

What is pop music?

Pop music is a genre of popular music that originated in the United States of America and United Kingdom during the 1950's until now. Pop music includes styles such as Rock 'n' Roll, Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads, Disco, House, Hip-Hop and many more.

Instrumentation – Most common instruments were electric guitars, electric bass, keyboard/electric piano, synthesizer, drums and vocals.

Types of voices

Soprano – High female voice

Alto – Low female voice

Tenor – High male voice

Bass – Low male voice

Vocal features depend on the style of pop music. For example, Rock 'n' Roll feature simple vocal **melodies** with a narrow vocal range. Rock Anthems on the other hand use strong language in their vocal lines, they are loud, often sung high in pitch and use **falsetto** (male singer singing outside of his typical vocal range).

Dynamics – Rock music is generally very loud, with very little change at all. The verse of the song tends to be a little quieter compared to the chorus.

Melody – The melody is often played by lead guitar and sung by the lead singer.

Structure – The structure in pop songs is mostly a standard song structure. Songs usually begin with an intro, then a verse followed by a chorus. Instrumental break sections allow the lead guitarists to show off their improvisation skills. Rock 'n' Roll used 12 Bar Blues structure.

Keyword	Meaning
Lead singer	Main singer who sings the lyrics of the song.
Lead guitarist	Main guitar player which plays the melody of the song.
Improvisation	Making music up on the spot.
Riff	Repetitive melodic/rhythmic idea.
Backing Vocals	Singers which support the lead singer by singing in harmony.