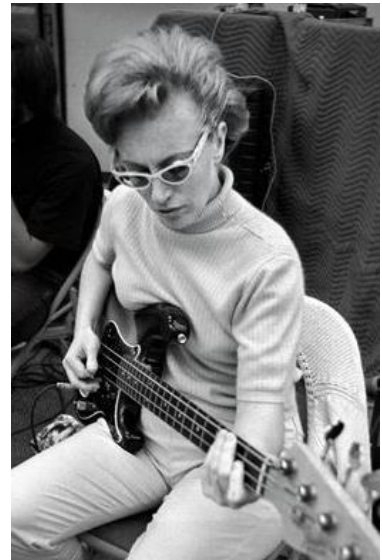


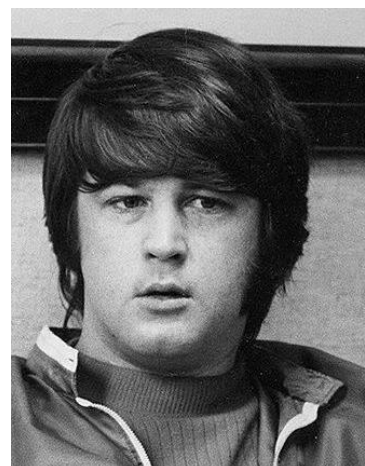
After two days of talking about people (NAPOLEON) and events (WORLD WAR I) that were historically important because of the damage they did, it's time to be a bit more positive and talk about someone who was historically important because of the good she did. And like many people (and they are usually women) who do good things, what she did was done anonymously (do you know that word? - it means 'without a name'), with not many people knowing what she did. But if you read this email, you'll know just how amazing CAROL KAYE was - a woman who can claim to be one of the most important guitarists of the 20th century. She played on over 10,000 recordings as a 'session musician' - someone who was brought in to play in a session recording a particular song or track. If you listen to a lot of rock and pop music from the 1960s, you will definitely have listened to Carol Kaye play. And if you don't listen to a lot of rock and pop music from the 1960s, you are definitely missing out.



Carol Kaye was born in 1935 and only learned to play the guitar in 1948, when she was 13 - so you know now more about how to play the guitar than Carol Kaye did when she was your age. In the 1950s, she started playing in a band, and in 1957 a music producer heard her play and asked her to come into his studio and play guitar on a song being recorded by the singer SAM COOKE. She was paid so much money for playing that she decided to quit her band and focus on playing guitar as a session musician. She went on to work with the very famous and influential music producer PHIL SPECTOR. What made Phil Spector famous was his ability to turn the songs he produced into a 'Wall of Sound' so that even if they were played on a small little radio, you were just overwhelmed by the volume and detail of the music coming out of the radio speaker. Some of the most famous Phil Spector-produced songs that she played guitar on were THE CRYSTALS' 'Then He Kissed Me' (1963), THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS' 'You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling' (1964) and IKE AND TINA TURNER's 'River Deep, Mountain High' (1966), which Phil Spector thought was his masterpiece.



While Carol Kaye played lead guitar on all these songs, from 1963 onwards she increasingly specialised in playing the bass guitar, and it was as a bass guitarist that she started playing for the musical genius BRIAN WILSON, together with a number of other session musicians who came to be known collectively as 'THE WRECKING CREW'. BRIAN WILSON was a member of the American band THE BEACH BOYS. He produced all of their songs, and wrote and sang on most of them. The most famous album produced by the Beach Boys was PET SOUNDS (1966), and Carol Kaye, together with the other members of the Wrecking Crew, played on all of the Pet Sounds songs. In fact, the members of the Beach Boys had nothing to do with playing the music on Pet Sounds - instead, they would go out on tour and perform in stadiums and concert halls, and then come back from being tour and Brian Wilson would play them the tracks he had recorded with musicians like the Wrecking Crew and then get the Beach Boys to sing on those tracks. PAUL McCARTNEY has said that his bass playing on THE BEATLES' masterpiece SGT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND (1967) was very influenced by Carol Kaye's bass playing on the 'Pet Sounds' album. Carol Kaye would go on to play bass on Brian Wilson's masterpiece 'GOOD VIBRATIONS'



(1967). Other well-known songs she played on were NANCY SINATRA's 'These Boots Are Made for Walkin'' (1967) and SONNY AND CHER's 'I Got You Babe' (1965) ('I Got You Babe' is a song that plays an important part in the classic film 'GROUNDHOG DAY' (1993) - which I STRONGLY recommend you watch today if you haven't seen it already).

By 1969, Carol Kaye was feeling burned out (do you know that expression? - it means tired and worn out from working so hard) and stopped playing guitar as a session musician, even though she was making more money from playing as a session musician than the American President was paid. Instead, she started playing guitar for films and TV shows, laying down the bass line for MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - one of the most memorable pieces of music for TV ever written. Carol Kaye is still alive today, and still playing guitar. Very few people have heard of her, but virtually everyone has heard her play guitar. Now that you've heard of her, you can hear her play guitar by exploring the following links:

Amazing studio footage of 'Good Vibrations' being recorded, overlain by the song 'Good Vibrations':

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdU6W\\_EU\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdU6W_EU_c)

(the footage doesn't show Carol Kaye - though you can clearly hear her playing on the song - but it does show Hal Blaine, who was the drummer for the Wrecking Crew)

Photos from the sessions recording one of the greatest songs ever written - the Beach Boys' 'God Only Knows' from the Pet Sounds album - overlain by Take 20 of recording the music for 'God Only Knows': <https://youtu.be/QCTVcNsJGX0?t=136>

(you can see Carol Kaye at 4.39 of the footage)

Sonny and Cher's 'The Beat Goes On' (1967) (the start of the song is basically all Carol Kaye):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS3O5zg290k>

A 10 minute documentary on Carol Kaye: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOXHxlz065g>

If you are interested in exploring what it was like recording music in the 1950s and 1960s in America (which features fictionalised versions of Phil Spector and Brian Wilson, and is very loosely based on the life story of another female musical giant, Carole King), I recommend the film 'Grace of My Heart', which can be purchased on YouTube or Amazon Prime.