

R'n'B (Rhythm and Blues)

R&B is a huge and diverse genre just like rock music. In its original form it is a style of music developed by African Americans that combines blues and jazz, characterised by a strong back beat and repeated variations on syncopated instrumental phrases.

The "rhythm" part comes from the music's typical dependence on four-beat bars and the liberal use of a backbeat, in which the second and fourth beats are accented. The "blues" portion comes from the lyrics and melodies of the songs, which were often sad, or 'blue', especially during the music's emergence in the World War II era.

Listen to an R&B drum beat played over percussion loops:

Listen to classic R&B anthems from 1980s-2000s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8vJNcBy4Pc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqSkL7XAD4s&ab_channel=Myplaylisthub

Soul music is a genre that combines R&B and gospel music.

It developed in the USA in the late 1950s from African American church music called "gospel music". After slavery ended in 1865, African Americans weren't welcome in the churches of white Americans, so they built their own churches and sang Christian songs with African-American vocal styles and rhythms. They sang joyful, up-tempo gospel songs while clapping and moving to the beat, and they sang slower gospel songs that expressed deep feelings like yearning for God's love. These different styles led to the two main styles of soul music.

Soul late 1950s to mid 1970s

Instrumentation

- ▶ Vocals and backing vocals (male and female)
- Electric Guitar
- Piano / Electric Piano
- Electric Organ / Keyboards
- Bass
- Percussion
- Drum Kit
- Horn Section (Trumpet, Saxophones, and Trombone)
- String Section

Key innovator:

- Aretha Franklin
- Otis Redding
- Marvin Gaye

Key Technology:

- Early multi-track recording
 - Vocal overdubbing
- Use of DI electric and bass guitars
 - Use of Rhodes piano
- Close mic recording of drum kit

Key attributes:

- Horn section (trumpets/saxes/trombones)
 - Backing vocals
- Gospel influenced vocals
 - Back beat

Influences

R&B
Gospel
Jazz singers (e.g. Billie Holliday/ Ella Fitzgerald)

Soul Listening

▶ Stevie Wonder- *Uptight*(1966)

▶ Otis Redding- *Sitting on the dock of the Bay* (1967)

Key Technology:

- Early multi-track recording
- Vocal overdubbing
- Use of DI electric and bass guitars
- Use of Rhodes piano
- Close mic recording of drum kit

▶ Aretha Franklin- *I say a little prayer* (1968)

▶ Marvin Gaye- *I heard it through the grapevine* (1968)

Key attributes:

- Horn section (trumpets/saxes/trombones)
- Backing vocals
- Gospel influenced vocals
 - Back beat

Reggae

late 1950s to present day

Reggae started in Jamaica and developed in the late 1960s as a mix of Calypso, Jazz and Rhythm and Blues. The music has a **laid back feel**. Bass and drums create the rhythm, with **strong accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of a bar**. Songs are usually about the Rastafari religion, love or political issues such as equal rights.

Key innovator:

- Bob Marley
- Jimmy Cliff
- Dennis Brown

Key musical attributes:

- Off beat chords
- Accents on 2nd and 4th beats
 - Relaxed groove
- 3 or 4 part backing vocals
- Horn section' plays riffs or helps emphasise off beat chords
 - Repeated riff patterns
- Laid back tempo and feel
- Expressive and soulful vocals

Key Technology:

- Hammond organ/ synthesisers
- Extensive use of reverb
- Extensive use of delay
- Prominent heavy bass in the mix
- Clean electric guitar sounds

Instrumentation

Vocals (usually male)

Backing Vocals

Two guitarists - *Lead and Rhythm*

Bass

Keyboards

Horn section

Drums

Influences

Blues
R&B
Gospel
Soul

Reggae Listening

- ▶ Bob Marley and the Wailers- *Get up, stand up* (1973)
- ▶ Jimmy Cliff- *Wonderful world, Beautiful people* (1969)
- ▶ Bob Marley and the Wailers - *One love* (1977)
- ▶ Dennis Brown- *Money in my pocket* (1977)

Key musical attributes:

- Off beat chords
- Accents on 2nd and 4th beats
 - Relaxed groove
- 3 or 4 part backing vocals
- Horn section' plays riffs or helps emphasise off beat chords
 - Repeated riff patterns
- Laid back tempo and feel
- Expressive and soulful vocals

Key Technology:

- Hammond organ/ synthesisers
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Electro acoustic music

Electro acoustic music is a style of Western music which originated around the 1950 following the incorporation of electric sound production into compositions.

Electroacoustic is recorded natural sounds which are transformed using editing techniques such as cutting and reassembling, playing backwards, slowing down and speeding up.

It includes the genre musique concrète.

Key innovator:

- Pierre Schaeffer
- Robert Moog
- Pierre Boulez

Key Technology:

- Use of loops
- Use of pitch bend/ pitch shift
- Use of reverb and delay
- Use of sounds created by electronic means
 - Use of fade in/ out
 - Use of panning
 - Tape manipulation

Electroacoustic Listening

▶ John Cage- *Imaginary Landscape*

▶ Patrick Long - *Summer Nocturne (1990)*

▶ Pierre Schaeffer - *Étude violette*

▶ Pierre Boulez- *Etudes I sur un son*

Key Technology:

- Use of loops
- Use of pitch bend/ pitch shift
- Use of reverb and delay
- Use of sounds created by electronic means
- Use of fade in/ out
 - Use of panning
- Tape manipulation