

Year 6 – Soul Music

Knowledge Organiser

Soul Music

Soul Music is a style within popular music. It developed in the 1950s.

Influenced by:

Gospel
Rhythm and Blues

What are the characteristic of Soul?

- Powerful, passionate vocalists singing about love, family and political issues.
- Instruments include keyboard/electric organ, saxophone, trumpet, electric bass and guitar.
- A strong emphasis on the backbeat - beats two and four of a bar.

Styles of music that are influenced by soul:

Neo Soul
Contemporary R&B
Afrobeat
Disco
Funk
Hip Hop

Examples of soul music artists:

Aretha Franklin
Steve Wonder
The Supremes

Soul is known for its smooth, sensitive instrumental arrangements.

Different record labels, including Motown, Stax and Atlantic, became famous for creating their own unique studio sound.

Pop Music

Pop music is shortened from 'popular music'. It means 'music that a lot of people listen to'. It developed from the 1950s.

Influenced by:

Rhythm and Blues
Rock'n'roll

What are the characteristic of pop music?

- Strong melodies and hooks, with an emotional singing style and lively rhythms.
- A simple structure of alternating verses and choruses.
- A polished studio sound.
- Lyrics about themes people relate to, like love, relationships and having fun

Styles of music that are influenced by pop:

Neo Soul
Bhangra
Bollywood (Hindi film songs)
Egyptian Sha'abi
Electro-Dabke
Minimalism

Different countries have their own versions of Pop music, like K-pop (from South Korea), Zim Pop (from Zimbabwe) and Britpop (from the UK). The wide appeal of Pop music often turns Pop musicians into Pop stars, like Beyoncé. It is supported by a huge network of commercial record companies, radio stations and streaming platforms. New types of Pop music are always emerging in response to the changes in the world around us.