

Music Genres

0-9

2-step garage

chaotic style of UK garage.

2 Tone

late-1970s UK ska revival which fused ska with punk rock.

4-beat

breakbeat hardcore subgenre played between 150 and 170 BPM consisting of a fast looped breakbeat and a drum at every 4 beats.

12-bar blues

A distinctive form predominantly based on the I-IV-V chords of a key.

50s progression

A

A cappella

any singing performed without any background music/instruments.

Acid breaks

Acid house

psychedelic style of house

Acid jazz

psychedelic style of jazz influenced heavily by funk and hip-hop production

Acid rock

a form of psychedelic rock, characterized with long instrumental solos, few (if any) lyrics and musical improvisation

Acid techno

a form of techno that developed out of acid house.

Acid trance

Acoustic

a music that solely or primarily uses instruments which produce sound through entirely acoustic means, as opposed to electric or electronic means.

Adult contemporary

a broad term for any music with lush and soothing qualities, and a focus on melody and harmony.

Afrobeat

a large-scaled and energetic combination of Yoruba, highlife, jazz, and funk music.

Afro-Cuban jazz

style of jazz influenced by traditional Afro-Cuban music.

Afropop

a genre of African popular music.

Aleatoric

music the compositi of which is partially left to chance

Alternative country

any style of country that deviates from

the normal

Alternative dance

any combination of rock and electronic dance music

Alternative hip hop

any style of hip hop that deviates from the norm

Alternative metal

any style of heavy metal that deviates from the norm

Alternative R&B

any style of R&B that deviates from the norm

Alternative rock

any style of rock that deviates from the norm

Ambient

a form of incredibly slow electronic music that uses long repetitive sounds to generate a sense of calm and atmosphere.

Ambient house

a combination of acid house and ambient music.

Americana

a combination of all forms of roots music folk, country, and blues

Anarcho-punk

punk rock with anarchist themes.

Anasheed

Islamic vocal music, usually sung a capella, or accompanied by a daff.

Ancient

music created in the early stages of literate cultures.

Anatolian rock

a fusion of Turkish folk and rock

Anime

music, usually J-pop, used in anime soundtracks

Anti-folk

a mocking subgenre of folk that subverts the earnest, politically-informed lyrics of folk-revivalists.

Apala

Nigerian music originally used by the Yoruba people to wake worshippers after fasting during Ramadan.

Arabic pop

pop music informed by traditional Arabic styles.

Argentine rock

rock music informed by traditional Argentine styles.

Ars antiqua

European music from the Late Middle Ages, which advanced concepts of

rhythm.

Ars nova

style of French music from the Late Middle Ages, rejected fiercely by the Catholic Church.

Ars subtilior

style of French music from the Late Middle Ages.

Art pop

experimental or avant-garde pop music

Art punk

experimental or avant-garde punk music

Art rock

experimental or avant-garde rock music

Ashik

music performed by mystic or travelling Turkish, Azerbaijan, Georgian, Armenian, and Iranian bands, using vocals and the saz, performed since ancient times.

Assyrian pop music

pop, folk and dance music informed by traditional Assyrian styles.

Australian country

country music performed by Australians

Australian pub rock

style of hard rock founded in and drawing on themes native to Australian inner-city and suburban pubs and drinking establishments

Australian hip hop

hip hop performed by Australians

Avant-garde

music considered to be ahead of its time, often using new, unusual, or experimental elements, or fusing pre-existing genres.

Avant-garde jazz

experimental or avant-garde jazz music

Avant-garde metal

experimental or avant-garde heavy metal or hard rock

Avant-punk

experimental punk music

Axé

style of Salvadorian, Bahian, and Brazilian music informed by Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian styles

B

Bachata

An Afro-Dominican style waltz, consisting of despairing, and romantic ballads, popular among Dominican artists

Baggy

a British style that combined alternative rock and acid house, often creating a psychedelic and funky sound

Baião

a Brazilian rhythmic formula built around the zabumba drum that later combined itself with elements of mestizo, European, and African styles

Bakersfield sound

a raw and gritty country style that acted as a reaction against the slick, overproduced Nashville sound

Baila

Sri Lankan style that begun among the Afro-Sinhalese (or Kariff) community

Baisha xi Yue

orchestral Chinese style used by the Naxi people, often found in Taoist or Confucian ceremonies

Bajourou

initially an acoustic style of Malian pop music played at gatherings (particularly weddings), which has since become mostly electronic

Bal-musette

19th century style of French accordion-based dance music

Balakadri

Guadeloupean music made from the quadrille, usually performed at balls

Balinese Gamelan

Javanese and Balinese style made from xylophones, drums, and plucked strings

Balearic beat

also known as Balearic house, electronic dance music that was popular into the mid-1990s.

Balkan Brass Band

Serbian music made by soldiers that combined military brass with folk music

Ballad

generic term for usually slow, romantic, despairing and catastrophic songs

Ballata

13th–15th century Italian musical and poetic form based on an AbbaA structure that acted as a form of dance music

Ballet

specific style of French classical music created to accompany the ballet dance

Baltimore Club

combination of hip hop and house music

Bambuco

Colombian style based on waltz and polka

Banda

brass-based Mexican music

Bangsawan

style of Malay opera based on Indian styles introduced by immigrants

Bantowbol

Cameroonian style of accordion music

Barbershop

an art song in four part harmony in a capella styling

Barn dance

folk music played in a barnhouse

Baroque

style of Western art music made between the 17th and 18th centuries

Baroque pop

combination of classical music, orchestral pop, rock, and Baroque music

Bass

styles of EDM with an emphasis on bass, such as drum and bass, UK garage, and dubstep

Bassline

style of speed garage that combines elements of dubstep, particularly its emphasis on bass

Batá-rumba

Cuban rumba music that incorporates bata and guaguanco

Batucada

an African-influenced style of Brazilian samba

Baul

A style of folk music, specially in Bengali region.

Beach

Californian genre from the 1950s that combined elements of all popular genres at the time, particularly big band and shag jazz

Beat

British fusion of all popular 1960s American styles

R&B, pop, jazz, rock

Beatboxing

a capella music created to emulate hip hop beats

Beautiful

term of endearment for various easy listening genres

Bebop

fast paced style of jazz popular in the 1940s and 1950s

Beiguan

style of Chinese traditional music popular in Taiwan and the province of Zhangzhou

Bel canto

a light, sophisticated style of Italian opera singing

Bend-skin

urban Cameroonian music

Benga

Kenyan popular music based on Luo and Kikuyu folk music

Bent edge

Berlin School

heavily experimental electronic music that acted as a more avant-garde form of Krautrock and inspired ambient and New Age music

Bhajan

Hindu religious music

Bhangra

fusion of South Asian and British popular styles, initially developed by Punjabi Indian-English as a combination of their respective cultural styles, but later used to refer to any South Asian/European fusion

Bhangragga

a fusion of bhangra, reggae and dancehall

Big band

large orchestras which play a form of swing music

Big beat

1990s electronic music based on breakbeat with other influences

Biguine

Guadeloupean folk music

Blackened death metal

a fusion between death and black metal

Black metal

Extreme metal known for its lo-fi recording, shrieking vocals, unconventional song structures and dark or supernatural lyrics.

Black MIDI

Bluegrass

American country music mixed with Irish and Scottish influences

Blue-eyed soul

rhythm and blues or soul music performed by white artists.

Blues

African-American music from the Mississippi Delta area

Blues ballad

fusion of blues and folk

Blues rock

a hybrid musical genre combining bluesy improvisations over the 12-bar blues and extended boogie jams with rock and roll styles.

Biomusic

a form of experimental music which deals with sounds created or performed by living things.

Bitpop

electronic music, where at least part of the music is made using old 8-bit computers, game consoles and little toy instruments. Popular choices are the Commodore 64, Game Boy, Atari 2600

and Nintendo Entertainment System.

Bihu

a popular folk music of Assam, India

Boogaloo

Boi

Amazonian folk music

Bossa Nova

a well-known style of Brazilian music, a lyrical fusion of samba and jazz.

Bounce

energetic hip-hop music, native to New Orleans, frequently characterized by chromatic tics and "call and response" lyrics

Bouncy techno

an upbeat form of electronic dance music.

