

Music Styles Summary

Instrument Icon Legend











-  Vocals
-  Guitar / Strings
-  Orchestral Strings
-  Folk Strings (banjo, mandolin)
-  Keyboard / Piano / Organ / Synth
-  Brass
-  Woodwinds
-  Drum Kit
-  Hand Percussion
-  Electronic / Samplers / Drum Machines

Table of Contents

Blues	2
Bluegrass	2
Christian	3
Classical	5
Country	6
Dance / Electronic	6
Disco	7
Folk	7
Funk	8
Hip Hop	8
Jazz	9
Pop	9
Rhythm and Blues	10
Reggae	10
Rock	11
Soul	11
World Music	12

Blues

Overview

Blues is one of the **foundational American genres**, rooted in African American history. It expresses emotion through **blue notes**, call-and-response, and storytelling. Its influence is felt across rock, jazz, soul, and gospel.

Substyles (supported by Instrumentful's blues list)

- Delta Blues
- Chicago Blues
- Electric Blues
- Texas Blues
- Piedmont Blues
- Blues Rock

Instruments

- 🎸 Guitar (acoustic, electric, slide)
- 🎤 Vocals
- 🎷 Harmonica
- 🎹 Piano / Organ
- 🥁 Drums

Bluegrass

Overview

Bluegrass is a fast, acoustic genre rooted in Appalachian folk traditions. It features **virtuosic instrumental playing**, tight harmonies, and a strong connection to rural storytelling.

Substyles

- Traditional Bluegrass
- Progressive Bluegrass
- Gospel Bluegrass

Instruments

- 🎸 Banjo
- 🎻 Fiddle
- 🎸 Acoustic guitar
- 🎵 Mandolin
- 🎸 Upright bass

★ Christian (Full Expanded Section)

Christian music spans worship, gospel, pop, rock, and traditional forms. It is unified by **faith-centered themes**, **scripture-based lyrics**, and **communal expression**. Christian music is one of the most diverse genre families, blending with nearly every major style.

1. Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)

Overview

CCM blends modern pop, soft rock, and worship influences. It focuses on **uplifting messages**, emotional connection, and accessible melodies suitable for radio and church settings.

Substyles

- Pop-CCM
- Worship-CCM
- Acoustic CCM
- Inspirational CCM

Instruments

- 🎤 Vocals
- 🎹 Keys / Pads
- 🎸 Acoustic & electric guitars
- 🥁 Drums
- 💻 Light electronic elements

2. Christian Rock

Overview

Christian Rock mirrors mainstream rock but centers on **faith-based storytelling**. It ranges from soft rock to heavy metal, often used in youth ministries and concerts.

Substyles

- Christian Alternative Rock
- Christian Metal
- Christian Punk
- Christian Hard Rock

Instruments

- 🎸 Electric guitars
- 🥁 Drums
- 🎤 Vocals
- 🎹 Keys

3. Christian Pop

Overview

Christian Pop uses **catchy melodies**, polished production, and positive messaging. It is one of the most accessible Christian genres, often charting on mainstream platforms.

Substyles

- Dance-Pop Christian
- Acoustic Christian Pop
- Electronic Christian Pop

Instruments

- 🎤 Vocals
- 🎹 Synths
- 💻 Electronic beats
- 🎸 Guitar

4. Gospel

Overview

Gospel is rooted in African American spirituals and is known for **powerful vocals**, emotional expression, and communal performance. It heavily influenced soul, R&B, and modern worship.

Substyles

- Traditional Gospel
- Contemporary Gospel
- Southern Gospel
- Urban Gospel

Instruments

- 🎤 Choir vocals
- 🎹 Organ / Piano
- 🎺 Brass
- 🥁 Drums

5. Praise & Worship

Overview

Praise & Worship music is designed for **congregational singing**, focusing on simplicity, repetition, and emotional build. It is the dominant style in modern churches.

Substyles

- Modern Worship
- Acoustic Worship
- Live Worship

Instruments

- 🎤 Lead & backing vocals
- 🎸 Acoustic guitar
- 🎹 Keys / Pads
- 🥁 Drums

Classical

Overview

Classical music spans centuries of Western art tradition, from medieval chant to modern orchestral works. It emphasizes **composition, notation, orchestration, and formal structure**. Substyles reflect historical eras.

Substyles (supported by Wikipedia's classical breakdown)

- Medieval
- Renaissance
- Baroque
- Classical Period
- Romantic
- Modern
- Contemporary

Instruments

- 🎻 Strings
- 🎺 Brass
- 🎷 Woodwinds
- 🥁 Orchestral percussion
- 🎹 Piano

Country

Overview

Country music blends folk, blues, and storytelling. It emphasizes **narrative lyrics**, acoustic textures, and themes of life, love, and rural identity.

