

# 2120 South Michigan Avenue – The History of Chess Records

# Syllabus

Date	Topic
February 1	Immigration from Poland and Mississippi, converging on Chicago
<b>February 8</b>	<b>The early stars</b>
February 15	Chuck Berry
February 22	Willie Dixon
March 1	The legacy of Chess Records

Presentations and playlists are available on  
<https://queenlake.com/wise-2021/2120-south-michigan-ave/>

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Leonard, Phil and Marshall Chess

Chess Family Archive/Chess Photograph



## Chess Office and Studio – 2120 South Michigan Avenue

Opened March 12, 1957

# Maybellene

Words & Music by Chuck Berry, Russ Fratto & Alan Freed



Bright in 2  $\downarrow$  = 116

B<sup>b</sup>

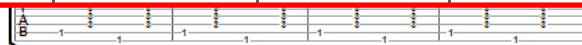
# Maybellene

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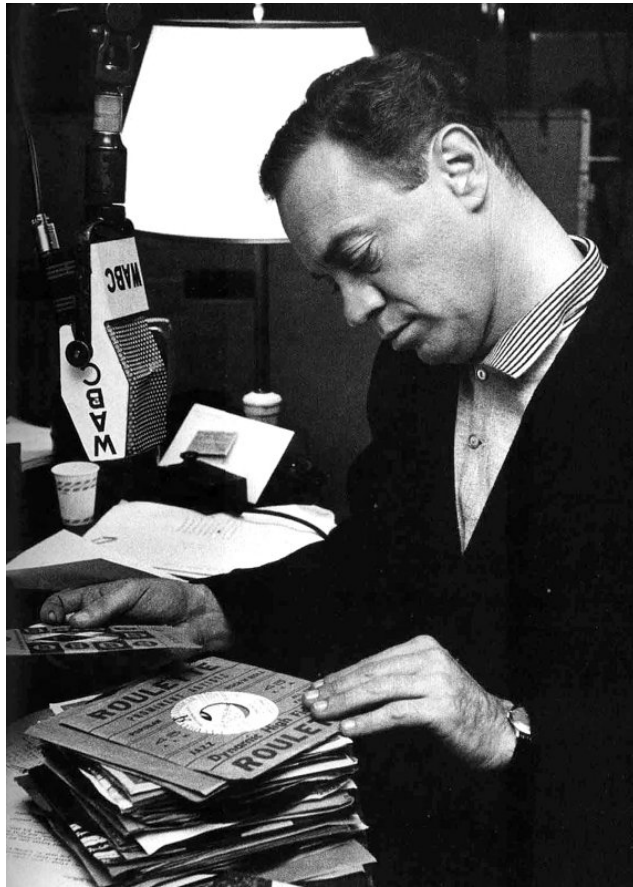
B<sup>b</sup>



— why can't you be me? — You just

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the lyrics "why can't you be me? You just". The piano part features a steady bass line with chords corresponding to the Bb, Eb, and F progression.

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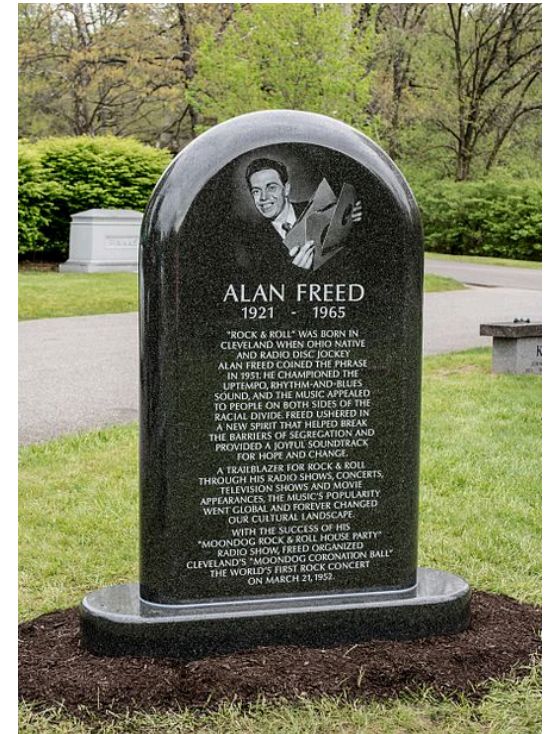


“You @#%@\$%! What the hell are playing that guy's record for when I pay you money every week?”  
-- Leonard Chess to Alan Freed

## Pay for Play

Cohodas, p.247





## Payola and Rock 'n Roll



Back to the music