

A Look at Different Types of Music

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When you recall a special event, such as a party or a funeral, do you hear some sounds in the background? We often associate particular songs with important events in our lives. Music has many meanings and there are many different types of music. Its meaning can change for everyone who hears it. It may be because of the musical taste of the listener, or the characteristics of the music itself. All music has a different feeling. So you could say that music “is both an expression and reflection of human experience and emotion” (Kallen, 2003, p.6).

Two types of music are Rock and Pop. These types of music can have a calm feeling to them, or they might have a dance like quality. Both usually have a regular beat and are usually played on local radio stations. Both genres have felt the impact of technology, but technology has had a big impact on almost every genre of music. Ardley (1989) said, “Technology has changed music...Electricity first began to play a part in music with the beginning of radio broadcasting” (Ardley, 1989, p.58). One instrument in particular has been radically altered—the guitar. Ardley commented on its huge impact: “The electric guitar was invented to overcome the limited volume of the acoustic guitar and now dominates popular music” (Ardley, 1989, p. 58).

Another type of music is alternative. It can be very different. Some of it is calm and some of it is harder sounding. It may be a little of both. It consists of many smaller groups of music that do not seem to fit into other categories.

Techno music is usually computer generated sounds and beats. It is designed for dance and often has a fast tempo.

R&B (Rhythm and Blues) and Dance sound a lot alike. They usually have a beat similar to Techno music and emphasize vocals. These two kinds of music are played at many dance clubs and by many radio stations.

Hard and Metal usually consist of a lot of bass and other background noise. Many people are not familiar with the 'Hard' genre and may confuse it with Hard Rock, but it is a unique genre. Realhardstyle.com defines Hard, which originates in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Malaysia, and Australia, as electronic dance music that mixes characteristics of Hard Trance, Hardcore, and Rave music. It has a fast tempo (150 beats per minute.).

New Age, Light, and Jazz are softer sounding types of music. They may even sound sad, or comforting and are more peaceful than most other types of music.

Music can be heard everywhere around the world. People began singing when they began talking. Making music can be something to occupy time or much more. It will continue to change and develop, but will always be an important part of our lives.

References

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Kallen, S.A. (2003). *The History of Rock and Roll*, .San Diego, CA: Lucent Books