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# THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC CULTURE IN THE USA IN THE LATE 20TH AND EARLY 21ST CENTURIES: JAZZ AND POP MUSIC

## ABSTRACT

This article explores the development of music culture in the United States during the late 20th and early 21st centuries, with a focus on jazz and pop music. It examines how these genres were formed, how they changed over time, and how they were influenced by social and cultural factors. Special attention is given to the African American roots of jazz, its improvisational character, and its social meaning. The study also analyzes the growth of pop music as a commercial and global phenomenon shaped by technological progress. The findings show that American music culture has played a key role in shaping global musical trends and continues to influence them today.

**Keywords:** U.S. music culture, jazz, pop music, globalization, music industry, African American culture, technology, popular culture

## INTRODUCTION

In the second half of the 20th century and the early 21st century, the United States became one of the leading cultural centers in the world. Music played a central role in this process. Many musical styles that developed in the U.S. spread across the world and influenced different cultures. Jazz and pop music are especially important for understanding these changes. Jazz is often associated with freedom, creativity, and personal expression, while pop music reflects modern mass culture and commercial trends. For this reason, this article focuses on the development and interaction of these two genres.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The following table outlines the systematic approach used to analyze the evolution, structure, and social significance of jazz and pop music:

| Research Method | Objective & Function | Focus Area |
|---|---|---|
| **Historical** | To examine the origin and step-by- | The evolution and historical |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Analysis** | step development of jazz and pop music over time. | milestones of the genres. |
| **Comparative Analysis** | To identify and contrast the specific similarities and differences between the two genres. | Musical styles, technical structures, and performance techniques. |
| **Cultural Analysis** | To understand the dynamic relationship between music and society and its social impact. | The connection between music, social values, and cultural traditions. |
| **Content Analysis** | To explore and interpret the underlying themes, meanings, and messages within musical works. | Lyrics, thematic elements, and the core meaning of compositions. |

This multi-dimensional methodology ensures a comprehensive study of the music industry. By combining historical and comparative data with cultural and thematic insights, the research provides a holistic view of how jazz and pop have shaped—and been shaped by—human experience.

## MAIN PART




inated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the southern United States, especially in New Orleans. It developed from a mix of African American musical traditions, including spirituals, blues, and ragtime.

## STAGES OF JAZZ DEVELOPMENT IN THE 20TH CENTURY

| Stage | Key Characteristics | Musical Mood |
|---|---|---|
| **Dixieland** | An early style featuring collective improvisation. | Energetic, traditional, and upbeat. |
| **Swing** | A rhythmic and danceable form, often played by big bands. | Groovy, lively, and synchronized. |
| **Bebop** | Complex harmonies and fast-paced, virtuosic music. | Intense, intellectual, and technical. |
| **Cool Jazz** | A calmer, more controlled, and relaxed approach. | Smooth, lyrical, and "chilled." |
| **Fusion** | A blend of jazz with rock and electronic | Experimental, powerful, and |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | music. | modern. |

This table shows how jazz evolved from traditional group play to complex modern sounds, reflecting the creative freedom of each era.



y music but also a reflection of social life. It is closely connected to the history and experiences of African Americans, including their struggle for equality and identity. In the mid-20th century, during the Civil Rights Movement, jazz became more political. Musicians used it to express ideas about freedom, justice, and human rights. As a result, jazz became an important tool for social expression.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF POP MUSIC**

| Factor | Description | Impact |
|---|---|---|
| **Radio & Television** | The widespread reach of mass media. | Allowed music to reach a global audience simultaneously. |
| **Music Industry** | The expansion of commercial music production. | Turned music into a professional business and entertainment industry. |
| **Technological Progress** | Transition from vinyl records to CDs and digital formats. | Made music portable, affordable, and easy to distribute. |
| **Simplicity & Catchiness** | Simple structures and memorable melodies. | Made the genre accessible and appealing to a wide variety of people. |

Pop music remains the most dominant form of entertainment because it constantly adapts to new technologies and cultural shifts.

In the 21st century, pop music has become a major part of global culture. American pop music has spread to many countries and influenced local music styles. The internet and social media have made this process even faster. Platforms like YouTube and Spotify allow music to reach a global audience instantly. As a result, a global music market has developed, where different cultures influence each other. Modern technology has changed the way music is created and consumed. Today, musicians can produce high-quality music using digital tools, even without professional studios. Streaming services have also changed listening habits. People now prefer playlists and individual songs instead of full albums. This has created new opportunities,

but also more competition in the music industry. Jazz and pop music influence each other in many ways. Pop artists often use elements of jazz, such as harmony and improvisation. At the same time, jazz musicians experiment with pop and electronic sounds. This has led to the creation of new styles, such as jazz-pop and neo-jazz, which are popular among modern listeners.

## ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The study shows that:

1. Jazz is an important part of American cultural history.

2. Pop music is closely connected to modern mass culture and business.

3. Technology plays a major role in the development of music.

4. Globalization has helped spread American music around the world.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, jazz and pop music have played a significant role in shaping both American and global culture. Jazz reflects historical and social experiences, while pop music represents modern trends and technological progress. These genres will likely continue to develop and influence each other in the future, creating new musical forms.

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