



"Tritone"
Forbidden Devil's Interval!
(two notes played three
whole tones apart)

"Sacred and Secular"

Religious music is called "Sacred" music,
and anything else is called "Secular"
music. Secular music included songs
called 'madrigals', which appeared
towards the end of the medieval era.



Medieval Viol



Modern Violin

Medieval Era

(c.500-1400 AD)



Medieval Trumpet



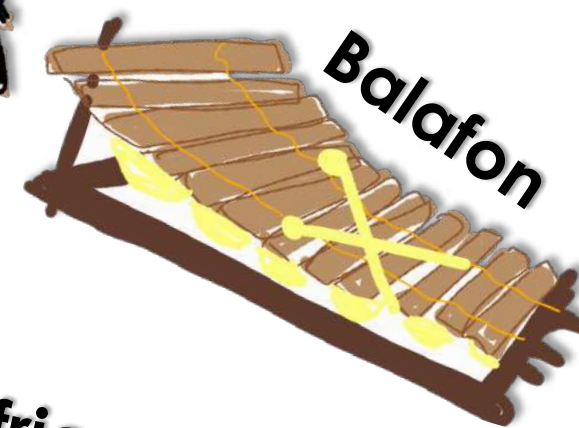
Modern Trumpet

"Monophonic"

Only one melody line in the music.
Monks would use this type of
singing, called Plainsong or
Gregorian Chant, to sing prayers
and church services together.

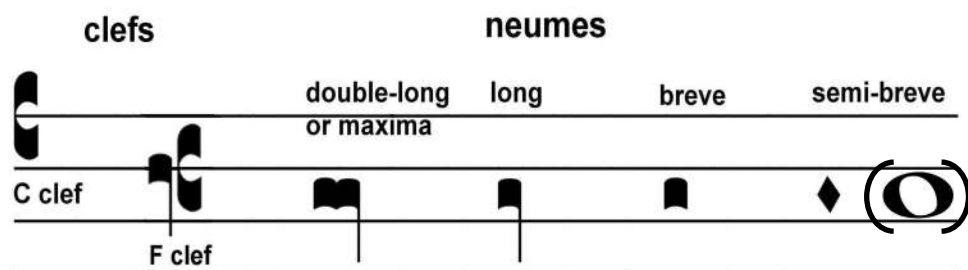


Mbira



Balafon

Medieval African Instruments



← Modern Semi-Breve

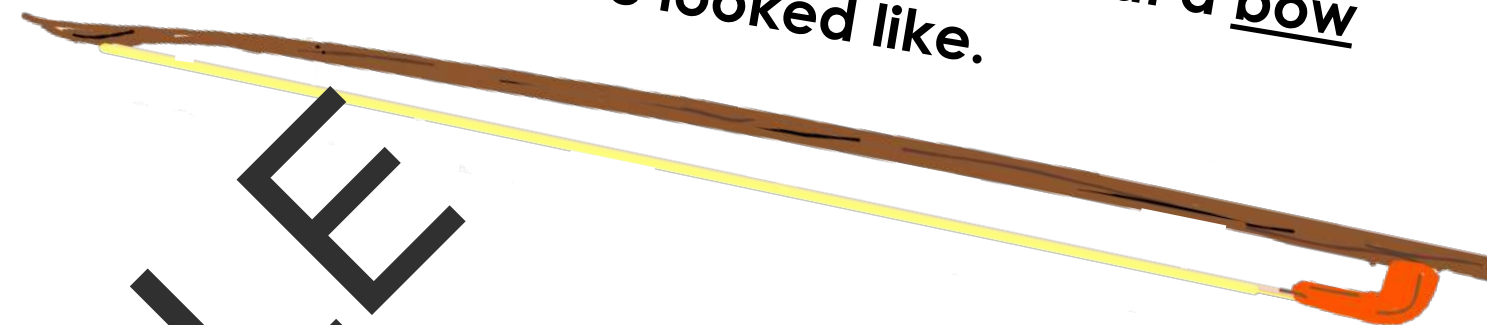
Renaissance Era

(c.1400-1600AD)

The printing press was invented around 1440. This meant music could be widely produced and distributed.



The Renaissance string instruments were developing! Here's what a bow would have looked like.



