

# MUSIC IN GREAT BRITAIN

# ORIGINS



- folk lore
- songs and dance as forms of both narration and entertainment
- music played by ordinary people
- passed from village to village and handed down from generation to generation.

# MUSIC IN BRITAIN FROM 1920S TO THE PRESENT DAY



1920s

*ragtime* and *jazz*

evolved in the USA

developed and bloomed in  
Great Britain.

*Ragtime*

lively and springy rhythms

ideal for dancing

“ragged time”: rhythmically  
broken up melodies.



**JAZZ:** difficult to define  
contains many subgenres

**improvisation** as one of its defining elements.

Influenced by earlier forms of music such as *blues*, (folk music, work songs and field hollers of African-American slaves on plantations)





Artie Shaw

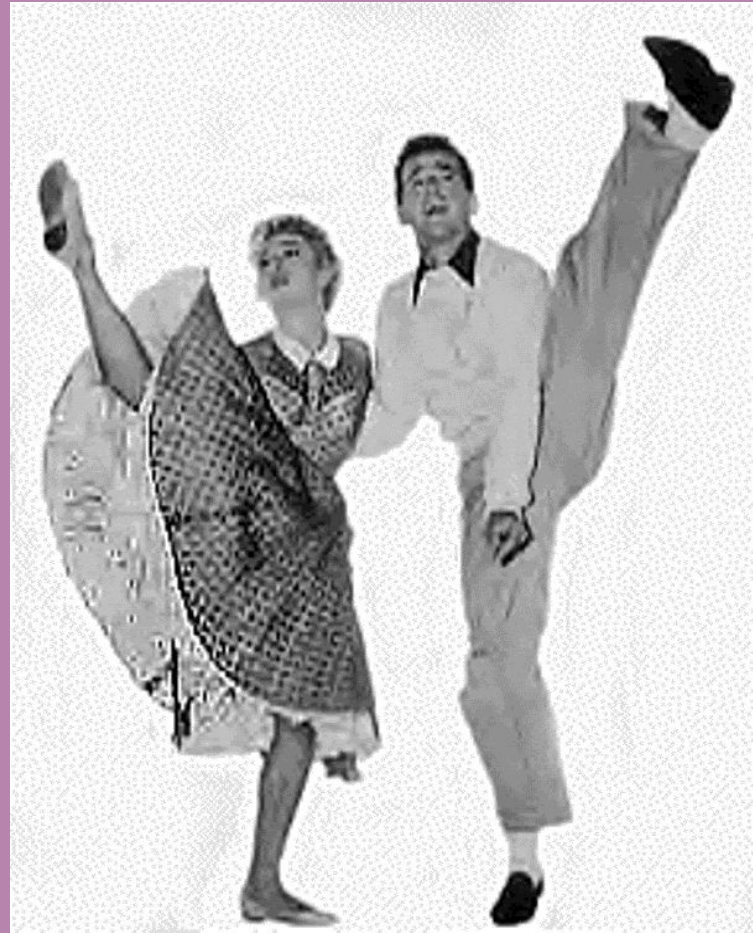


Glenn Miller

1930s

*Swing* becomes popular.

Benny Goodman and his Orchestra: 'King of the Swing',  
Glenn Miller and Artie Shaw.



The most important and enduring African-based rhythmic technique used in jazz.

Louis Armstrong: "if you don't feel it, you'll never know it.

fast and frantically paced

dances banned from dance halls

1940s

fast, frantic dance music

*boogie-woogie* or *jitterbug*.

**Boogie-woogie** developed in African-American communities in the 1870s, extended from piano to piano duo and trio, guitar, big band, country and western music, and gospel. Mainly associated with dancing.

"Pinetop's Boogie Woogie" lyrics:  
Now, when I tell you to hold yourself, don't you move a peg.  
And when I tell you to get it, I want you to Boogie Woogie!

Dances were held in church halls, village halls, clubs, Air Force bases - everywhere!





After the war '*skiffle*' bands became popular.

These bands used household items, such as washboards and tea chests, as part of their set of instruments! Tommy Steele, who later became very famous, first played in a skiffle band.





## 1950s - *Rock and Roll*.

a genre of popular music that originated and evolved in the United States during the late 1940s and early 1950s<sup>1</sup> from musical styles such as

gospel, jump blues, jazz, boogie woogie, and rhythm and blues, and country music.

one of the best selling music forms.

Led Zeppelin

the Rolling Stones

Pink Floyd

wasn't just a musical style

it is a lifestyle, fashion, attitudes, and language.

The aims include

breaking boundaries

express raw emotions.



**ROCK N' ROLL**



1960s - *The Beatles* began their career. They leapt to fame in 1963 with 'Please, Please Me'

John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr became the most influential band of all time.

Jump-started evolution of pop music into an art form

Founded the counterculture of the 1960s.

Their sound is rooted in skiffle, beat and 1950s rock and roll, incorporated elements of classical music and traditional pop in innovative ways.

pioneered recording techniques and explored music styles ranging from ballads and Indian music to psychedelia and hard rock



The Beatles moved through the late 1960s as favourites of the 'flower power' generation - many young people enjoyed '*hippie*' music.



1970s - The first big new sound : “*Glam Rock*”. In the bleak political backdrop, these British bands and characters brought a welcome relief with their platform boots, sequins, nail varnish and colourful hair.