Substyles (supported by Instrumentful's country list)

- Country Pop
- Outlaw Country
- Honky-Tonk
- Nashville Sound
- Country Rock

Instruments

- 🎸 Acoustic/Electric guitar
- 🎵 Banjo
- 🎻 Fiddle
- 🥁 Drums
- 🎹 Piano

Dance / Electronic

Overview

Electronic music is built on **synthesized sound**, rhythmic loops, and club-oriented production. It emphasizes energy, repetition, and sound design.

Substyles

- House
- Techno
- Trance
- Drum & Bass
- EDM

Instruments

- 🎹 Synths
- 🥁 Drum machines
- 🎤 Processed vocals

Disco






Overview

Disco is a dance-driven style from the 1970s featuring **orchestral arrangements**, steady beats, and uplifting energy.

Substyles

- Classic Disco
- Euro Disco
- Nu-Disco

Instruments

-  Vocals
-  Keys
-  Brass
-  Drum kit
-  Bass

Folk





Overview

Folk music is rooted in **cultural storytelling**, acoustic instruments, and traditional melodies. It often reflects regional identity and social themes.

Substyles

- American Folk
- Celtic Folk
- Indie Folk
- Traditional Folk

Instruments

-  Acoustic guitar
-  Banjo
-  Fiddle
-  Hand percussion

Funk






Overview

Funk is built on **groove, syncopation, and rhythmic interplay**. Bass and drums drive the music, while brass and vocals add energy.

Substyles

- Classic Funk
- P-Funk
- Funk Rock
- Funk Soul

Instruments

-  Bass guitar
-  Brass
-  Vocals
-  Drums
-  Clavinet / Keys

Hip Hop





Overview

Hip Hop is a cultural movement combining **rap, DJing, sampling, and beat-making**. It emphasizes rhythm, lyricism, and production creativity.

Substyles

- East Coast
- West Coast
- Trap
- Drill
- Conscious Rap

Instruments

-  Samplers
-  Drum machines
-  Vocals
-  Synths

Jazz

Overview

Jazz is defined by **improvisation, swing rhythms, and complex harmony**. It is one of the most musically sophisticated genres, evolving through many eras.

Substyles

- Bebop
- Cool Jazz
- Fusion
- Smooth Jazz
- Swing

Instruments

- 🎷 Saxophone
- 🎺 Trumpet
- 🎹 Piano
- 🎸 Guitar
- 🥁 Drums
- 🎵 Upright bass
- 🎹 Synths (some subgenres)

Pop

Overview

Pop focuses on **melody, hooks, and broad appeal**. It blends elements from many genres and evolves with cultural trends.

Substyles

- Dance-Pop
- Synth-Pop
- Hyperpop
- Indie Pop

Instruments

- 🎤 Vocals
- 🎹 Synths
- 💻 Electronic beats
- 🎸 Guitar

Rhythm and Blues

Overview

R&B blends **soulful vocals**, groove-based rhythms, and smooth production. It is emotional, expressive, and rooted in gospel tradition.

Substyles

- Contemporary R&B
- Neo-Soul
- Classic R&B

Instruments

- 🎤 Vocals
- 🎹 Keys
- 🎸 Bass
- 🥁 Drums

Reggae

Overview

Reggae emphasizes **offbeat rhythms**, spiritual themes, and relaxed grooves. It is deeply tied to Jamaican culture.

Substyles (supported by Instrumentful's reggae list)

- Ska
- Dub
- Dancehall
- Roots Reggae

Instruments

- 🎸 Guitar (offbeat)
- 🥁 Drums (one-drop)
- 🎹 Organ
- 🎤 Vocals

Rock





Overview

Rock is built on **electric guitars, strong backbeats, and energetic performance**. It has countless subgenres and a massive cultural impact.

Substyles

- Classic Rock
- Hard Rock
- Progressive Rock
- Indie Rock

Instruments

-  Electric guitar
-  Drums
-  Vocals
-  Keys

Soul





Overview

Soul blends gospel roots with R&B rhythms. It emphasizes **emotion, vocal power, and expressive delivery**.

Substyles

- Motown
- Neo-Soul
- Southern Soul

Instruments

-  Vocals
-  Keys
-  Brass
-  Bass

World Music

Overview

World music includes traditional and contemporary styles from cultures around the globe. It highlights **regional instruments, rhythms, and storytelling traditions**.

Substyles

- Afrobeat
- Latin
- Celtic
- Middle Eastern

Instruments

- 🥁 Hand percussion
- 🎻 Regional strings
- 🎷 Flutes / Woodwinds