Brass

music performed with brass instruments, prior to the advent of jazz

Breakbeat

a style of EDM known for its 4/4 drum pattern and heavy use of turntable scratching

Breakbeat hardcore

a fusion of breakbeat and acid house

Breakcore

fast and frantic style of breakbeat known for its intentionally diverse range of samples, which make it a hard-to-define genre

Breakstep

Brega

Breton

folk music of Brittany, France, known for its use of woodwind

Brill Building Sound

a distinct style of jazz and Latin-inspired pop developed in the Brill Building of New York, USA

Brit funk

funk performed by the British, often influenced by soul, jazz, and Caribbean music

Britpop

British rock music from the 1990s that subverted the depressing themes of the then-popular grunge movement in favor of jangly, optimistic, guitar-pop, often touching on the themes of partying and working class life.

British blues

blues performed by British musicians

British Invasion

British musicians, primarily of the beat movement, who became popular in America during the 1960s

Broken beat

EDM played in a syncopated 4/4 rhythm,

with punctuated snare beats

Brostep

an aggressive and metal-influenced style of dubstep popular in America

Brown-eyed soul

soul music performed by Latinos

Brukdown

Belizean music inspired by European harmonies, African rhythms, and the call-and-response format

Bubblegum dance

fusion of Eurodance and bubblegum pop

Bubblegum pop

pop music known for its simplicity, happy and cute lyrics, and emphasis on image rather than substance.

Bikutsi

Cameroonian EDM, originating in the Beti community

Bulerías

fast-paced flamenco music

Bunraku

Japanese folk music often played at puppet theaters

Burger-highlife

style of highlife played by Ghanaian-Germans

Burgundian School

group of French, Belgian, and Dutch composers active in the 15th century, known for their secular forms

Bush ballad

Australian folk music often dealing with themes of Australian spirit and rebellion

Byzantine

Greek music performed during the age of the Byzantine Empire, known for its ecclesiastical form

C

Ca din tulnic

Romanian folk music played with the alpenhorn

Ca trù

a style of Vietnamese chamber music performed by one lute player and a geisha-esque female singer, used to entertain wealthy audiences, who would be included in the performances, and to perform in religious ceremonies

Cabaret

an often jazz-informed style of music played at upbeat stageplays or burlesque shows

Cadence-lypso

fusion of kadans and calypso

Cadence rampa

upbeat style of kadans

Cải lương

modern Vietnamese folk opera

Cajun

roots music of Louisiana, USA, inspired by Acadian ballads and Creole

Calinda

Trinidadian folk music played during practices of the martial art of the same name

Čalgija

Macedonian folk style

Calypso

Trinidadian folk music, inspired by both African and French styles, and known for its lyrics dealing with the racist oppression of native Trinidadians at the time

Calypso-style baila

fusion of baila and calypso

Campursari

Indonesian fusion genre, combining several folk styles with pop music

Candombe

fusion of African and Uruguayan styles developed by African-Uruguayan slaves in the 19th century

Canon

any music that combines a melody with copies of itself

Cantata

any music sung by a choir with instrumental backing

Cante chico

the vocal component to flamenco music

Cante jondo

flamenco music that incorporates deep vocals

Canterbury scene

group of British avant-garde, progressive rock, and jazz fusion musicians based in the English city of Canterbury, Kent

Cantiñas

upbeat form of Andalusian flamenco music

Cantiga

Portuguese ballad style from the Middle Ages

Canto livre

Portuguese folk music known for its far-left political messages

Cantopop

any Chinese pop music sung in Cantonese

Canzone Napoletana

Italian music sung in Neapolitan

Capoeira

Brazilian music played during performances of the martial art of the same name

Cariso

Trinidadian folk music, often considered an early form of calypso

Carnatic

southern Indian classical music

Carol

a festive song, often sung on Christmas or, rarely, Easter

Cartageneras

a style of flamenco known for its focus on folklore

Cavacha

style of rhythm popular in Kenyan and Zairean music

Celempungan

Sudanese folk music

Cello rock

rock music that incorporates cellos

Celtic

folk music of the Celts, an ethnic group inhabiting Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, some parts of France and Spain, and once England

Celtic fusion

popular music that includes a Celtic influence

Celtic hip hop

fusion of Celtic and hip hop music

Celtic metal

fusion of Celtic and heavy metal music

Celtic punk

fusion of Celtic and punk rock music

Celtic reggae

fusion of Celtic and reggae music

Celtic rock

fusion of Celtic and rock music

Cha-cha-cha

Cuban folk music

Chacarera

Argentinian folk and dance music

Chakacha

music of the Swahili people of Kenya and Tanzania

Chalga

fusion of Bulgarian ethno-pop and dance music with Eastern and Arab elements, popular in Southern Bulgaria

Chamamé

style of Argentinian, Mesopotamian, and Brazilian folk music

Chamber

classical music performed for a small audience by a small orchestra

Chamber jazz

fusion of chamber and jazz music

Chamber pop

Fusion of alternative rock and chamber music

Champeta

African-Colombian folk music

Changüí

Cuban music that fused African and Spanish styles

Chanson

French vocal-driven music

Chant

singing or speaking rhythmically to a very small number of pitches

Chap hop

a variety of music originating from England that mixes the hip hop genre with elements from the Chappist or steampunk subcultures

Charanga

traditional Cuban dance music

Charanga-vallenata

fusion of charanga, vallenata, and salsa

Charikawi

music accompanying of the dance of the same name of the Garifuna people of west Africa

Chastushka

humorous and fast-paced Russian and Ukrainian folk music

Châu vãn

a downtempo, trance-inducing style of Vietnamese folk music

Chèo

a style of musical theater performed by Vietnamese peasants

Children's music

any music marketed towards children

Chicago blues

blues music performed by Chicago inhabitants

Chicago house

house music performed by Chicago inhabitants

Chicago soul

soul music performed by Chicago inhabitants

Chicken scratch

fusion of Native American, White American, Mexican, and European styles, performed by the Native American Tohono O'odham people

Chill-out

umbrella term for electronic music with a slow tempo, designed to calm people after raves

Chillwave

indie pop style known for its looped synths and calming effects

Chinese music

any music performed by Chinese people

Chinese rock

rock music performed by Chinese people, often fused with traditional styles

Chiptune

Electronic music that is made on vintage computers/game systems or emulations thereof. May also refer to electronic music that uses samples from video games or vintage computers.

Chouval bwa

Martinican folk music

Chowtal

north Indian folk music performed during the Phagwa or Holi festival

Choro

fast-paced Brazilian pop music

Christmas carol

carols performed during the Christmas season

Christmas music

any music tied to the Christmas season

Christian electronic

EDM with Christian themes

Christian alternative rock

fusion of Christian and alternative rock

Christian country

fusion of Christian and country music

Christian hardcore

fusion of Christian and hardcore punk rock

Christian hip hop

hip hop with Christian themes

Christian metal

fusion of Christian and heavy metal rock

Christian music

any music with overt Christian themes

Christian punk

fusion of Christian and punk rock

Christian rock

rock music with Christian themes

Christian ska

ska music with Christian themes

Chylandyk

style of throat singing performed by the Tuva people of Siberia, created to mimic the chirps of crickets

Chumba

folk and dance style of the Garifuna people of west Africa

Church music

Chut-kai-pang

fusion of chutney, calypso, and parang

Chutney

Caribbean pop music that fuses calypso and cadence with several Indian styles

Chutney Soca

fusion of chutney and soca music

Classic country

umbrella term for country music released before the use of the term to describe it

Classic female blues

an early form of blues music known for its female vocalists

Classical

umbrella term for Western art music known for its use of large orchestras and staff notation

Classical period

a clearer, slicker form of Western art music performed in the 18th and 19th centuries, known for its emphasis on homophones and melody

Close harmony

any music with notes performed in a close range

Coladeira

Cape Verdean folk music

Coldwave

French post-punk

Combined rhythm

Dutch Antillean folk music inspired by zouk, merengue, and soca

Comedy music

any music that incorporates heavy themes of humor and comedy

Comedy rap

fusion of comedy and hip hop music

Comedy rock

fusion of comedy and rock music

Comic opera

fusion of comedy and opera music

Compas

a modernized form of Haitian meringue music

Concerto

a three-part classical piece in which one instrument takes lead and is backed by an orchestra

