerty was with Creedence Clearwater Revival until the group broke up in 1972; now he's performing solo and his album "Centerfield" went platinum in 1985. Paul McCartney, who started with the Beatles in 1959, is still a force in the music industry and is the highest paid performer in the

world when you include royalty earnings from those old Beatles hits, which continue to sell year after year.

Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones are still around. So are the Moody Blues and Chicago. And for the acid-rock fan there's still a chance to see the Grateful Dead perform live, in concert.

MTV is even showing re-runs of the Monkees. What started out as an idea at Columbia Pictures to do a TV comedy series about a zany rock group, turned into a real rock band and a hit theme song for the show. Last year Mike, Davy, Micky and Peter got together for a televised reunion for the Monkees; three of the four are busy with a concert tour around the United States.

Another trend seems to be an

increasing number of re-released hits by the original rock artists, and recordings of oldies from the '60's and '70's by the new generation of performers.

"California Girls" was a hit for the Beach Boys back in the early '60's — the same Beach Boys who have their own music video of the old Mamas and Papas hit "California Dreamin'," and continue to tour the country on occasion. David Lee Roth recently took the old Beach Boys classic and produced an outrageous music video.

Last year Bananarama launched their song "Venus" to number one; the same lyrics and tune was originally a chart smash for Frankie Avalon back in the days of Frankie and Annette, and Beach Blanket Bingo.

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