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**Popular music in America: The Past and the Present**

**Tereza Vybíralová**

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**Popular Music in America: The Past and the Present**

**Tereza Vybíralová**

Vedoucí práce:

PhDr. Alice Tihelková, Ph.D.

Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

Fakulta filozofická Západočeské univerzity v Plzni

Odborný konzultant:

Mgr. Tomáš Hostýnek

Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

Fakulta filozofická Západočeské univerzity v Plzni

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## **Čestné prohlášení**

Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

*Plzeň, duben 2021*

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Tereza Vybíralová

## **Poděkování**

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# 1 Introduction

Popular music is an essential part of all our lives. This work specifically focuses on the connection and main differences between popular music in the past – at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – and popular music today – in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The United States has produced many popular musicians in the modern world. It began with the formation of recorded music, when American artists continued to lead in the field of popular music. Most of the history of popular music began with American ragtime. Popular music is a category that includes all musical styles except artistic music. Popular music has also experienced many changes. In the last century, the genre was popular with young people in America and Great Britain. The importance of music is majorly connected with ethnicity. During this time, there were influences of African-American and from their music jazz was developed, so were blues or rock and others. There were also influences of Anglo-Saxon music also known as “white music”, from which popular music emerged.

This topic of my bachelor thesis was selected, because popular music is very close to all of us and, above all, it is still a current topic. Our population has been accompanied by popular music for so many years. Music has influenced us all since our childhoods. Popular music is all around us – on TV on the radio or at discos. I myself am considerably close to this topic, because, similar to everyone else, I urgently need music in my life and for many other reasons. One of the main reasons is the aesthetic education of every young generation. Music affects everyone differently. It is up to people what genre of music they choose to listen to, but the purpose is quite clear. Music is created to evoke feelings of happiness and joy in people.

My goal is therefore to conduct a theoretical processing of this mentioned issue. The main processing is to focus on the differences between popular music in the past and in

the present. It is also necessary to analyse some of the basic directions and movements of this genre and for the mentioned ones also the main representatives of the America. Part of this topic is a brief history of popular music, in other words, how Afro-American music arose and gained popularity.

The history of music is very diverse and interesting. Whether it is classical or popular music, music from America, Europe or other countries. Due to time and space limitations, it is not possible to capture in my thesis all the information about the development of popular music, including all genres or performers. And so I will not go into this in depth and detail, but I will try to capture the key points and events that are most important to me.

There are many performers in the world of music. One of the most influential people regarding popular music in the United States is the American composer Stephen Foster, whose life and career will be described in detail. A special place in my thesis also deserves the famous American composer George Gershwin.

Another truly important singer of the American rock 'n' roll that I will cover in detail, is the „King of Rock 'n' roll” – Elvis Presley. During his career, he broke many records - not merely in terms of popularity, but also in terms of sales.

Other famous singers as Louis Armstrong, Michael Jackson or Britney Spears will be included in my work as well.

There is a large number of sources on this topic. I searched among sources in English and Czech. The main sources of my work are the publication from Larry Starr and Christopher Waterman – *American Popular Music*. This publication contains information of the development of popular music from the very beginning, including chapters focused on important personalities in the music industry. It also contains many pictures, where are shown the main events from the musical field. Another main source



is the Czech publication called *Přehled vývoje populární hudby*, where the key creator is Miloš Schreiner. This book contains very solidly elaborated chapters, historical facts and information about popular music and focuses on the development and basic directions and movements of popular music.

My bachelor thesis begins with this introduction. Then follows my own analysis. First of all, it is important to introduce the reader to the story. That means I should give him key information and to acquaint him in general with the topic of the work. As a result I chose to give the first chapter the title “Generally about popular music”. The following is a general introduction to the beginnings of popular music – “The beginning of popular music in America” with three subchapters, which focused on African-American music. Then I move specifically to the history of popular music in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century in the United States, following the famous American composer, the publishers and the Broadway. I will also mention the most famous genres of popular music such as jazz or rhythm and blues. Before I get to the very comparison of this genre in the past and present in America, I will introduce music from the 1990s to 2010s, and also mention some important personalities from America. And akin to any other works, this one will also contain, after my own elaboration, evaluation, recommendations and a conclusion, a list of references and at the end a selected attachments in the form of pictures.

## 2 Generally about popular music

In the 1950s, Howard Brown wrote: "'Popular' is admittedly a difficult word. Everyone knows what it means and yet no one can define it quite precisely."<sup>1</sup>

Thus, it can be said that there is no general definition for popular music. From the historical view, popular music was any non-folk form that gained incredible popularity. Popular music reflects the mutual enrichment of styles and it represents a combination of visions. The term "popular music" hides a wide range of musical endeavours and originates like other types of music for a long time. [1]

Popular music has a high spectrum from folk music through operetta to jazz or country and musicals on Broadway to current music. Kinds of popular music have their roots in social music and go back to film and pop in industrialized countries. [2]

Popular music features focus on entertainment, relaxation or dancing. Basically, all kinds of music have a clear purpose, and it means to entertain the listeners. Throughout history, a number of popular musical styles have evolved, growing gradually with time and with new artists. Popular music is one of those musical styles that mostly distributed commercially and the growing success of this music among listeners has attracted the attention of music publishers.

