



## **BBC Radio International Chuck Berry: 40 years on**

**BBC Radio International is delighted to offer a special programme dedicated to a music icon who was one of the early pioneers of rock 'n' roll -Chuck Berry.**

The programme duration is 60 minutes. Reference number is FE454.

The programme can be auditioned here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08tj3xy>

With songs such as "Maybellene" (1955), "Roll Over Beethoven" (1956), "Rock and Roll Music" (1957) and "Johnny B. Goode" (1958), Chuck Berry refined and developed rhythm and blues into the major elements that made rock and roll distinctive. Writing lyrics that focused on teen life and consumerism, and developing a music style that included guitar solos and showmanship, Berry was a major influence on subsequent rock music.

This poetic hour-long world exclusive programme explores the extraordinary life and music of Chuck Berry, with original, never-heard-before interviews with the man himself, recorded back in the 1970s.

Chuck Berry, who died in March of 2017 aged 90, was a founding father of rock 'n' roll, whose songs (Johnny B. Goode, Promised Land, Roll Over Beethoven and many more) have become standards, covered by the likes of Elvis, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

Chuck wasn't an easy character though, and rarely gave interviews. On the occasions that he did, he was generally less than forthcoming. Anthony Wall, longstanding series editor of the BBC television arts strand Arena, began his career as a radio studio manager in the 70s. He also moonlighted as the rock critic for the Morning Star and, in this capacity, interviewed Chuck twice and found him in a mellow mood.

Thankfully, Anthony had the foresight to record both interviews in broadcast quality. Between his shifts on the BBC's Today programme, he lovingly wove these rare interviews together with Chuck's songs and quotes from other interviews he'd done with the likes of Chess label-mate Muddy Waters and rockabilly hero, Carl Perkins.

When Chuck Berry died, it occurred to Anthony that, since so little had been heard from the man himself about his extraordinary life and music, it was about time that the programme was finally broadcast.

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