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There's a starman waiting in the sky ... so will he please take Robbie back with him. Photograph: Getty Images

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Hey, Mr Spaceman: Rock's fascination with aliens

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From Elvis to Robbie, musicians have been passionately convinced that the truth is out there

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According to [tabloid reports this week](#), former Slade frontman Noddy Holder has had a close encounter of the first kind. Settling into a Bournemouth hotel room, the mutton-chopped singer was dazzled by a flash of bright white light. Dashing to the window, he saw a flying saucer shooting over the sea, "just like in the movies". While Holder might reasonably have thought he was going, well, crazee now, he may be heartened to know that he is not alone.

The history of rock music and alien encounters is as rich and long as that of, say, rock music and hallucinogenic drugs. Back in 1935, a mysterious blue light was spotted hovering above the Presley home on the night the king of rock'n'roll was born. Elvis later confided to his inner circle that he frequently sighted UFOs, and considered them to be signs from gods.

Uri Geller [recalls a conversation](#) with his unlikely pal John Lennon about an alien encounter that occurred in New York in the mid 70s. In bed with Yoko one night, the former Beatle was visited by four bug-like aliens and presented with a small, metallic egg. Lennon reasoned that the egg, which is now in Geller's possession, might be a ticket to another planet. Some might assume Geller already had one.

The list of 60s stars and their starmen continues. Dave Davies of the Kinks, Jerry Garcia, Cat Stevens, Jimi Hendrix and Rick Wakeman have all reported alien encounters, while Mick Jagger claims to have spotted a cigar-shaped UFO while camping with Marianne Faithful near Glastonbury in 1968.

Before Holder, Robbie Williams was the music world's most famous believer in aliens. The singer claims to have spotted three UFOs, and became so fascinated with the subject he aligned with a group of UFOlogists working in the Arizona desert. Shortly thereafter, he grew a strange, Fidel Castro-like beard.

But even in light of this "evidence", can we assume that musicians are more likely to be abducted than the average Joe? Are aliens attracted to creative types or high-status humans? Houston-based "alien hunter" [Derrel Sims](#) doesn't think so. He believes it's easier for a rock star to talk about an alien encounter without fear of ridicule than it is for scientists, doctors and teachers who report their experiences privately to him.

The little green men aren't likely to be fans of earthly music anyway. Most abductees Sims has dealt with say the events took place in

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absolute silence. "The only alien music I have ever heard was playing in the [Mos Eisley bar](#) in Star Wars," he reports. "Great song, though."

What are your favourite songs about alien encounters?

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