1410

1430

1450

1470

1490

1400

1420

1440

1460

1480

1500

SAMPLE

Venice

An important city in Italy during the Renaissance, and surrounded by water!



Venice is famous because so much fantastic music was written and played there.

“Mass”

A mass is usually spoken by a priest in a Christian church, but Renaissance composers began to set the words to music.



Gesualdo is most famous for his Secular Madrigals Songs that are not religious.



He was famous for using lots of notes very close together in pitch, which could sometimes sound a bit scary!

Carlo Gesualdo
1566-1613

1510

1530

1550

1570

1590

1610

1520

1540

1560

1580

1600

“Polyphonic”

The renaissance was when polyphonic music became really popular. Polyphonic means lots of voices sounding at once.

SAMPLE

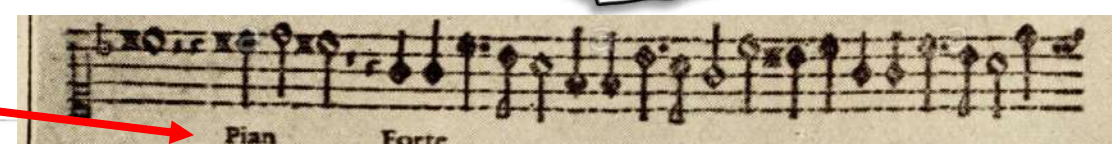
Gabrieli lived in Venice and is most famous for his Sacred Motets.



A Motet is a piece of music to be sung in church. The words are usually passages from the Christian Bible.

Giovanni Gabrieli
1557-1612


We start to see written instructions!




"Modern Tonality"




Tonality is another way to describe how music feels and sounds, as well as patterns it follows. Modern tonality was formed in this era, giving us the major and minor scales that we recognise today. Tonality is a word to describe the range of tones used to create melodies and chords in music. *Major* means happy sounding, and *minor* sounds sad.




Violin



Viola



Violoncello



Contrabass

1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680

String Instruments started to look a little more familiar!

"The Harpsichord"

The harpsichord was used a lot in the Baroque era. It is the grandad of the piano, smaller, and instead of hitting the strings with little hammers like a piano, the keys are played by being plucked. This means you can't change how loud or quiet you play.

Baroque Era

(c.1600-1750AD)

Bach became famous long after he died and is most famous for his *chorales*, where lots of parts play together in harmony. This is called: Homophonic

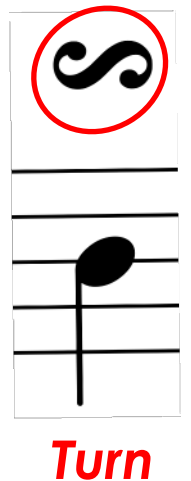


Johann Sebastian Bach
1685-1750

He was one of the most important people in the development of music composition and the best use of modern tonality. As well as incredible use of the harpsichord!

Baroque music uses lots of “ornaments”.

Here are a few examples.



1690

1710

1730

1750

1700

1720

1740

Sophie Friederike Wilhelmine - Princess of Prussia
1709-1758

Sophie was a real princess of the German state of Prussia! This doesn't exist anymore. She opened an Opera house with her husband.



Opera was developed in the baroque era, as well as Oratorio, which sounds similar but is based on religious texts, and usually didn't have costumes or dancing, like opera.



Classical Era

(c.1750-1830 AD)

In the Classical Era, melody lines were really important. This is different to the Baroque era which used homophony, where every part was important.



The Symphony Orchestra grew significantly during this era, giving composers more *timbres* to create exciting, varied musical moods.

“Timbre”

A timbre is the type of sound an instrument makes.

1760

1770

1780

1790

Wolfgang died very young but....

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791

Maria Anna Mozart 1751-1829

Mozart was an amazing musician from a very young age. He composed more than 600 pieces of music in his short life, including sacred music and very famous operas.



Mozart had an older sister, Maria Anna Mozart. She was taught to play the harpsichord by her father Leopold, and as children, Wolfgang and Maria would perform together far and wide to show off how talented they were.

Unfortunately, at the time, girls were not allowed to have careers so as she got older, she started only playing music at home.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

1770-1827

One of the most famous symphonies is the Fifth Symphony by Ludwig Van Beethoven.