Concerto grosso

a form of baroque concerto in which the soloists and orchestra alternate playing

Conga

Cuban music played to accompany the dance of the same name

Conjunto

fusion of Mexican and German styles developed by Mexican-Americans who had bought German instruments in Texas

Contemporary Christian music

pop music with overt Christian themes

Contemporary R&B

a style of R&B music popular in the 21st century that combines soul-inspired vocals with hip-hop and EDM-inspired production

Contradanza

19th century Cuban dance music

Cool jazz

a relaxed, downtempo form of jazz

heavily inspired by classical music, that existed as a reaction to the fast-paced bebop

Coon song

music about black stereotypes

Corrido

Mexican storytelling ballad

Country

American roots music played with acoustic guitars, banjos, fiddles, and harmonicas

Country blues

fusion of country and blues music

Country folk

fusion of country and folk music

Country pop

fusion of country and pop music

Country rap

fusion of country and hip hop music

Country rock

fusion of country and rock music

Coupé-Décalé

Ivorian-French EDM drawing on zouk and African influences

Cowpunk

fusion of country and punk rock music

Cretan

Greek folk music performed by inhabitants of the island of Crete

Crossover thrash

fusion of thrash metal and hardcore punk

Crunk

fusion of hip hop and EDM, known for its heavy basslines and shouted, call-and-response vocals

Crunkcore

fusion of crunk and screamo

Crust punk

fusion of anarcho- and hardcore punk and extreme metal

Csárdás

Hungarian folk music

Cuarteto

Argentinian merengue music, originating in the city of Cordoba, and influenced also by Spanish and Italian styles

Cueca

umbrella term for Argentinian, Chilean, and Bolivian styles

Cumbia

fusion of Colombian folk music and African and Spanish styles bought from slaves and colonists, respectively

Cumbia villera

cumbia performed by inhabitants of the shantytowns of Buenos Aires

Cybergrind

fusion of grindcore and industrial

D

Dabke

Arabic folk dance music, often played at weddings

Dadra

light vocal style of Hindustani classical music, originating from the Bundelkhand region

Dadra tala

a style of Hindustani classical music which utilizes six beats in two equal rows of three

Daina

Latvian folk music

Daina

Lithuanian folk music

Dance

any music designed to make the listener dance. Also known as club music, an offshoot to electronic music which gave rise to EDM.

Dance-pop

pop music with an emphasis on dance rhythms, fusion of dance and pop musical styles.

Dance-punk

a grittier and rawer form of new wave music, linked heavily to the contemporary indie scene

Dance-rock

fusion of post-punk and post-disco, linked heavily to the new wave

Dancehall

Jamaican pop music that abandons reggae's roots influences for a slicker, EDM-inspired production

Dangdut

melodic and heavily optimistic form of Indonesian pop

Danger

any music that will, somehow, potentially harm either the performers or the audience, linked heavily to noise rock

Dansband

Swedish folk music

Danza

Puerto Rican style of music that accompanies the ballroom-influenced dance of the same name

Danzón

Cuban dance music

Dappan koothu

Indian folk dance music, popular in the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, often used as filmi music in the movies produced in those states

Dark ambient

style of ambient music that creates a feeling of dread and foreboding, rather

than the relaxation given off by most ambient

Dark cabaret

fusion of cabaret and gothic rock

Darkcore

chaotic and sinister style of jungle, which relied on pitch-shifting and horror movie audio samples

Dark pop

fusion of industrial/goth rock synthesizers with hip hop/techno drums

Dark rock

fusion of gothic and alternative rock

Darkstep

style of darkcore jungle that takes its signature sinister feel and fuses it with upbeat breakbeats and ambient noises, creating an excessively chaotic tone

Dark wave

excessively pessimistic style of post-punk, which relied on tales of realistic sorrow, rather than the fantasy elements of the then-popular gothic rock

De dragote

Romanian love music

Deathcore

fusion of death metal and metalcore

Deathgrind

fusion of death metal and grindcore

Death industrial

fusion of death and industrial metal, linked heavily to the power electronics scene

Death metal

Extreme metal known for its distorted guitar structure, growling vocals, blast beat drumming and dark or violent lyrics.

Death-doom

fusion of death and doom metal

Death rock

style of gothic rock known for its scratchy guitars, and lyrics focusing on supernatural and pessimistic themes, sometimes delving into intentionally campy horror themes

Décima

Hispanic genre of sung poetry

Delta blues

blues music performed by inhabitants of the Mississippi Delta

Deep house

form of Chicago house, inspired by jazz and soul music

Dementia

bizarre form of comedic avant-garde played by Dr. Demento

Descarga

a genre of improvised Afro-Cuban music

Desi

a style of Hindustani classical raga, associated with the Asavari and Kafi thaat

Detroit blues

blues music performed by inhabitants of Detroit, Michigan, USA

Detroit techno

techno performed by inhabitants of Detroit, Michigan, USA

Dhamar

a tala used in Hindustani classical music, associated with the dhrupad style, and played on a pakhawaj

Dhrupad

vocal style of Hindustani classical music, considered the oldest still being performed today

Dhun

a light instrumental form of Hindustani classical music

Digital hardcore

fusion of hardcore punk and hardcore techno, known for its far-left lyrics

Dirge

a song of mourning, often played at a funeral

Dirty rap

hip hop with sexual and pornographic themes

Disco

a form of music to dance to with elements of soul, pop and salsa.

Disco polo

Polish disco music

Diva house

style of house popular in LGBT nightclubs

Dixieland

an early form of jazz developed in New Orleans, USA

Djent

subgenre of progressive metal known for its elastic power chords

Doina

Romanian folk music, informed by Middle Eastern styles

Dondang Sayang

love ballads from the Malaysian state of Malacca, influenced by Portuguese styles

Donegal fiddle tradition

an Irish style of fiddle-playing from the Donegal county

Dongjing

Chinese traditional music of Nakhi people of the Yunnan province

Doo-wop

a simplistic and pop-oriented form of R&B known for its vocal harmonies and

little to no instrumentation

Doom metal

A style of heavy metal known for its low-tuned sound, slow tempos, clean and non-growled vocals and pessimistic lyrics

Downtempo

a slow-paced style of electronic music that differs from ambient in that it also has a beat and rhythm

Dream pop

an atmospheric and melodic style of indie pop that makes the audience feel dreamy

Drone metal

fusion of drone and heavy metal music

Drill music

Chicago rap, see Drill (music genre) for more

Drone

experimental style of minimalism, known for drawn-out and repetitive tones, giving it a droning feel

Drum and bass

style of EDM known for rapid-fire breakbeats and heavy basslines

Drumstep

fusion of drum and bass and dubstep

Dub

subgenre of reggae in which pre-existing tracks are heavily remixed, emphasizing the drum and bass (or riddim) and dubbing snippets from other works

Dubtronica

fusion of dub and EDM

Dubstep

dub-inspired subgenre of UK garage known for its heavy basslines and reverberant drums

Dubstyle

fusion of dubstep and hardstyle

Dunun

family of west African drums

Dunedin Sound

style of indie pop based in Dunedin, New Zealand

Dutch jazz

jazz performed by Dutch musicians

E

Early

umbrella term for any music made from the prehistoric era until the advent of baroque music

East Coast blues

umbrella term for any blues music made by inhabitants of the American East Coast, usually used to refer to the New York or Piedmont scenes

East Coast hip hop

any hip hop produced by inhabitants of New York

Easy listening

pop style aimed at older listeners

Electric blues

style of blues played with electric instruments, most notably the electric guitar

Electric folk

associated with the folk revival of the 1960s, electric folk was a style of folk in which modern, often electric instruments, were substituted for classic folk instruments

Electro

early form of EDM which made its sounds intentionally robotic and computer-like, usually to channel a theme of transhumanism

Electro backbeat

any EDM which utilizes a 4/4 drum pattern

Electro house

Electro-industrial

a style of post-industrial which used heavily produced and layered synths

Electro swing

fusion of EDM and swing-jazz

Electroclash

fusion of 1980s synthpop and 1990s techno

Electronic body music

EDM-informed style of post-industrial

Electronic dance

EDM; a fusion of electronic and dance music

Electronic music

music that utilizes electronic instruments, such as the synthesizer, Theremin, and computer

Electronic rock

fusion of electronic and rock music

Electronica

popular music that includes electronic instruments

Electronicore

fusion of electronic and post-hardcore/metalcore music

Electropop

fusion of electronic and pop music

Electropunk

fusion of electronic and punk music

Elevator music

comfortable and soothing music designed for and played in shopping malls, usually elevators therein, to create a sense of ambience and comfort

Emo

heavily emotional and pessimistic style

of post-hardcore punk

Emo pop

fusion of emo and pop punk

Enka

a popular, modern adaptation of traditional Japanese music

Epic

modern classical-like music derived from a wide array of genres, primarily trailer music.

