The Electric Guitar and Rock 'n Roll  
  
By Whitney Warrington  
  
Although the electric guitar may be commonly known today, it was not always so. It took the advent of easy-to-access electricity to enable the creation of the instrument and the profound effect it had on the development of popular music, especially [rock 'n roll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_and_roll). Although humanity had been blessed with the dulcet tones of the acoustic guitar for hundreds of years before the discovery of electricity, the electric guitar’s ferocious sound and adaptability made it an essential part of rock music.   
  
It was George Beauchamp in 1931 who first attached an electromagnetic pickup to a guitar to amplify the sound. Later, the instrument became quite popular in the stylings of various jazz and blues artists. As electric guitar music became more popular, innovators like Les Paul refined the instrument’s overall design for enhanced sound and functionality. Rock music hasn’t been the same since.  
  
About the Author:  
  
An accomplished musician and recording artist, Whitney Warrington recorded a rock-based album on the Radar Love label entitled “Fathom.”