



## World Music Anniversaries for 2009

- 115 years since John Hardy, of the famous folk song, was hanged.
- 110 years since the birth of Thomas Andrew Dorsey, the son of a revivalist preacher and acknowledged "Father of Gospel Music."
- 110 years since Francis Barraud's painting of a dog listening to the horn of a wind-up record player – His Master's Voice – was bought by the Gramophone Company and became the symbol for EMI in Europe and, when they failed to register it properly, for RCA in the States as well. It is 40 years since Chico Buarque recorded "A Voz do Dono e o Dono da Voz," literally "The Voice of the Owner and the Owner of the Voice," an artist rights reply.
- 105 years since Béla Bartók began collecting folk music by recording musicians on wax cylinders. This was to form the basis of inspiration for many of his classical compositions.
- 100 years since the birth of Carmen Miranda in Marco de Canaveses, Portugal.
- 100 years since the first commercial recording of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the first group of African-American artists to be widely heard on record by white audiences.
- 90 years since the birth of Chavela Vargas in San Joaquín de Flores, Costa Rica.
- 90 years since the birth of Beny Moré in Santa Isabel de las Lajas, Cuba.
- 90 years since the birth of Peter Seeger in Patterson, New York.
- 80 years since the birth of Lata Mangeshkar in Sikh Mohalla, India.
- 80 years since the birth of Motown founder Berry Gordy, Jr. in, yes, Detroit, Michigan.
- 80 years since the term *boogie woogie* entered widespread use thanks to Pine Top Smith's "Pine Top's Boogie Woogie."
- 75 years since the birth of Joseph Gordon, aka "Lord Tanamo", in Kingston, Jamaica.
- 70 years since John and Ruby Lomax set off on their Southern American States recording field trip. Many consider these among the most important recordings of blues, ballads, spirituals, cowboy songs and field hollers ever recorded in the US. They can be found at the US Library of Congress.



- 70 years since Solomon Linda wrote and recorded the classic “Mbube”. The song became a huge worldwide hit when US composer George Weiss took it without attribution and royalty and turned it into “Wimoweh/The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” In its guise for Disney’s *The Lion King* it sold another estimated 15 million copies. It was only in 2006 that the heirs of Linda, who died in poverty, successfully sued Disney and saw their first penny of international royalties.
- 70 years since the Grand Ole Opry was first broadcast on radio. The show featured Uncle Dave Macon, Roy Acuff and others.
- 70 years since the birth of Tejano accordionist Flaco Jiménez in San Antonio, Texas.
- 70 years since the birth of Masabumi Kikuchi in Tokyo, Japan.
- 70 years since the birth of Norma Waterson in Hull, East Riding, Yorkshire.
- 70 years since Ginger Baker started to ‘do what you like’ in Lewisham, South London.
- 65 years since Woody Guthrie first recorded "This Land is Your Land." He wrote over 1000 songs in all and left many lyrics, some of which have been turned into songs by the likes of Billy Bragg with Wilco and The Klezmatics, the latter who won a Grammy for their effort.
- 60 years since the introduction of the 45rpm record and its ‘microgroove technology.
- 60 years since the birth of Richard Thompson in Notting Hill Gate, London.
- 60 years since the birth of Hugh Masekela in Witbank, South Africa.
- 60 years since the birth of Salif Keita in Djoliba, Mali.
- 60 years since the birth of Arturo Sandoval in Artemisa, Cuba.
- 60 years since the birth of Papa Wemba in Lubefu, Kasai, DR Congo.
- 55 years since Al Dvorin tried to get Elvis Presley fans to leave a Minneapolis concert hall by declaring, “Ladies and Gentleman, Elvis has left the building. Thank you and good night.”
- 55 years since the birth of Amadou Bagayoko of Amadou & Mariam, in Bamako, Mali.
- 55 years since the birth of Max Romeo in Alexandria, St. Ann's, Jamaica.
- 50 years since Domenico Modugno beat out Frank Sinatra and Peggy Lee for the Grammy Record of the Year, with "Volare."



- 50 years since the deaths of Buddy Holly (age 22) and Richie Valens (age 17) in a plane crash in Iowa.
- 50 years of Motown.
- 50 years since the birth of Mbilia Bel in what is now the D.R. Congo.
- 50 years since the birth of Youssou N'Dour in Dakar, Senegal.
- 45 years since the founding of the Russian (then, Soviet) label Melodiya.
- 45 years since the murder of Sam Cooke in the Hacienda Motel, Los Angeles.
- 45 years since the forming of South Africa's The Mahotella Queens, WOMEX 2000 Award winners.
- 45 years since Jac Holzman founded Nonesuch Records.
- 40 years since Sony introduced the first digital recorder.
- 40 years since the Woodstock Festival in Bethel, New York, over fifty miles from the actual town of Woodstock, from which the festival was moved at the last minute due to fears of not being able to handle the size of the expected crowd. Little did they know...
- 35 years since the death of Nick Drake by overdose in Far Leys, England.
- 30 years since Holger Czukay recorded 'Persian Love,' perhaps the first track from a popular artist to lay in new instrumentals over a 'found' world music track. The album from which it came, *Movies* also features one of the first popular uses of sampling.
- 30 years of fROOTS.
- 25 years of the Terugblik Music Meeting in Nijmegen, Holland.
- 25 Years of the Zavod Druga Godba festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- 25 years of the Music Meeting festival in Nijmegen, Holland.
- 20 years of the Festival Couleur Café in Brussels, Belgium.
- 15 editions of WOMEX, 18 if you count the Berlin World Music Days.
- 15 years of La Mar de Músicas in Cartagena, Spain.
- 10 years of the Jerusalem International Oud Festival.



- 10 years since the creation of the Fundación Trés Culturas, in Sevilla, Spain.
- 10 years since the first Songlines issue was published in the UK.
- 5 years since the death of John Peel, influential BBC DJ who championed, among so much else, world music.

Compiled by Gerald Seligman from a wide variety of sources, with additional thanks to David Flower and Charlie Gillett's [soundoftheworld.com](http://soundoftheworld.com).

**Do you have an important world music-related anniversary for 2009, 2010 or 2011?  
Let us know at [media@womex.com](mailto:media@womex.com)**