Eremwu eu

work songs of the female bakers of the Garifuna people of west Africa

Ethereal wave

atmospheric subgenre of dark wave

Eurobeat

antecedent to Italo disco

Eurodance

European dance music and evolution of Euro disco that adapted elements of house and hi-NRG

Euro disco

European disco music, which incorporated elements of pop rock and synthpop

Euro house

European house music, usually a house-based form of Eurodance or Euro disco

Europop

European pop music

Eurotrance

European trance music, usually a fusion of Eurodance with uplifting trance and/or hard trance.

Exotica

fusion of many popular international genres from the 1950s marketed at Americans, who were attracted to the exotic label

Experimental

any music that breaches contemporary standards of music

Experimental hip hop

fusion of experimental and hip hop music

Experimental pop

fusion of experimental and pop music

Experimental rock

fusion of experimental and rock music

Extreme metal

umbrella term for aggressive, non-commercial forms of heavy metal

F

Fado

Portuguese folk music, often touching on the themes of melancholia and working class struggles

Falak

Afghan, Tajik, and Pakistani religious folk music

Fandango

Spanish music made to accompany the upbeat dance of the same name

Farruca

a light form of flamenco

Filk

style of folk (sometimes expanding to other genres) with heavy science-fiction or fantasy themes

Film score

any music written to act as a soundtrack to a motion picture

Filmi

Indian film scores

Filmi-ghazal

fusion of filmi and ghazal poetry

Fingerstyle

the act of plucking guitar strings with the fingertips

Flamenco

popular style of Spanish folk dance music developed in Andalusia by Romani-Spanish (or Gitanos), but latter expanding to the general Spanish populus

Folk jazz

fusion of folk and jazz music

Folk metal

fusion of folk and heavy metal rock

Folk

broad term used to refer to the traditional music of an ethnic group, usually that performed by the working class

Folk pop

fusion of folk and pop music

Folk punk

fusion of folk and punk rock

Folk rock

fusion of folk and rock music

Folktronica

fusion of folk and electronic music

Forró

popular Brazilian folk dance music

Franco-country

style of country music performed by French-Canadians

Freakbeat

a frantic, raw style of beat and British Invasion music

Freak folk

experimental style of folk, often folk-rock

Free improvisation

completely uncontrolled improvisation

Free jazz

freely improvised jazz music

Freestyle

Latin American electro-pop

Free tekno

style of techno developed by anarchists

French house

house music produced by French artists

Frevo

umbrella term for Brazilian dance styles associated with the Brazilian Carnivale

Fuji

Nigerian folk music

Full on trance

style of psychedelic trance known for its rolling baselines and confrontational themes

Funaná

Cape Verdean accordion-based dance music

Funeral doom

incredibly slow style of doom metal, made to mimic funeral music

Funk

combination of elements of blues, jazz, and soul with the melodies and harmonies stripped in order to emphasize the bass guitar

Funk metal

fusion of funk and heavy metal rock

Funk rock

fusion of funk and rock music

Funky house

fusion of funk and house music

Furniture music

a calming, live form of background music

Fusion jazz

fusion of jazz and rock music

Future garage

style of UK garage that fused it with elements of all other contemporary EDM styles

Future Bass

This genre stems from trap, juke and UK garage. it is focused on 808 drums and sawtooth synths

Futurepop

style of EDM known for its similarities to synthpop and uplifting trance, as well as its heavy sampling

G

G-funk

style of West Coast gangster rap

Gaana

upbeat Tamil dance song performed at celebrations

Gabber

a faster, more anarchistic, form of house music designed to counter the pretentious Dutch house scene of the 1980s

Gagaku

any Japanese classical music played for the Imperial Court

Gaita Zuliana

diverse form of Venezuelan folk

Galant

intentionally simplistic style of Western classical music designed to counter the increasingly complex Baroque music of the 18th century

Gamelan

Indonesian classical music

Gamelan bebonangan

Balinese style of gamelan that utilizes a 7-tone scale and cymbals

Gamelan degung

Sundanese style of gamelan that uses the pegog scale

Gamelan gong kebyar

Balinese style of gamelan known for its explosive changes in tempo

Gamelan salendro

West Javan gamelan

Gamelan selunding

Balinese style of gamelan

Gamelan semar pegulingan

Balinese style of gamelan

Gammaldans

wide variety of traditional Nordic dance music, and modernized versions created by Nordic-Americans

Gandrung

traditional Indonesian dance music

Gangster rap

hip hop that deals with illegal activity

Gar

Tibetan chanting and dancing

Garba

Gujarati music and dance

Garage house

heavily polished style of American house

Garage rock

raw and energetic style of rock, often practised by high school bands in garages

Gavotte

traditional French dance music

Gender wayang

Balinese style of gamelan

German folk

any folk music performed by Germans

Ghazal

Arabic (particularly Pakistani) angst-ridden poetry, often accompanied by music

Ghetto house

form of Chicago house known for its sexually explicit lyrics

Ghettotech

fusion of Chicago house, Miami bass, electro, glitch, and techno

Girl group

any all-female pop or rock group

Glam metal

a subgenre of heavy metal with elements of glam rock, hard rock and pop rock.

Glam punk

fusion of glam and punk rock

Glam rock

loosely defined pop rock which included heavy themes of gender-bending and androgyny

Glitch

style of EDM based around samples of malfunctioning technology in order to create an intentionally harsh sound

Gnawa

Islamic African religious music

Go-go

style of funk known for its syncopated rhythms and call-and-response vocals

Goa trance

fusion of trance music and traditional Indian styles

Gong chime

any music performed with high-pitched pot gongs, usually Southeast Asian styles

Goombay

Bahamian drum music

Goregrind

style of grindcore known for its lyrical focus on gore and forensics

Goshu ondo

traditional Japanese dance music from the Meiji era

Gospel

modernization religious music

Gothic metal

fusion of gothic rock and heavy metal

Gothic rock

style of post-punk, heavily inspired by Gothic art

Grebo

a short-lived British style of garage rock from the 1990s

Gregorian chant

a capella, religious chant used by the Roman Catholic Church

Grime

fusion of hip hop and UK garage

Grindcore

fusion of death metal and hardcore punk with indecipherable vocals.

Groove metal

style of heavy metal that took elements of thrash, but played at mid-tempo, making a slower, groovier sound

Group Sounds

Japanese pop from the 1961s, inspired heavily by British beat and American bubblegum pop

Grunge

minimalist style of alternative metal, known for its heavily distorted guitars and angst-ridden lyrics

Grupera

American rock-inspired Mexican rock

Guajira

Cuban country music, performed in rural communities

Gumbe

Guinea-Bissau folk music

Gunchei

Central American music played to accompany the garifauna dance of the same name

Gunka

Japanese military music

Guoyue

modernized Chinese traditional music

Gwo ka

Guadeloupean drum music

Gwo ka moderne

modernized form of gwo ka

Gypsy jazz

Roma-French style of jazz

Gypsy punk

Romani style of punk rock

H

Habanera

African-American style based on Cuban contredanza

Halling

Norwegian folk music made to accompany the dance of the same name

Hambo

Swedish folk music made to accompany the dance of the same name

Hamburger Schule

style of alternative rock based in Hamburg, Germany

Happy hardcore

incredibly fast, upbeat, and optimistic style of hardcore techno

Haqibah

Sudanese a capella music

Hardcore hip hop

aggressive and confrontational form of hip hop

Hardcore punk

heavy metal-informed style of punk

Hardcore techno

style of techno known for distorted, industrial-esque beats

Hard bop

style of bebop informed by gospel, R&B and blues

Hard house

fusion of hardstyle and house music

Hard rock

Loud, bluesy, distorted, and technically proficient form of rock

Hardstep

gritty, heavy style of drum & bass

Hardstyle

intense, heavy style of EDM known for its heavy kick-drums and reversed basslines