Beethoven actually began to go deaf towards the end of his life, but he still didn't stop writing music.

Symphony No. 5

in C minor Op. 67

transcription for piano solo*

L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)

transcription
by F. Liszt

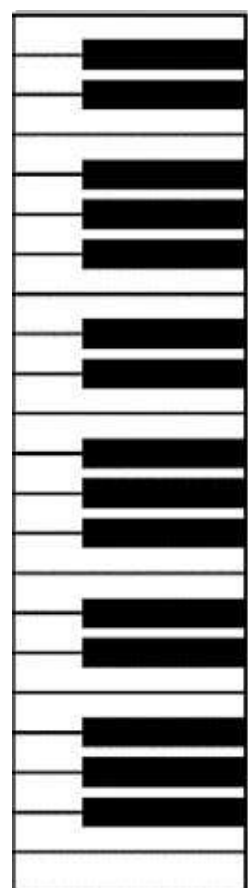


1810

1820

1830

.....Maria Anna lived for the entire classical period!!



The piano also became popularly used after being invented in 1700 by Bartolemew Cristofori.

It was possible to play different dynamics on this instrument, rather than the baroque harpsichord that could only play at one volume.



The classical guitar was also born in the classical period, and it is said to be the golden age of classical guitar as over 300 instruction texts were written to help people to learn.

Early Romantic Era

(c.1809-1840 AD)

Romantic Era

(c.1809-1840 AD)

Felix Mendelssohn
1809-1847



Mendelssohn is most famous for his piece:
“Overture to A Midsummer Night’s Dream”,
which was one of the first
examples of programmatic music as it was
written to be performed alongside a play.



1850

1870

1840

1860



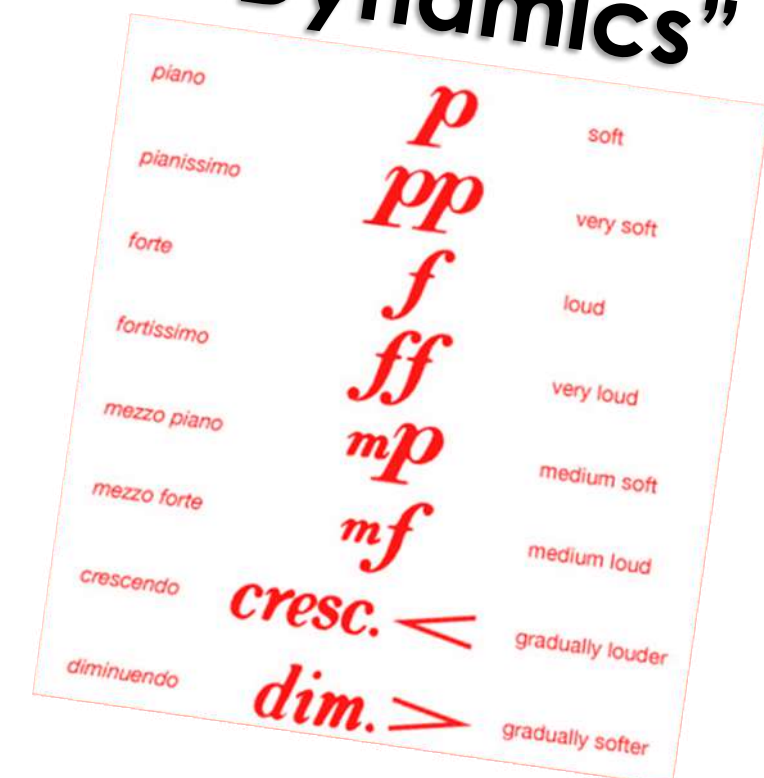
Felix had a sister Fanny, who
was known to be equally as
talented, at least when they
were children.

At the time, women still were
unfortunately not supposed to
be professional musicians, so
sometimes she would publish
her pieces in collections
under her brother's name.

Fanny Mendelssohn
1805-1847

One piece called the
“Easter Sonata” was always
thought to be by Felix
Mendelssohn, and then in 2010,
it was discovered that it was
actually composed by Fanny!

“Dynamics”





“Programmatic Music”

Music in the Romantic Era was often written to describe something. This could be anything from an emotion to an event, to a story or a play. This is similar to how we use music in movies today.