Flamboyant clothing and visual styles of performers were often camp or androgynous, playing with nontraditional gender roles.

Inspired by **throwaway pop culture** from **bubblegum pop** and **1950s rock and roll** to **cabaret, science fiction, and complex art rock** **Glitter rock** was a more extreme version of glam.

The March 1971 appearance of T. Rex frontman Marc Bolan on the BBC's music show *Top of the Pops*, wearing glitter and satins, is often cited as the beginning of the movement.

Other British glam rock artists include **David Bowie, Mott the Hoople, Sweet, Slade, Mud, Roxy Music and Gary Glitter.**

**Elton John, Rod Stewart and Freddie Mercury of Queen**, also adopted glam styles.

In the US: **Alice Cooper and Lou Reed, New York Dolls, Iggy Pop and Jobriath.**

declined after the mid-1970s, but influenced other musical genres including

**punk rock,**  
**glam metal,**  
**New Romantic,**  
**deathrock**  
**and gothic rock.**





David Bowie



Elton John

The main figures of “Glam Rock” were David Bowie, Elton John and of course Gary Glitter



Also at that time *Punk* movement appeared.

Great British bands of this scene were The Sex Pistols and The Clash.

The Punk style was Mohicans, bondage clothes, safety pins, piercings and bover boots.

Outraged public opinion by foul language, torn clothes, wearing Union Jacks, self-mutilation, wearing urban waste

Invented their own Punk sound

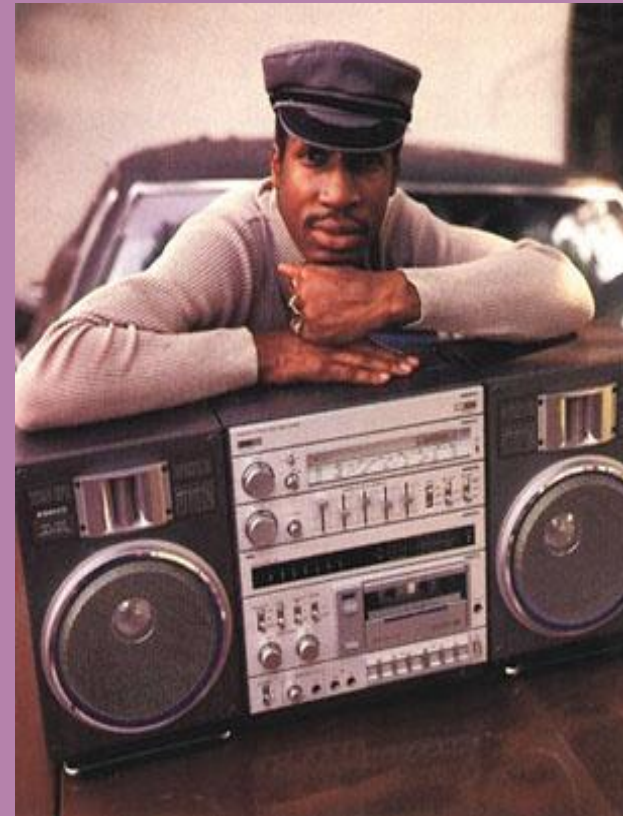




Run DMC

created by African Americans, Latino Americans and Caribbean Americans in the Bronx, New York City.

1980s - The 1980s saw the rise of *hip hop* and *rap* music, with American influences powerful once again in the form of such groups as Run DMC and Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five



Grandmaster Flash





It also saw the rise and fall of the *'New Romantics'*, typified by groups like Adam and the Ants, who dressed as pirates and highway men and wore huge amounts of makeup.



1990s - *Britpop* This was the general name given in the 1990s to a new wave of successful British bands who made a big impact in the United States and Europe, as well as in England.



The most successful  
Britpop bands have been  
Radiohead, Oasis, Blur,  
Pulp.





Portishead

Its unique sound employs the usage of jazz instruments and melancholy themes mixed with the world of keyboards to create break beat rhythms.

Most popular trip-hop artists are Massive Attack, Morcheeba, Portishead, The Chemical Brothers, Tricky.

At that time also a new music style appeared in Great Britain, which was called *trip-hop*.

Trip-Hop is the true opposite of the Pop genre.

Tricky



# MUSIC IN BRITAIN TODAY

Nowadays young people listen to many different music styles and genres. So the musical life in England is various and diversified.

One of the most popular modern music genres is *indie*.

Derived from "independent", it describes the small and relatively low-budget labels on which it is released and the do-it-yourself attitude of the bands and artists involved.

Indie rock has been identified as a reaction against the "macho" culture that developed in alternative rock.



Famous indie-rock band “Arctic Monkeys”

*Pop music* is also popular nowadays in Great Britain.  
Mika is a world famous singer-songwriter.





Other popular modern music genres are *hardcore* and *post-hardcore*. Hardcore punk typically features very fast tempos, loud volume, and heavy bass levels, as well as a "do-it-yourself" ethic.

Post-hardcore includes screaming as the major vocalization technique within most songs, with melodic singing at other times.



Enter Shikari combine post-hardcore and heavy metal sub-genres with elements of various electronic genres.



# THANKS FOR ATTENTION!