Hard trance

heavy, reverberating style of trance music

Harmonica blues

blues music that utilizes the Richter-tuned harmonica

Hasapiko

Greek folk dance music, originating in Constantinople

Hát tuồng (Hát bội)

Vietnamese opera

Heartland rock

style of rock known for its minimalism, straightforwardness, and concern with the American working class

Heavy metal

technically proficient, fast-paced, aggressive form of hard rock

Hi-NRG

uptempo, fast-paced style of EDM known for a reverberating, four-on-the-floor rhythm

Highlife

Ghanan style that married traditional African forms with Western pop

Hiplife

fusion of highlife and hip hop

Hip hop

combination of funk, poetry and innovative DJ techniques, particularly sampling of pre-recorded material

Hip house

fusion of hip hop and house music

Hindustani classical

Northern Indian classical music

Hiragasy

style of music and dance performed by troupes of relatives for day-long periods by the Merina people of Madagascar

Honky-tonk

crisp, clean form of country

Honkyoku

religious music performed by Japanese Zen Buddhists

Hora lungă

improvisational Romani folk music

Hornpipe

music played to accompany the British naval dance of the same name

Horrorcore

hip hop known for dark, horror-inspired lyrics

Horror punk

punk that is lyrically inspired by 1950s horror B-movies, often in an ironic way

House

a relaxed, disco-informed style of EDM

Huayño

Peruvian folk music

Hula

Hawaiian folk music made to accompany the dance of the same name

Humppa

Finnish jazz style

Hunguhungu

folk music performed by Garifuna women

Hyangak

Korean court music from the Three Kingdoms period

Hymn

any religious song

Hyphy

fast-paced style of hip hop from the San Francisco Bay Area

I

Icaro

music sung in healing ceremonies of the Shipibo-Conibo people of Peru

Igbo

any music performed by the Igbo people of Nigeria

Illbient

form of ambient inspired by dub in its use of layering and hip hop in its use of sampling

Impressionist

style of Western art music inspired by the visual arts movement of the same name

Improvisational

any kind of music that is made up on the spot

Incidental

music played in the background of a film or play

Indietronica

fusion of indie rock and EDM

Indie folk

fusion of indie rock and folk music

Indie

music that is formed around an idea of remaining on the underground and a DIY ethic

Indie pop

a melodic, often angst-free and optimistic, form of pop-rock associated with the indie scene

Indie rock

generic term for rock music linked to the indie subculture

Indo jazz

fusion of jazz and traditional Indian music

Industrial death metal

fusion of industrial and death metal

Industrial hip hop

fusion of industrial and hip hop music

Industrial

early form of electronica that linked avant-garde electronic experimentation to punk rock energy, vocalisation, and ethics. Industrial spawned an indulgence in darkness, horror, and even fascism (although often not seriously) that carried over into goth, emo, and metalhead culture

Industrial musical

musical theater performed by the workers of a company to promote teamwork

Industrial metal

fusion of industrial and heavy metal music

Industrial rock

fusion of industrial and rock music

Instrumental

music that had no lyrics

Instrumental rock

any rock music that neglects vocals

Intelligent dance

more experimental and intellectual form of electronica so called to distinguish itself from the commercialist trends in rave music

Inuit

any music performed by the Inuit people of Greenland and Canada

Irish folk

traditional music of the Irish people

Irish rebel

Irish folk with an emphasis on Irish republicanism

Isicathamiya

a capella form of singing used by the Zulu people of South Africa

Islamic music

Isolationist

style of ambient that uses repetition and dissonance to create a sense of uneasiness

Italo dance

an optimistic form of Eurodance that developed in Italy

Italo disco

form of disco developed in Italy that led to the creation of modern EDM

Italo house

Italian house music that followed on from Italo disco

Izvorna bosanska

Bosnian rural roots music

J

J-Pop

pop music made by the Japanese

J-Rock

rock music made by Japanese performers

Jaipongan

music made to accompany the dance of the same name of Sundanese people of Indonesia

Jam

a type of band that plays long instrumental tracks, often improvised, called 'jams'

Jamrieng samai

Cambodian pop music

Jangle pop

style of indie pop known for its uplifting, 'jangly' sounds

Japanoise

noise music from Japan

Jarana yucateca

traditional Yucatán dance music

Jarocho

Mexican dance and song style from Veracruz

Jawaiian

fusion of Hawaiian traditional music and reggae

Jazz

a type of music that originated in the late 19th and early 20th century in the Southern United States

Jazz blues

fusion of jazz and blues music

Jazz-funk

fusion of jazz and funk music

Jazz fusion

any music that fuses something with jazz, particularly jazz-rock

Jazz rap

fusion of jazz and hip hop

Jegog

gamelan played with bamboo-based instruments

Jenkka

Finnish folk dance music

Jesus

style of CCM developed by the American hippie-based Jesus Movement

Jig

uptempo Irish folk dance music

Jing ping

Dominican folk dance music developed by slave during European colonialism

Jingle

short, catchy song used in advertising

Jit

Zimbabwean pop music

Jitterbug

any music that accompanied the dance of the same name

Jive

swing music used to accompany the African-American ballroom dance of the same name

Joged

Balinese dance music

Joged bumbung

fusion of gamelan and joged

Joik

style of Sami folk music

Joropo

Venezuelan waltz

Jota

Spanish folk dance music

Jug

African-American folk music made from household objects such as jugs, spoons, and washboards

Juke joint blues

fusion of blues and soul

Jùjú

Nigerian pop music

Jump blues

uptempo blues music played with horns

Jumpstyle

faster form of progressive house

Jungle

style of EDM known for fast tempo, breakbeats, samples, and dub-inspired layered synths

Junkanoo

Bahamas folk dance music

K

K-pop

Korean pop music

Kaba

Southern Albanian instrumental folk music

Kabuki

form of Japanese musical theatre known for its elaborate make-up and costuming

Kagok

Korean folk music

Kaiso

Trinidadian folk music

Kalamatianó

Greek folk music

Kan ha diskan

Breton folk music

Kansas City blues

blues music performed by Kansas City inhabitants

Kantrum

fast-paced Khmer-Thai folk music

Kargyraa

deep, growling form of Tuvan throat singing

Kaseko

Surinamese music that fuses African, European, and American styles

Kachāshī

fast-paced Ryukyuan festive folk music

Kawachi ondo

Japanese folk music from the Osaka region

Kayōkyoku

an early form of J-Pop

Kecak

Balinese folk opera

Kacapi suling

Sundanese folk music

Kertok

Malay musical ensemble utilizing xylophones

Khaleeji

Arab folk music

Khene

Malay woodwind music

Khyal

North Indian form of Hindustani classical music

Khoomei

soft, droning form of Tuvan throat singing

Kirtan

Indian drum music performed during Hindu bhakti rituals

Kiwi rock

rock music performed by New Zealanders

Kizomba

Angolan folk dance music

Klapa

Croatian a capella music

Klasik

Afghan classical music

Klezmer

Jewish classical music

Kliningan

Sundanese folk dance music

Kolomyjka

tongue-in-cheek Hutsul folk dance music

Komagaku

Japanese court music from the Heian period

Kpanlogo

Ghanan folk dance music

Kpop

South Korean pop music

Krakowiak

fast-paced Polish folk dance music

Krautrock

highly experimental form of German art rock that incorporated electronic influences

Kriti

Indian classical music

Kroncong

Indonesian folk music utilizing the ukele

Kuduro

Angolan folk music

Kulintang

ancient gong music of the Filipinos, Indonesians, Malays, Bruneian, and Timorese

Kundiman

Filipino love songs

Kvæði

Icelandic folk music

Kwaito

South African house music

Kwassa kwassa

Congolese folk dance music

Kwela

South African skiffle music

L

Lambada

Brazilian dance music

Latin metal

A genre of heavy metal with Latin origins, influences, and instrumentation, such as Spanish vocals, Latin percussion and rhythm such as Salsa rhythm