What's your favourite piece of film music?

1880

1890

1900

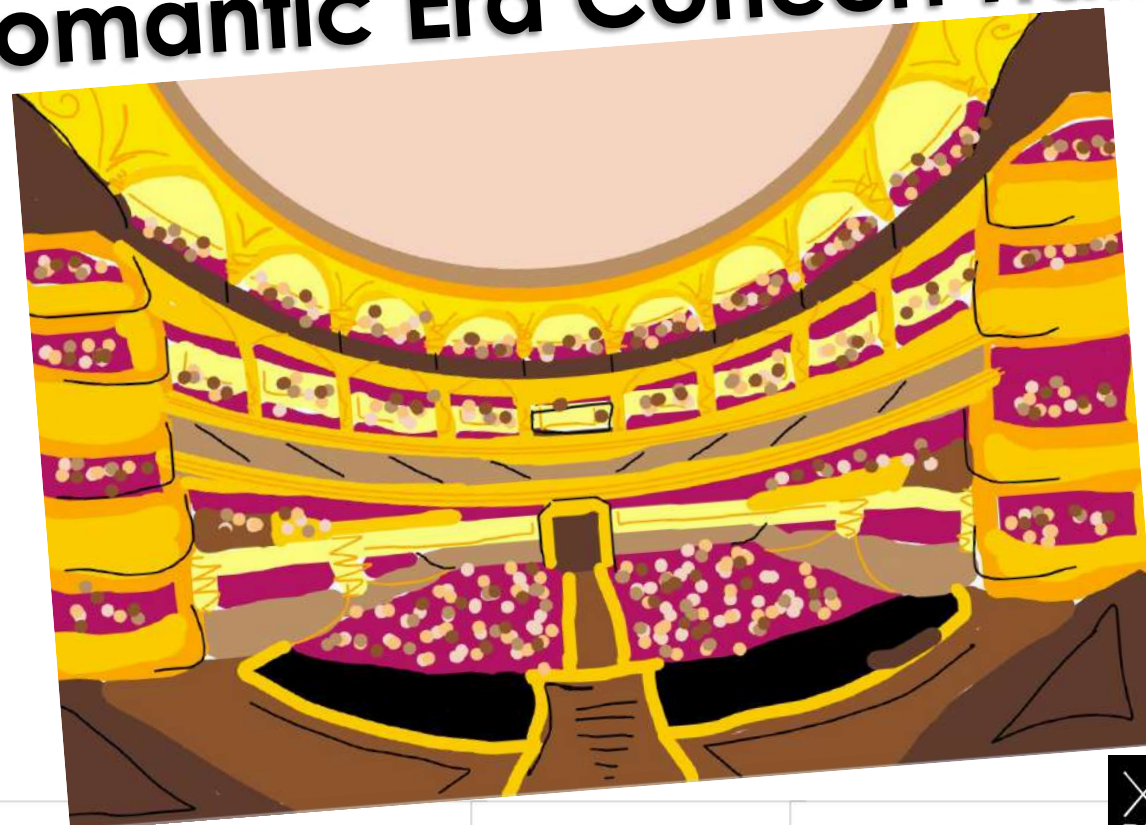
Niccolo Paganini

One man especially famous for his virtuosic violin playing was Niccolo Paganini. He was so good at the violin that some people thought he'd made a deal with the devil.

The way Paganini played is now taught to many young violinists as he invented new techniques and explored what the violin could really do. Sometimes, he would purposefully break three of his strings and then wow the audience by playing his whole concert on only one string!

People suspect that he may have had some kind of disorder in his joints that made him sinister looking and with big flexible hands that made him so good at playing the violin.

Romantic Era Concert Hall



20th Century

(c.1900-2000 AD)

In 1910, Ethel joined the Women's Suffrage Movement and in 1911 composed 'The March Of The Women' which went on to become the anthem of the movement.
In 1922 she was made a dame, the first female composer to be awarded a damehood.



Ethel Smyth was a British composer born in 1858. As a female composer she received a mixed response to her music (she was told her music was 'too masculine' for a lady composer), but despite this continued to write.



Ethel Smyth
1858-1944



1910

1920

1930

Claude Debussy
1862-1918



Debussy, who was born in Paris in 1862 was a musical impressionist. Impressionism sounded very charming and relaxing compared to the intense and busy sounds of Expressionism.