The most important styles of popular music include:

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| a) Jazz                | d) Pop              |
| b) Country and Western | e) Rhythm and Blues |
| c) Hip-Hop, Rap        | f) Rock and Roll    |

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<sup>1</sup> Brown, Howard. *"The Chanson rustique: Popular Elements in the 15th- and 16th-Century Chanson,"* *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, Vol. 12, 1959, p. 17-18.

The development of American popular music in particular was influenced by race, social status, culture, and gender. Not all artists were treated equally, some were not respected at all. However, the conditions for artists from different backgrounds were not the same. It was especially difficult for blacks, who were involuntarily brought to America and, for example, were only ridiculed in minstrel shows. [3]

Hill (2006) concludes that: “All in all, the range, depth, and quality of popular musical styles that have developed in the United States over its lifetime is truly amazing. These styles could not have arisen anywhere else, but are the unique products of the mixing of cultures, geography, technology, and sheer luck that helped disseminate each style.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Hill, Brad. *Classical (American popular music)*, p. 12.

## 3 The beginning of popular music in America

### 3.1 The rise of African-American music

To begin with, it is important to introduce African-American music as a whole. From these African-American speeches, popular music actually arose.

This term is the designation for musical expressions of Africans, who were brought to the United States between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries by the act of violence. During this terrible period, despite all these hardships, African-American popular industry was born. [4]

This music has its roots in the music of African ethnic groups. African-American forms of music began with the slaves. Music helped slaves transmit and preserve their history. The rise of black music was influenced by white culture, especially in the northern states of the USA. Immigrants from Great Britain and the Netherlands, for example, also had a great influence. [5] There were many different social, linguistic and musical traditions in the regions of West and Central Africa.

We distinguish two processes of the genesis of African-American music:

#### a) Syncretism

Syncretism is the selective mixture of African and European cultures. In addition it constitutes the combination of multiple faiths and practices in different schools of thoughts. [6]

#### b) the creation of institution

The institution has become significant black-musical centres (along the lines of the family, the church or the voluntary group). [7]

The basic typical manifestations include spirituals, which were the first musical form created by African-American slaves, as well as gospels, rhythm and blues, blues and also “work songs”. The social spread of these types began in the third period of the 19th century. [8]

## 3.2 Gospel music

As postulated by The Library of Congress: “African American Gospel music is a form of euphoric, rhythmic, spiritual music rooted in the solo and responsive church singing of the African American South.”<sup>3</sup> During the 1920s gospel had its conventional beginning. In this time it met with obstruction in most black religious gatherings. By the 1940s gospel had revolutionized music essentially in black churches. An integral part of the performance of gospel music was body movements such as clapping hands or stomping feet. [9]

Gospel is one of the most important traditions in American music and it is a modern form of spirituals inspired by Jazz, Blues and popular contemporary music. It celebrates the contemporary black religious experience and the music is rooted in black life and its culture. The lyrics are religious and influenced more profoundly by the New Testament. [10] One can be certain that African-American gospel music will keep on existing as a change of social personality. Nowadays, gospels are performed by chamber-cast vocal ensembles which are mostly of American origin and they are performing in many countries. [11]

We consider Mahalia Jackson one of the most prominent figure in gospel music. She recognizes the significant impact that the openness had on her improvement as a gospel artist. [12]

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<sup>3</sup>Available at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/songs-of-america/articles-and-essays/musical-styles/ritual-and-worship/african-american-gospel/>.

### 3.3 Spiritual

A spiritual is a type of folksong with a religious character that is connected with the enslavement of Africans in the American South. The African-American or “Negro” spiritual is one of the most important form of American folksong. [13] The spread of the spiritual commenced in the last few decades of the 18th century. As a result, legalized slavery was abolished during the 1860s. [14]

The spiritual songs were created after black Americans became acquainted with Christianity. These songs often contained naive religious ideas about the feelings of black people. [15] With spirituals are also connected the famous vocal artists The Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Spirituals were first sung during religious ceremonies or gatherings, and from there, they developed into the public cultural industry. These religious expressions are also often accompanied by movement elements permeating singing and prayers. [16] The spirituals that are related to the personal experiences of slaves most often included themes of freedom, hope, or death. Often in this kind of Spiritual one can find the mention of another world. This type can be seen in the passage of this song: [17]

„Good Lord, shall I ever be de one  
To get over in de Promise' Land?  
God called Adam in de Garden,  
'Twas about de cool of de day  
Called for old Adam,  
An' he tried to run away,  
The Lord walked in de Garden,  
'Twas about de cool of de day,  
Called for old Adam,  
An' Adam said, “Here I am, Lord.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2293924>.