Latin music

Spanish- and Portuguese-language popular music

Latin pop

fusion of pop music and Latin American music or any pop music from the Spanish-speaking world

Latin swing

a fusion of gypsy jazz rhythms and Latin music, including flamenco, samba and salsa. Created and played by Lulo Reinhardt, Germany

Lavani

style of traditional Indian music performed in Maharashtra

Legényes

Hungarian and Romanian folk dance music performed by the inhabitants of Transylvania, now modern-day Cluj-Napoca

Letkajenkka

Finnish folk dance music

Lhamo

Tibetan folk opera

Lied

German poems spoken to music

Light

soft, non-confrontational British orchestral music

Liquid funk

form of drum and bass with a heavy emphasis on melody

Liquindi

style of percussion performed by the various 'pygmy' peoples of Africa in which drummers stand in a body of water and hit the surface

Lo-fi

any music recorded at a quality lower than usual

Logobi

form of zouglou influenced by the French colonists in the Ivory Coast

Long song

Mongolian folk music in which each syllable is extended for a longer than average period of time

Louisiana blues

any blues performed by inhabitants of the state of Louisiana

Lounge

downtempo music intended to give the listener a sense of being somewhere else, i.e. a jungle or outer space

Lovers rock

form of reggae fusion known for its romantic lyrics

Lowercase

extreme form of ambient music consisting of long periods of silence and occasional, very minute sounds

Lu

Tibetan a capella music

Lubbock sound

fusion of rock and roll and country music from Lubbock, Texas

Luk Krung

more polished form of luk thung

Luk thung

Thai folk music

Lullaby

soothing song sung to young children to lull them to sleep

Lundu

harmonious style of Afro-Brazilian music

Lust

romantic retro 80's music

M

M-Base

style of musical thought and composition developed by Steve Coleman

Madchester

fusion of EDM, psychedelic rock, and indie rock

Madrigal

style of classical singing popular in the Renaissance and Baroque eras

Mafioso rap

subgenre of gangsta rap that focuses on organized crime

Mahori

form of Thai and Khmer classical music

Makossa

Cameroonian pop

Malhun

Arab folk poetry

Maloya

style of folk developed by the slaves on the French territory of Reunion

Mambo

Cuban style of jazz

Manaschi

Kyrgyz song recital of the Epic of Manas

Mandopop

style of C-pop sung in the Mandarin language

Manele

Romani folk music

Mangue Bit

Brazilian electronic genre played in a fast-paced, punk-informed style

Manila Sound

fusion of Western rock music and traditional Filipino folk music

Mapouka

traditional folk dance music of the Aizi, Alladian, and Avikam people of the Ivory Coast

Marabi

South African style informed by blues and jazz

Maracatu

Brazilian folk dance music

Mariachi

fusion of Mexican folk music and pop music

Marrabenta

Mozambican folk dance music informed by Portuguese styles

Martial industrial

style of neo-folk informed by military marches and militaristic themes

Maskanda

South African folk music

Marinera

romantic Peruvian folk dance music

Martinetes

a capella flamenco music

Mass

Christian hymns sung by large vocal groups

Matamuerte

Garifuna folk dance music

Mathcore

fusion of metalcore and math rock

Math rock

rhythmically complex form of experimental rock

Maxixe

Brazilian folk dance music

Mazurka

Polish folk dance music

Mbalax

Senegalese folk dance music that combines traditional sabar drumming techniques with jazz, soul, rock, and Latin music

Mbaqanga

Zulu jazz style that was one of the first South African genres to achieve intertribal recognition

Mbube

South African a cappella music

Meditation

any music created to aid meditation procedures

Medieval folk rock

form of folk rock that incorporated elements of earlier folk traditions, such as Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music, despite what the name may suggest

Medieval metal

fusion of folk metal and Medieval folk rock

Medieval

period of Western art music ranging from the 6th to 15th centuries

Mejoranera

Panaman guitar music

Malhun

north African style of classical music that borrows from Andalusian traditions

Melam

Indian drumming style

Melodic hardcore

style of hardcore punk known for its slower, melodic guitars, juxtaposed with shouted vocals

Melodic metalcore

fusion of melodic hardcore and metalcore

Melodic

any music that utilizes melody, the

combination of notes so that they are perceived as a single string of music

Memphis blues

style of blues from Memphis

Memphis soul

polished, funky style of soul from Memphis

Mento

Jamaican folk music

Merengue

Dominican folk dance music

Merengue típico

style of modern merengue that attempts to sound similar to 19th century merengue

Méringue

Haitian guitar music

Metalcore

fusion of thrash metal and hardcore punk; often sung melodically

Mexican rock

rock music performed by Mexicans

Meykhana

Azerbaijani spoken word music

Mezwed

Tunisian folk music

Miami bass

rave-inspired style of hip hop

Microhouse

minimalist, stripped down form of house music

Mini-jazz

rock-inspired meringue music

Minuet

French folk dance music

Milonga

Argentinian and Uruguayan folk dance music

Min'yō

Japanese folk music

Minimal

heavily experimental form of orchestral music known for its simplicity

Minimal trance

fusion of psychedelic trance and minimal music

Minimal techno

fusion of techno and minimal music

Minstrel

American folk music which parodied African-American styles

Minneapolis sound

glam-informed style of dance-rock pioneered by Prince

Modinha

Brazilian folk music

Modern classical

loose term for orchestral music made during or after the 20th century

Modern laïka

modernized and pop-informed style of laïka

Modern rock

any rock music (usually alternative rock) made during or after the 1990s

Mor lam

Laotian and Thai folk music

Mor lam sing

fast-paced, sexual, and modernized form of mor lam

Moombahton

fusion of electro house and reggaeton

Moombahcore

moombahton incorporating dubstep influences and elements of Dutch house

Motown

slick, pop-informed form of soul music

Montuno

loose term for Cuban music and its derivatives

Morna

Cape Verdean folk music

Mozambique of Cuba

Cuban folk dance music

Mozambique of America

American derivative of the Cuban style of the same name

Mugham

Azerbaijan classical music

Murga

Uruguayan and Argentinian folk dance music

Musette

French folk dance music

Mushroom Jazz

eclectic genre that draws from downtempo, hip hop, and world styles

Music drama

an artwork that covers all forms of art

Music hall

English popular music of the 19th century

Música criolla

Peruvian music informed by African, European, and Andean styles

Musica llanero

Venezuelan and Colombian folk music

Música popular brasileira

loose term for Brazilian pop music

Musiqi-e assil

Persian orchestral music

Musique concrète

heavily experimental orchestral music known for its use of electronic instruments

Muwashshah

Arabic musical poetry

N

Nagauta

Japanese music that accompanies kabuki theater

Nakasi

Japanese and Taiwanese folk music

Nangma

Tibetan EDM

Nanguan music

Chinese classical music that is heavily influenced by Western styles

Narcocorrido

Mexican polka-influenced folk music with lyrics focusing on illegal activity

Nardcore

hardcore and skate punk subgenre based in Oxnard, California

Narodna muzika

Bosnian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Serbian folk music

Nashville sound

a slick, pop-informed 'radio friendly' form of American country music that began in Nashville, Tennessee

National socialist black metal

black metal with lyrics supporting national socialism, fascism, and other far-right ideologies

Nederpop

Dutch pop music

Neoclassical

orchestral music of the early 20th century

Neoclassical dark wave

fusion of neoclassical and dark wave music

Neo-classical metal

fusion of neoclassical and heavy metal music

Neoclassical New Age

fusion of neoclassical and new age music

Neo kyma

style of classical Greek music from the 1960s with French influences

Neofolk

fusion of folk rock and post-industrial music

Neo-Medieval

music that attempts to imitate Medieval and earlier periods of classical music

Neo-progressive rock

highly theatrical, emotional, and clean subgenre of progressive rock

Neo-psychedelia

loose term for music inspired by psychedelic and acid rock

Neo soul

alternative form of hip hop soul that focused on more soulful and emotive

vocals and lyrics

Neotraditional country

alternative country music that attempts to imitate pre-Nashville 'traditional' country

Nerdcore

hip hop with lyrics concerning typically 'nerdy' subjects

Neue Deutsche Welle

German punk and new wave music

Neue Deutsche Todeskunst

German dark wave and Gothic rock

Neurofunk

more advanced form of techstep

New-age

form of ambient music intended for use during meditation

New Beat

Belgian downtempo and acid house

Neue Deutsche Härte

German fusion style that mainly takes elements of industrial and groove metal, as well as techno and alternative rock

