Disco
mid 1970s to mid 80s

a genre of music which was popular from the mid to late**1970s.** Its initial audiences were club-goers from the African American, Latino, Italian American, and psychedelic communities in New York City and Philadelphia during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Key innovator:

- Donna Summer
- Gloria Gaynor
- 1977 film Saturday night fever brought disco to a wider audience

Key Technology:

- Use of drum machine
- Amplified or electronic instrumentation
- Use of Rhodes electric piano
- Wah wah and chorus effects on guitars and keyboards
- Reverb on vocals and horn parts
- Synthesised backing tracks
- Electronic hand claps

Key musical attributes:

- Groove based drum rhythms,
- fast tempo
- simple repetitive lyrics
- Horn or string section
- Vocal harmonies
- Bass guitar/ synthesizer
- Prominent bass (groove or riff)

Donna Summer – *I feel love* (1977)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Disco Listening

Gloria Gaynor -*Never say goodbye* (1974)

I will survive (1979)

Bee Gees – Stayin' Alive (1977)

Village people – *YMCA* (1978)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Punk

mid1970s to early 80s

Punk is a music genre that developed in the USA, UK and Australia in the **mid-1970s**. Punk bands created fast, hard-edged music, typically with short songs, stripped-down instrumentation, and often political, anti-establishment lyrics.

Key musical attributes:

- Male vocals
- Anti establishment/ political protest lyrcis
- Unpolished vocals performed as a shout
- Unrefined vocal style
- Simple chord structure

Key innovator:

- Sex Pistols
- The Clash
- The Jam
- Siouxsie and the Banshees

Key Technology:

- Distortion on electric guitar but thinner and harsher compared to full tones of heavy rock distortion
- DIY production ethic – simple, unprocessed sound
- No use of spacey, psychedelic delay or flange effects
- Aggressive, hard rock sound

Sex Pistols– *Anarchy in the UK*(1976)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Punk Listening

The Clash– *White Riot*(1977)

The Jam– *Going Underground* (1980)

Siouxsie and the Banshees– *Hong Kong Garden(1978)*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Country

early 20th century to present day

Another branch of American popular music developed during the 20th Century, from the music of the poor white people. It began as folk music and finally became ***Country*** or ***Country and Western***.

Key innovator:

- **Jimmie Rodgers**
- **Hank Williams**
- **Johnny Cash**

Key musical attributes:

Prominent use of acoustic instruments.

Pedal steel guitar/ slide guitar

Simple rhythms with strong backbeat emphasis from snare and guitar.

Vocal harmonies.

Use of pitch bend on guitar.

Use of vamp.

Simple chord structure.

Narrative vocals

Use of banjo/ mandolin/harmonica

Key Technology:

- Electric guitar is often clean and slightly twangy
- Clean, accurate recordings without production techniques added
- Nashville recording industry

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Country Listening

Jimmie Rodgers– *Blue Yodel*(1927)

Hank Williams– *Hey, Good Lookin'* (1951)

Johnny Cash– *I walk the line*(1956)

Pasty Cline– *Crazy(1961)*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Skiffle

- A type of popular music along with jazz, blues, and folk with roots in the USA. Usually performed using **homemade or improvised instruments** (such as a washboard) as well as conventional (like a guitar). It was popular in the US in first half of 20th century and in the UK in the 1950s.

Musical attributes:

- acoustic instruments
- homemade instruments
- vamp
- a narrative vocal

Key technologies

- often recorded during a live performance
- minimal post production

Knobtown Skiffle Band- *Knobtown Rag*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Vipers Skiffle Group- *Don`t You Rock Me Daddy-O* (1957)

Lonnie Donegan - *Rock Island Line* (1961)

Born This Way - *Lady Gaga Skiffle Cover*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Musicals

A musical play which has speaking, singing and dancing and is performed on stage

Musical features:

- prominent vocals in the mix
- use of orchestral instruments with band

Technological features:

- few effects if any (only reverb)
- use of radio/shot gun mics
- use of overhead/boundary mics
- use of close mic technique for band instruments
- use of direct injection for band
- live recording

LIVEWORKSHEETS