

# Music Genres

## Country

**HISTORY:** Country music is a genre that originated in the southern United States and the Appalachian Mountains around the 1920's. Music from Atlanta helped launch country music of today. It has roots from Western music and American folk music.

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### FAMOUS MUSICIANS & BANDS:

**20's** - Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, Cliff Carlisle  
**30's** - Patsy Montana, Bob Wills, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers  
**50's-60's** - Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins  
**70's** - Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Ray Price, Hank Williams, Willie Nelson  
**80's -now** - Randy Travis, Shania Twain, Dixie Chicks, Miranda Lambert, Lady Antebellum, Luke Bryan, Garth Brooks, Keith Urban, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill

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### COMMON ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY MUSIC:

In country music, you will often hear a story being told. String instruments are often used, such as the guitar, fiddle, and banjo. Country music also has a simple musical structure compared to other genres of music.

## Hip Hop

**HISTORY:** Hip hop music formed around the 1970's in New York City. At parties, DJs would mix popular songs with two turntables to extend breaks. Hip hop was created when technology was more available to the public.

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### FAMOUS MUSICIANS & BANDS:

The Sugarhill Gang, Flipside, LL Cool J, Boogie Down Productions, Kanye West, OutKast, Kurtis Blow, Ice Cube, P Diddy, JLO, TLC

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### COMMON ELEMENTS OF HIP HOP MUSIC:

In hip hop music you often hear stylized vocals, rhythms and beats, drums, and rapping.

# Classical

## HISTORY:



Classical music began in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. There were many periods of classical music, including Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Romantic. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were also periods of modern and contemporary.

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## FAMOUS COMPOSERS:

Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Antonio Vivaldi, Fredric Chopin, Richard Wagner, Johann Strauss II, Edvard Grieg, Edward Elgar, Aram Khachaturian

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## COMMON ELEMENTS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC:

The instruments in classical music are often used in an orchestra or concert band. This includes members of the string, woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments. Classical music is known for its technical mastery. Musicians must be highly trained in order to perform classical music.

# Rock

**HISTORY:** The 1960's is widely considered as the "golden age" of classic rock. During this time other subgenres of rock began to emerge such as country rock, jazz-rock fusion, and psychedelic rock. In the 1970's glam rock, heavy metal, and punk rock began to emerge. In the 1990's alternative rock became mainstream as well as indie rock. Different types of subgenres continue to grow.

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## FAMOUS MUSICIANS & BANDS:

The Beatles, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Soundgarden, Rage Against the Machine, Nickleback, Lincoln Park, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin

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## COMMON ELEMENTS OF ROCK MUSIC:

In rock music the focus is usually centered on the electric guitar. A **rock group** consists of an electric guitar/vocalist, a bass electric guitar, and drums. Rock music usually falls into a subgenre category such as pop rock, heavy metal, alternative rock, punk rock, and indie rock.

# Jazz

**HISTORY:** Jazz music was developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and emerged as a popular style in the United States. Jazz originated from ragtime and blues music which was popular in New Orleans in the late 1800's. During Prohibition in the U.S. (banning of alcoholic drinks) "speakeasies" were developed. These parties played jazz and swing music. 1940's and 1950's "Cool Jazz" emerged. In 1960's and 1970's Latin music had an influence on Jazz music, creating Latin Jazz.

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## FAMOUS MUSICIANS & BANDS:

Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Charles Mingus, Ella Fitzgerald, Jell Roll Morton, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, Bessie Smith, John Coltrane, Nat King Cole

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## COMMON ELEMENTS OF JAZZ MUSIC:

Jazz is unique for its swing rhythm. It's also known for the improvisation (scat-singing) and its use of brass and percussion instruments.

# Pop

**HISTORY:** Pop music can be traced all the way back to the 1920's when music was described as having a "popular appeal". The first iconic pop band was The Beatles in the 60's. The early 1980's popular music was transformed by MTV. Artists like Michael Jackson and Madonna can be considered as the first global pop icons in pop culture.

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**FAMOUS MUSICIANS & BANDS:** The Beatles, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Backstreet Boys, NSYNC, Katy Perry, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Lady Gaga

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**COMMON ELEMENTS OF POP MUSIC:** Pop music often focuses on the digitized recording in the studio rather than the live performance. Technology is more frequently used. Pop music often features one singer rather than an entire band. Vocals are typically the focus in pop music.