New jack swing (or swingbeat)

slickly produced fusion of soul, pop, dance, and hip hop music

New Orleans blues

Dixieland- and Caribbean-informed style of blues from New Orleans

New prog

more ambitious and alternative rock-inspired form of progressive rock

New rave

fusion of alternative rock and EDM

New school hip hop

hip hop music made after the mid-80s

New Taiwanese Song

Taiwanese pop music

New wave

early form of punk-informed synthpop

New wave of new wave

1990s British revival of new wave music

New Weird America

term for the, often psychedelic-informed, indie folk music of the 2000s

New York blues

a jazz-influenced style of blues from New York, New York

Nintendocore

fusion of chiptune and metalcore

Nisiotika

Greek folk music from the Aegean Islands

No wave

avant-garde punk subgenre created as a reaction to the commercial new wave

Noh

long, highly dramatic Japanese opera

Noise

trend in orchestral, rock, and electronic

music where harsh, non-melodic, and often random sounds are used alongside or in place of conventional sounds

Noise pop

derivative of noise rock in which noises and feedback are used, but made into a melodic, often relaxing sound

Noise rock

loud, atonal, dissonant, and unconventional rock music

Nordic folk

folk music of the Nordic people

Nordic folk dance

upbeat style of Nordic folk

Nortec

Mexican EDM

Norteño

Mexican folk music

Northern soul

soul music made by northern English

Nu-disco

modern house music that draws inspiration from disco

Nu gaze

new form of Shoegaze

Nu jazz

modern jazz music that borrows from funk and EDM

Nu metal

fusion of thrash, groove, and alternative metal that also borrows elements from punk, industrial, grunge, and hip hop

Nu skool breaks

a more abstract and drum & bass-inspired style of breakbeat

O

Obscuro

Oi!

1980s style of British punk rock

Old school hip hop

generic term for hip hop music recorded before approximately 1989

Old-time

archaic term for many different styles that were an outgrowth of Appalachian folk music and fed into country music

Oldies

Popular music from the 50's and 60's.

Olonkho

Yakut epic songs

Old Time Radio

Old Time Radio Shows from the 30's 60's

Ondo

Opera

theatrical performances in which all or most dialogue is sung with musical

accompaniment

Operatic Pop

subgenre of pop music that is performed in a classical operatic style (also referred to as "Popera")

Oratorio

similar to opera but without scenery, costumes or acting

Orchestra

a large ensemble, especially one used to play European classical music

Organ trio

a style of jazz from the 1960s that blended blues and jazz (and later "soul jazz") and which was based around the sound of the Hammond organ

Organic ambient

often acoustic ambient music which uses instruments and styles borrowed from world music

Organum

Middle Ages polyphonic music

Oriental metal

a subgenre of folk metal that incorporates elements of traditional Middle Eastern music.

Ottava rima

Italian rhyming stanzas

Ottoman military band

the oldest variety of military marching band in the world.

Outlaw country

late 1960s and 70s form of country music with a hard-edged sound and rebellious lyrics

Outsider music

generic term for music performed by outsiders

Operetta

P

P-Funk

1970s fusion of funk, heavy metal and psychedelic rock, most closely associated with the bands Funkadelic and Parliament, who shared many members collectively known as P-Funk

PBR&B

Pagan metal

Pagan rock

Pagode

Brazilian style of music which originated in the Rio de Janeiro region

Paisley Underground

1980s style of alternative rock that drew heavily on psychedelia

Palm wine

fusion of numerous West African, Latin American and European genres, popular

throughout coastal West Africa in the 20th century

Panambih

tembang sunda that uses metered poetry

Panchai baja

Nepalese wedding music

Panchavadyam

Temple music from Kerala, India

Pansori

Korean folk music played by a singer and a drummer

Paranda

Garifuna form of music

Parranda

Afro-Venezuelan form of music

Parody

humorous renditions of existing songs or styles

Patriotic

Pambiche (Merengue estilo yanqui)

Paranda

Garifuna music of Belize

Parang

Trinidadian Christmas carols

Partido alto

Pasillo

Psychobilly

Punk rock and country

Peace Punk

Pelimanni music

Finnish folk dance music

Persian traditional music

Peruvian cumbia

also known as chicha music.

Petenera

Peyote Song

a mixture of gospel and traditional Native American music

Philadelphia soul

soft 1970s soul that came out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Piano blues

Pimba

Origin: Portugal.

Piedmont blues

Pinoy rock

rock and roll sung in Tagalog from the Philippines

Pinpeat orchestra

Piphat

ancient form of Thai classical ensemble

Pirate metal

mix of heavy metal and pirate music

Piyyutim

Plainchant (Gregorian chant)

Plena

Pleng phua cheewit

Thai protest rock

Pleng Thai sakorn

a Thai interpretation of Western classical music

Polka

French music style originated in Paris in 1844

Polo

Venezuelan folk music

Polonaise**Pols**

Danish fiddle and accordion dance music

Polska**Pong lang****Pop folk****Pop music****Pop punk****Pop rap****Pop rock****Pop sunda**

Sundanese mixture of gamelan degung and pop music structures

Pornocore**Porro**

Colombian big band music

Post-Britpop>**Post-dubstep**>**Post-disco**>**Post-grunge**>**Post-hardcore**

A metal style that often utilizes screaming and melodic vocal techniques as well as dynamic range

Post-industrial**Post-metal****Post-minimalism****Post-punk****Post-rock****Post-romanticism****Powada- Marathi Folk****Power duo****Power electronics****Power metal**

A style of heavy metal with melodic vocals, symphonic context and with fantastic or mythical lyrics

Power noise (or rhythmic noise)**Power pop****Power trio****Powerviolence (also known as power violence)****Pow-wow**

Native American dance music

Ppongchak

Korean pop music developed during the Japanese occupation

Praise song**Program symphony****Progressive electronic music****Progressive folk music****Progressive house****Progressive metal**

A subgenre of heavy metal and progressive rock.

Progressive bluegrass**Progressive rock**

A subgenre of rock music with origins of jazz fusion and psychedelic rock.

Progressive trance**Protopunk****Psychedelic music****Psychedelic folk****Psychedelic rock**

A style of rock music that relates to psychedelia.

Psychedelic trance (Psy-trance)**Psychobilly****Pub rock**

back-to-basics rock music, see Pub rock (Australia) and Pub rock (United Kingdom).

Pungmul

a Korean folk music tradition that includes drumming, dancing, and singing.

Punk blues

a US music genre that developed in the 1980s, which mixes elements of blues with the aggressive sound of punk.

Punk Cabaret

a fusion of musical theater and cabaret style music with the aggressive, raw nature of punk rock.

Punk jazz**Punk rock**

A subgenre of rock music known for its raw and distorted sound, usually fast and short songs, and lyrics of angst or anti-establishment.

Punta**Punta rock**

1970s Belizean music

Q**Quan ho**

Vietnamese vocal music which originated in the Red River Delta

Qasidah

Epic religious poetry accompanied by percussion and chanting

Qasidah modern

Qasidah updated for mainstream audiences

Qawwali

Sufi religious music updated for mainstream audiences, was originated in India

Quadrille**Queercore****Quiet Storm****R****Raga rock**

Swiss soul, rock and Indian music fusion

Raga**Raggamuffin (Ragga)****Ragga Jungle****Ragtime****Rai**

Algerian folk music now developed into a popular style

Raicore**Rai'n'B****Rake-and-scrape**

Bahamian instrumental music

Ramkbach**Ramvong****Ranchera**

pop mariachi from 1950s film soundtracks

Rap**Rapso**

A poetic "rap" form of Trinbagonian music—the next evolutionary step of Calypso and Soca.

