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## [Review of] The British Beat Boom, 1963-66

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**The British beat boom, 1963-66.**

Internet Resource. <http://www.geocities.com/fabgear6366/index.htm>

This uncredited Web site provides brief biographical and chart information on nearly 150 bands and artists that arose during a seminal period of rock history. The site opens with a graphics-intensive first page: background of Beatles' heads, British flag, flashing runner of band names, a linkable entertainment news ticker, and award and membership links. This garishness pervades the site, detracting from the content, at times making the text barely readable. A table of contents page leads users to alphabetical listings of bands and artists; a UK Charts page (1963-66); the *Merseybeat Magazine* Readers Poll (1961-63); last known professions of selected performers; a few links to band and other related music sites, etc. Each entry has a different background and a waving Union Jack animation beside the band name; a photograph (usually); member names and roles (and occasional birth dates); a brief biography (c. 200 words); a list of singles (A/B side titles, label, month/year of release, record number, highest UDC chart placement); LP and EP releases; reissues, usually with a visual of the recording cover; and (sometimes) a graphic of the members' autographs. Coverage ranges from the majors (The Beatles, The Who, The Rolling Stones) to the short-lived and obscure (The Black Knights, Group One, The Snobs). Almost all of the bands included here are in *AMG All Music Guide* (CH, Sup'00), which supplies a more complete biography and cross-reference link and has good entries for several of the bands listed in *British Beat Boom's* desiderata. The *Encyclopedia of Popular Music* (3rd ed., CH, Sep'99), with its more British focus, also covers many of these bands and includes much more extensive biographies. Though reliable and current (The Beatles entry includes the late 2000 reissue compilation *1*), this site is less useful than *All Music Guide* (1992- ) and *Guinness Encyclopedia of Popular Music* (3rd ed., 1998) and has limited value.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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