Impressionist artwork

"Impressionism"

Inspired by the classical era, but:
A style of music which uses notes from outside of the major and minor keys were used, this is called chromaticism.

There is also an emphasis on different speeds, with lots of speeding up and slowing down.

“Expressionism”

A style of music where composers try to compose music that represents emotions or feelings rather than real events.

Often using lots of clashes and crazy melody patterns.



“Atonality”

Music without a key, or a home note.

This music doesn't use a normal scale and does not sound major or minor.

1940

1950

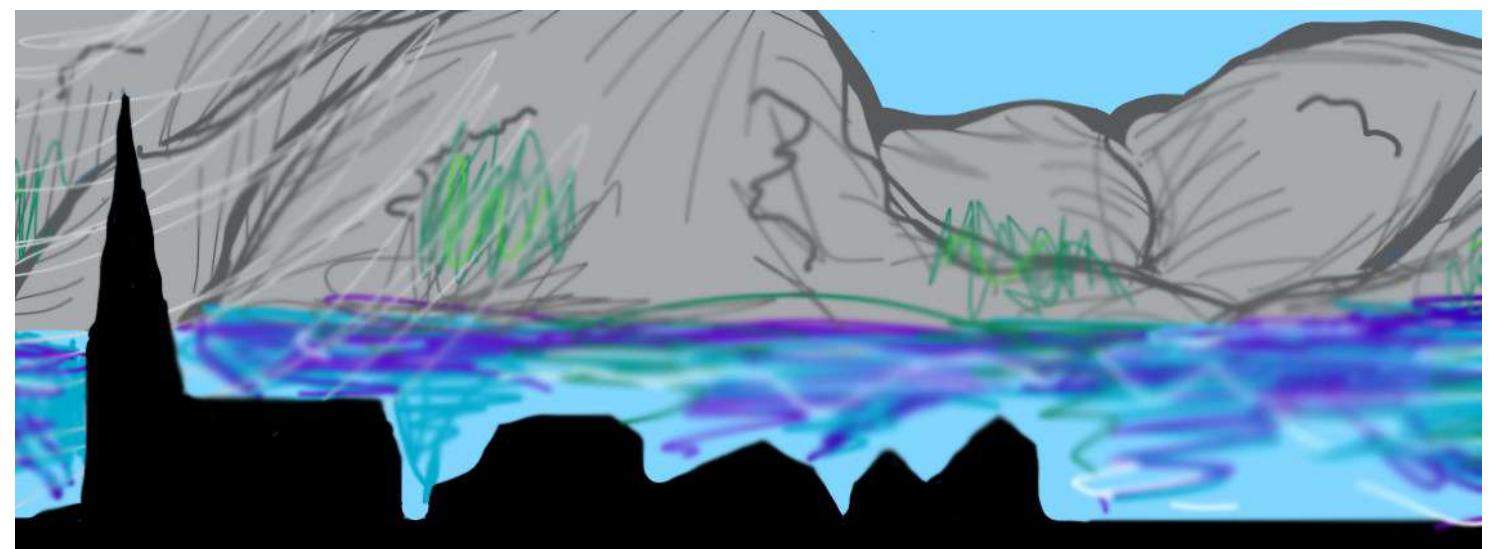
Arnold Schoenberg
1874-1951



A popular 20th Century music style was expressionism.

The most famous composer writing in this style was Arnold Schoenberg. His music is known for having lots of clashes - this is called atonality.

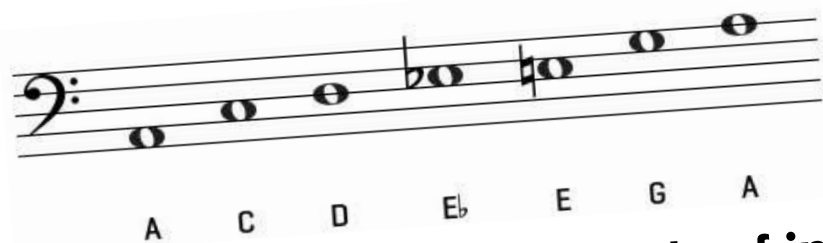
Austria



This is where Schoenberg lived!