Rara**Rare groove**

Gujarati music and dance

Rasiya**Rave****Ravanahatha**

Ravana music

Rebetiko**Red Dirt (music)****reel****Reggae****Reggae dancehall (see Dancehall)****Reggae fusion****Reggae highlife****Reggaeton****Rekilaulu**

Finnish rhyming sleigh songs

Religious**Rembetiko****Renaissance music****Retro****Requiem****Rhapsody****Rhumba****Rhyming spiritual**

Bahamian hymns

Rhythm and blues (R&B)**Ricercar****Rímur**

Icelandic heroic epic songs

Riot grrrl**Rock**

Rock opera
Rock and roll
Rock en español
Rockabilly
Rocksteady
Rococo
Romantic period in music
Ronggeng
a folk music from Malacca, Malaysia
Roots reggae
Roots rock
Roots rock reggae
Rumba

S

Sabar
drumming style found in Senegal
Sacred Harp
Sadcore
Saibara
Salegy
Salsa
fusion of multiple Cuban- and Puerto Rican-derived pop genres from immigrants in New York City
Salsa erotica
lyrically explicit form of salsa romantica
Salsa romantica
a soft, romantic form of salsa music
Saltarello
Samba
form of Brazilian popular music
Samba-canção
traditional samba in slow tempo and with romantic lyrics. influenced by bolero
Samba-reggae
a genre of samba with a choppy, reggae-like rhythm.
Samba-rock
Sambai
Sambass
Sanjo
Korean instrumental folk music
Sardana
Traditional Music of Catalonia
Sato kagura
Sawt
urban music from Kuwait and Bahrain
Saya
Bolivian music derived from African rhythms
Schlager
Schottisch
Scottish Baroque music
Scrumpy and Western
folk music from West Country of England
Scuff
Sea shanty

Sean nós
Sean-nós singing style of Ireland
Seapunk
Second Viennese School
Sega music
Seggae
Seis
Semba
Sephardic music
Serialism
Sertanejo
Set dance
Sevdalinka
Bosnian urban popular music
Sevillana
Shabad
Shalako
Armenian folk dance
Shan'ge
Taiwanese Hakka mountain songs
Shango
Shape note
Shibuya-kei
Shidaiqu
Hong Kong-based form of traditional music updated for pop audiences and sung in Mandarin
Shima-uta
folk songs from the Amami Islands, Japan
Shock rock
Shoegaze
British pop
Shoka
Japanese songs written during the Meiji Restoration to bring Western music to Japanese schools
Shomyo
Japanese Buddhist chanting
Show tune
Sica
Siguriyas
Silat
Malaysian mixture of music, dance and martial arts
Sinawi
Korean religious music meant for dancing; it is improvised and reminiscent of jazz
Singer-songwriter
Situational
pertaining to songs describing the current situation; most prevalent in films
Ska
Ska punk
Skald
Skate punk
Skiffle
Skullstep

Slack-key guitar (kihoalu)
Hawaiian form invented by retuning open strings on a guitar
Slängpolska
Slide
Slowcore
Sludge metal
A subgenre of heavy metal with slow-tuned tempos, abrasive distortion and harsh vocals
Smooth jazz
Ska
Skweee
Soca
Soft rock
Son-batá (batá rock)
Son cubano
Son montuno
Cuban folk music
Sonata
Songo
a mixture of changuú and son montuno
Songo-salsa
a mixture of songo, hip hop and salsa
Sophisti-pop
Soukous
Soul blues
Soul jazz
Soul music
form of African-American music with elements of gospel and doo-wop
Soundtrack
Southern Gospel
Southern Harmony
Southern hip hop
Southern metal
Southern rock
Southern soul
Space age pop
Space music
Space rock
Spectralism
Speedcore
Speed garage
Speed metal
Spirituals
Spouge
Barbadian folk music
Sprechgesang
Square dance
St. Louis blues
Steelband
Stoner metal
Stoner rock
Straight edge
Strathspeys
Street bass
Stride
String

1980s Thai pop music

String quartet

Sufi music

Suite

Sunshine pop

Suomirock

Super Eurobeat

Surf ballads

Surf instrumental

Surf music

Surf pop

Surf rock

Swamp blues

Swamp pop

Swamp rock

Swing music

Sygyt

type of xoomii (Tuva throat singing), likened to the sound of whistling

Symphonic black metal

Symphonic metal

Symphonic poem

Symphonic rock

Symphony

Synthpop

Synthwave (1980s genre)

Synthwave (2000s genre)

T

Taarab

Tai tu

Vietnamese chamber music

Taiwanese pop

early Taiwanese pop music influenced by enka and popular with older listeners

Tala

a rhythmic pattern in Indian classical music

Talempong

a distinct Minangkabau gamelan music

Talking blues

Tambu

Tamburitzá

Tamil Christian keerthanai

Christian devotional lyrics in Tamil

Táncház

Hungarian dance music

Tango

Argentine popular music that spread internationally in the 1920s

Tanguk

a form of Korean court music that includes elements of Chinese music

Tappa

Taqwacore

Tarana

form of vocal music from northern India using highly rhythmic nonsense syllables

Tarantella

Taranto

Tech House

Tech Trance

Technical death metal

Technical metal

Techno

Technoid

Techstep

Techtonik

Tecno brega

Teen pop

A subgenre of pop music targeted towards pre-teen and teenage listeners

Tejano music

or "Tex-Mex", sometimes confused with norteño

Tekno

Tembang sunda

Sundanese sung free verse poetry

Texas blues

Theme music

Thillana

form of vocal music from South India using highly rhythmic nonsense syllables

Third Wave Ska

Thirty-two-bar form

Thrashcore

Thrash metal

A heavy metal subgenre known for its fast tempos, screaming vocals, extended guitar solos and aggressive lyrics.

Thumri

a type of popular Hindustani vocal music

Tibetan pop

pop music heavily influenced by Chinese forms, emerging in the 1980s

Tientos

Timbila

form of folk music in Mozambique

Tin Pan Alley

Tinga

Tinku

traditional music and dance from Potosí Bolivia

Toeshey

Tibetan dance music

Togaku

T'ong guitar

acoustic guitar pop music of Korea

Traditional pop music

Trallalero

Genoese urban songs

Trance

Trap music

Trival

Tribal house

Trikitixa

Basque accordion music

Trip hop

Tropicalia

Tropical music

Música tropical

Tropipop

Truck-driving country

Tumba

Turbo-folk

aggressive form of modernized Serbian music

Turkish Music

Turntablism

Tuvan throat-singing

Twee pop

Twist (also a dance style, early 1960s)

Two Tone

U

UK garage

UK hardcore

UK hard house

UK pub rock

Unblack metal

also known as Christian black metal

Underground music

Uplifting Trance

Urban Cowboy

Urban Folk

V

Vallenato

accordion-based Colombian folk music

Vaporwave

Vaudeville

Verbunkos

Hungarian folk music

Verismo

Video game music

Melodic music as defined by its media.

Viking metal

Villanella

16th century Neapolitan songs

Virelais

Visual Kei

Japanese music scene, created around the 1980s

Visual music

Vocal house

Vocal jazz

Vocal music

Vocaloid

Volksmusik

Vomitstep

Electronic subgenre popularized by the artist Snails

W

Waila (chicken scratch)

a Tohono O'odham fusion of polka, norteño and Native American music

Waltz

Wangga

Australian aboriginal music genre

Warabe uta

Wassoulou

Were music

West Coast hip hop

is a hip hop music subgenre that encompasses any artists or music which originates in the westernmost region of the United States

Western blues

Western swing

Witch house

Wizard rock

Women's music

or womyn's music, wimmin's music—
1970s lesbian/feminist

Wong shadow

1960s Thai pop music

Wonky

Work song

Wood Sounds

of organic synthesis recorded on organic medium such as tape.

Worldbeat

World music

X

Xoomii (khoomii, hoomii)

a type of Tuvan throat singing

Xote

is a Brazilian music genre and dance for pairs or groups of four.

Xhosa music

Y

Yass

a style of Polish jazz music from the 1980s and 1990s.

Yayue

Yé-yé

Yo-pop

Yodeling

Youth crew

Yukar

Z

Zajal

Zamrock

Zapin

derived from ancient Arabic music, zapin is popular throughout Malaysia

Zarzuela

a form of Spanish operetta

Zeuhl

Zeibekiko

Greek Dance 9/8 Rytmus

Zef

South African music based in both rap & rave

Ziglibithy

Zouglou

Zouk

French Caribbean (Guadeloupean) dance music

Zouklove

Guadeloupean Music

Zulu music

Zydeco

popular Louisianan Creole music