

# “Pop Music and Spirituality”

Sunday Forum series, 9:45 am in the Cathedral library

Have you ever thought, “No one’s written good religious music in the last fifty years.”? Or, “Popular music today doesn’t speak to the soul.”?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, these upcoming forums will set you straight. We’ll look at four popular musicians from the 1960s to today whose work is often spiritual in nature, and in some cases explicitly Christian in its imagery.

Often billed as one of the greatest American musicians/songwriters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, his lyrics often plumb the depths of the human soul and occasionally use biblical imagery. In the 1970s, Bob Dylan became a Christian for a time, and we’ll look at how that transformation affected his music.

January 27  
**Bob Dylan**



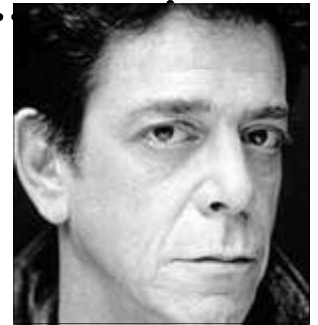
February 3  
**Leonard Cohen**

This Canadian folk-rock musician was as much a poet as a musician. His songs often use biblical imagery, and Cohen himself – Jewish by birth – spent several years as a Zen Buddhist monk in California.



February 10  
**Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground**

The V.U. was a seminal group in the art-rock scene in New York in the 1960s, where their first album was produced by Andy Warhol. Lou Reed’s songwriting often dealt with issues of the soul or religion and his hauntingly beautiful “Jesus” is a masterpiece of modern music which seems almost monastic in its simplicity.



February 17  
**U2**

This Irish band became world-famous in the 1980s and has remained popular in the decades since. Three of the four members of the band are committed Christians and even considered breaking up the group early on because they weren’t sure being rock stars would mesh well with the Christian life. Of all the musicians we’re looking at and listening to in this series, U2 is the one whose music is most explicitly Christian, to the extent that the Episcopal Church has developed a service using their music called a “U2charist.”

