

Charo: an American Music and Pop Culture Icon

Charo is short for Rosario, her given name of Maria Rosario Pilar Martinez Molina Baeza. Born in the town of Murcia, Spain, Charo learned to play the guitar at an early age and studied under the world-famous master of Flamenco guitar, Andrés Segovia. Becoming a recording artist in her early teens. *Guitar Player* twice named her "Best Classical Flamenco Guitarist in the World."

Charo is a virtuoso guitarist, singer, composer, actress and comedienne. She is the recipient of the 2014 Ricardo Montalban Lifetime Achievement ALMA Award, bestowed by The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. The NCLR ALMA (American Latino Media Arts) Awards celebrates America's favorite Latinos in the entertainment industry, television programs, films, and music.

http://charo.com/?page_id=14



Women who Rock!



Kaki King

Katherine Elizabeth King, August 24, 1979) is an American guitarist and composer. King is known for her percussive and jazz-tinged melodies, energetic live shows, use of multiple tunings on acoustic and lap steel guitar, and her diverse range in different genres.

In February 2006, *Rolling Stone* released a list of "The New Guitar Gods", on which King was the sole woman and youngest artist.



By Mandy Hall - originally posted to Flickr as Kaki King, CC BY 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5992035>

Sister Rosetta Tharpe, The Godmother Of Rock 'N' Roll

Rock 'n' roll was bred between the church and the nightclubs in the soul of a queer black woman in the 1940s named Sister Rosetta Tharpe. She was there before Elvis, Little Richard and Johnny Cash swiveled their hips and strummed their guitars. It was Tharpe, the godmother of rock 'n' roll, who turned this burgeoning musical style into an international sensation.

— Jessica Diaz-Hurtado, August 24, 2017

<https://www.npr.org/2017/08/24/544226085/forebears-sister-rosetta-tharpe-the-godmother-of-rock-n-roll>



Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Photographer Chris Ware/Getty Images

She shredded on electric guitar, belted praises both to God and secular pleasures, and broke the color line touring with white singers. She was gospel's first superstar, and she most assuredly rocked.

Tharpe's first hit, in fact, was the transformed spiritual "Rock Me."

Will Hermes, December 13, 2017

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/why-sister-rosetta-tharpe-belongs-in-the-rock-and-roll-hall-of-fame-123738/>

Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten

Libba Cotten (1895-1987), best known for her timeless song "Freight Train," built her musical legacy on a firm foundation of late 19th- and early 20th-century African-American instrumental traditions. Through her songwriting, her quietly commanding personality, and her unique left-handed guitar and banjo styles, she inspired and influenced generations of younger artists.



Elizabeth Cotten performs at the 1968 Newport Folk Festival. Photograph by Diana Davies. Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Smithsonian Institution.

She learned how to play the banjo as a child, by borrowing her brothers, but stopped playing at the age of 13 and didn't pick up a guitar until 50 years later. In 1984 Cotten was declared a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts and was later recognized by the Smithsonian Institution as a "living treasure." She received a Grammy Award in 1985 when she was ninety

<https://music.si.edu/story/elizabeth-cotten-master-american-folk-music>