

Musical Styles: Radio Play

When you hear

... popular music played on the radio today that has a melody you can't forget, but still a strong rock beat, you are listening to **POP MUSIC** (short for popular music). You'll especially hear it on Top-40 radio – a station that features the 40 top current popular songs in the nation. The songs can be slow (ballads), but can also be full of driving rhythms. Well-known pop stars are Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, Kelly Clarkson, Destiny's Child and the Backstreet Boys.

When you hear

... music filled with strongly spoken words to a fast, hip-hop beat – with an emphasis on the message rather than a melody, you are hearing **RAP and HIP-HOP**. Rap was created in the inner cities and often has lyrics that point out social issues and feelings of anger and even violence. Hip-Hop music often includes pieces of music from other songs, called "samples." The recorded sample becomes an added musical element or the basis of the song. Famous rappers include Nelly, Jay-Z, Will Smith, Coolio and LL Cool J.



When you hear

... electric guitars, bass and drums mixed with steel pedal guitars, and often a fiddle, you're listening to **COUNTRY MUSIC**. Rooted in Appalachian music (southern mountain music) and cowboy songs, country music, in fact, was at first referred to as country-western music. Known for its lyrics that capture true-to-life experiences and emotions, country music can be both slow and up-tempo and lively. Early country music stars that brought this musical style to the ears of many listeners include Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, and Johnny Cash. Current country stars like Faith Hill, Shania Twain and Tim McGraw are known as cross-over stars because their recordings are listened to and admired by a wide range of fans.

After reading about the three musical styles above, pick a song from one of the styles! You can pick ANY song (that is APPROPRIATE) that is either pop, rap/hip hop, or country. After picking your song and listening to it, explain WHY it fits into the style you chose. Use examples from the text to support your answer!

My Song:

The Style It Belongs To:

Why Does it Belong to that Style?

For extra credit, feel free to listen to more songs from that style, and you can pick one to review below! Why do you like it?