Jazz and Blues

Jazz and blues music is largely based on the 'blue notes' or the 'blues scale'.



Both styles of music use lots of improvisation, with soloists making up music on the spot whilst the rest of the band play a set of chords, a repeated pattern underneath the soloist.



Duke Ellington
1899-1974

1960 *Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was an American composer, pianist, and leader of a famous jazz orchestra*

Jazz began in Black communities and is a huge part of Black History. The style is influenced by both European harmonies and African rhythms. It developed during the time of enslavement, and although it is not known exactly when jazz emerged, there were plantation brass bands as early as 1835, and minstrel troupes were touring by the 1840s.



King Oliver
1885-1938



Joseph Nathan "King" Oliver was an American jazz cornet player and bandleader. He was particularly recognized for his playing style and his pioneering use of mutes in jazz.

A style of jazz that became vastly popular in the 1930s and 1940s was called Swing, or Big Band.

By this time jazz groups had expanded in size to anywhere from 10 to 17 musicians, hence the name, Big Band!

Swing music is more structured than earlier jazz, with a regular time signature and structure, as well as having catchy lead melodies. Because of this it had its own dance, also called 'swing' or 'swinging' - people would meet at dance halls to party and enjoy the music.

Louis Armstrong
1901-1971



An American trumpeter, composer, vocalist, and actor who was among the most influential figures in jazz.

Fats Domino
1928-2017



Domino sold more than 65 million records.

He was shy and this may be one reason his contribution to the genre has been overlooked.

Elvis Presley (below) said Domino was "the real king of rock 'n' roll" and once announced that Domino "was a huge influence on him when he was starting out."

Rhythm'n'Blues

This style consists of a smaller band with a frontman or frontwoman; adding a face and personality to a previously anonymous group. Featuring a now classic lineup of guitar, bass and drums, the music is driving and catchy, with a constant backbeat and use of shorter melodies or 'riffs'. The twelve bar blues was also used.

1980

1970

Rock'n'Roll

Rock 'N' Roll was a phenomenon of the 1950s that drew heavily from Rhythm 'N' Blues of the previous decade.

Elvis Presley is probably the most famous Rock'N'Roll Artist with hits like 'Hound Dog', 'Blue Suede Shoes' and 'Heartbreak Hotel'.

An American singer, musician and actor. He is regarded as one of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century and is often referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll" or simply "the King".

He went into the army in 1958, but relaunched his recording career two years later with some of his best work.

He got extremely unhealthy and died on the toilet!

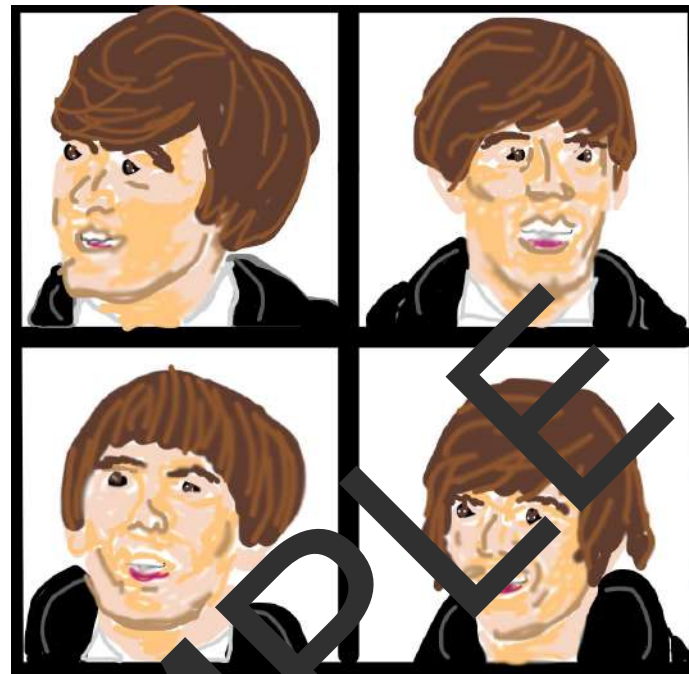
Elvis Presley
1935-1977



Reggae

Reggae is a style of music with strong Jamaican roots which emerged in the late 1960s, but got really popular in the early 1970s and beyond. Reggae can be traced back to a style of music called Mento, which combined Jamaican Calypso music with R 'N' B. It featured a unique vocal technique, named 'toasting', which is where words are spoken rhythmically over the music - an early ancestor of rap.

The Beatles 1960-1970



The Beatles, who mixed elements of Rock 'N' Roll and Motown. The band gained massive popularity, going on to become the best-selling artist of all time.

Country

Country is a style of music that is very popular in America. Its roots can be traced back as far as 1900, where it was played by American colonists.

Bob Marley 1945-1981



Classic Rock

Classic Rock came after the Rock 'N' Roll revolution of the 1950s; it grew so much in the 1960s that rock is still extremely popular today.

1990



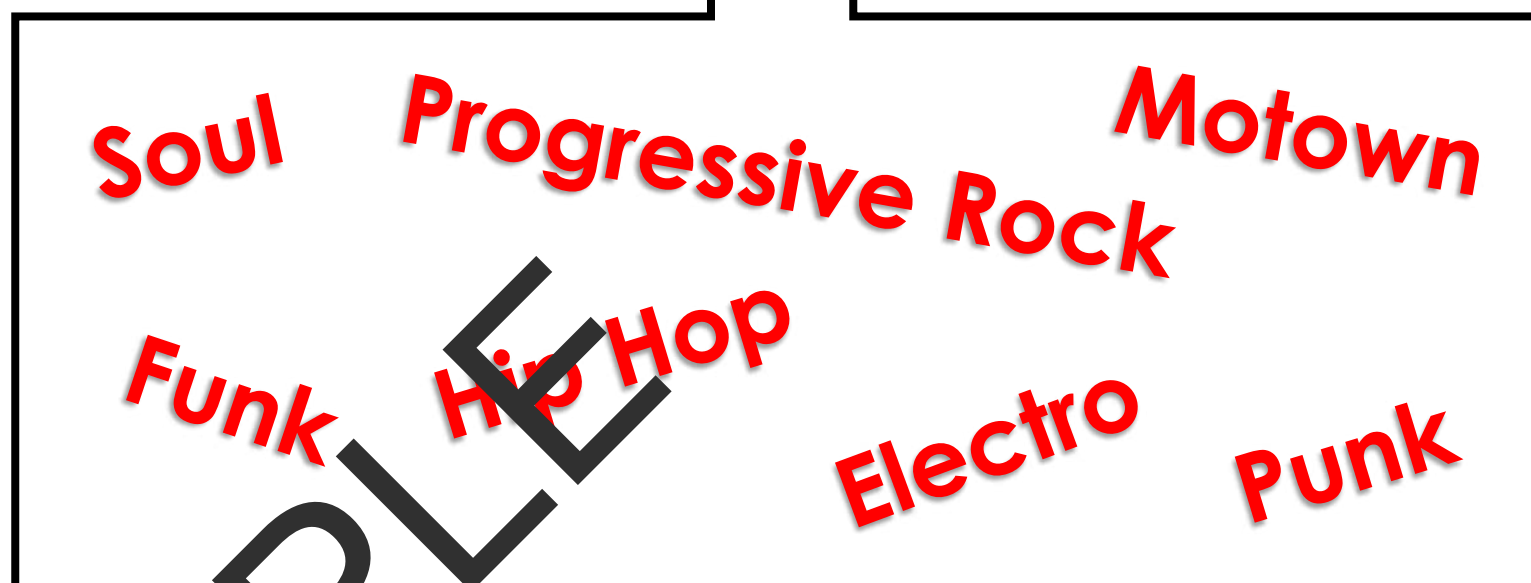


Garth Brooks

Born 1962

His use of rock and pop elements into the country genre has earned him popularity.

Some other genres to listen to!



2000

Disco

The style originally drew inspiration from the driving, pulsing rhythms of Soul. From this came Disco's characteristic 'Four-to-the-Floor' drum beat, with a kick drum hit on every beat.

Additionally, Disco makes use of offbeat basslines and catchy, sing-along choruses.



Metal

What's harder than rock? That's right, metal. As the name suggests, metal stems from the hard rock of the 1970s, and makes it heavier. Downtuned guitars and thick distortion are at the forefront of the genre, as well as fast drum beat patterns.

Usually gigs look like this