### 3.4 The Fisk Jubilee Singers

The Fisk University was established 1866 as a school for African-Americans in Nashville, Tennessee. By 1871, the University was facing a financial crisis. Owing to this adverse financial situation, a student choir originated at the university to help raise enough money to save Fisk University. [18]

C. Robert Tipton writes convincingly on this issue: “There were 40,000 listeners in Boston's Coliseum that day in June 1872 when a small group of Negro singers, almost lonely among the thousands of other performers, took up the last verse of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." For weeks their leader had been training them to sing this anthem of the Union in the War between the States.”<sup>5</sup>

As mentioned above, this student a cappella ensemble bears the name *The Fisk Jubilee Singers*. They performed with the Spirituals that were mainly about overcoming, healing and black struggle. In addition, they permitted another person to understand what it implies to be in their world. [19]

Owing to the choir's performances, the university was able to purchase the new place on which we can find the university today.

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<sup>5</sup> Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42623128>.

## 4 Popular music in the 19th and early 20th centuries

### 4.1 The Minstrel Show

The minstrel show was the first form of musical and theatrical entertainment that became very popular in the 1940s. In the 1880s and 1890s, racial relations were at the most violent level, but despite this, white artists performing in minstrel shows painted and disguised themselves as blacks and mixed them through African-American music, dance, and language. [20]

In 1832, blackface performances culminated both in theatres and, for example, in saloons. The audience watching these performances was already racially mixed. Thomas Dartmouth Rice was a white actor who pointed out the potential popularity of the minstrels with the song “*Jim Crow*”, which mimicked the dance step “cakewalk”. Two black stereotyped characters emerged from this minstrel show – Zip Coon and Jim Crow. [21]

Larry Starr writes convincingly on this issue: “The musical and linguistic heritage of early minstrelsy was just as mixed as its audience and practitioners. The most likely inspiration for “*Jim Crow*” was not an African-American song but an Irish folk tune subsequently transformed into an English stage song.”<sup>6</sup>

As a result, the minstrelsy became a phenomenon before and after the American Civil War, and as has already been said, the representation of black characters was rather stereotyped. [22]

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<sup>6</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 12.



## 4.2 The Ragtime

Ragtime emerged in the 1880s and was also influenced by Latin American rhythms. We consider ragtime to be a way of the piano play and an intermediate stage between traditional black music and jazz, specifically it can be said that ragtime is the last prelude to jazz. Ragtime was first performed at an exhibition in Chicago in 1893, when at that time the original names for ragtime were “cake-walk”, or “coon-song”. The very name ragtime did not appear until 1895. The musical elements that this piano play contained were taken from cabaret shows. The main instrument was the banjo, but over time, blacks began to learn to play the piano. The piano could be heard in saloons or ballrooms. [23]

Ragtime dancing combined three main contexts determining the meaning of ragtime: [24]

- a) American minstrels
- b) Afro-American migration
- c) European immigration

Until the end of the First World War, ragtime played various types of ensemble, including dance bands, symphony orchestras, or banjo and mandolin ensembles. The most famous ragtime songs were in the style of a march with irregular rhythms. [25]

The classic ragtime was black pianist and composer Scott Joplin, also commonly known as “The King of Ragtime Writers”. He gave ragtime a solid form, and in particular his ragtime gained worldwide recognition. His most famous songs include “*Maple Leaf Rag*”, “*The Entertainer*” and “*Elite Syncopations*”. Joplin is also the author of the opera “*Treemonisha*”, which was created in 1911. [26]

## 5 Stephen Foster

### 5.1 The early life of Stephen Foster

Stephen Collins Foster was born in 1826 in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. Stephen's father was the mayor of Allegheny City. In addition, that is one of the reasons why his parents were both politically and socially eminent. Stephen Foster had many siblings and he was the youngest of all of them. His family did not support the abolition of slavery. [27]

In 1840 he attended the Allegheny Academy, and went to private academies in Athens and Towanda. At Athens, Foster wrote his first song "*The Tioga Waltz*". Stephen had also spent one week at Jefferson College in Canonsburg, but later he left, because of visiting Pittsburgh and he did not return back. In Pittsburgh he lived with his family from 1841 to 1846. [28]

Stephen Foster got married in 1850 with Jane Denny McDowell and stayed in Pittsburgh. During this time, Foster wrote "*Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair*", which was inspired by his wife. Later, he got addicted to alcohol and his debts have increased. [29]

### 5.2 Stephen Foster's career as an American composer

Stephen Collins Foster was often called "The America's First Composer". He was creating simple, convincing combinations of diverse tunes. His songs contained the elements of love of home, American temperament, work, politics or slavery. He was a very prominent personality and his talent manifested itself during the years he spent, as mentioned above, with his family in Pittsburgh, specifically in 1843. In that year, his first song was published, entitled "*Open thy Lattice, Love*". In 1845, Foster first introduced, for example, "*Lou'siana Belle*" and "*Oh! Susanna*". [30]

His other songs were published by W. C. Peterson between 1846 and 1851. This was the period in which Stephen worked as a bookkeeper in Cincinnati. [31] During the next few years, Foster composed more than 160 songs, including the most famous and most successful song, "*Old Folks at Home*", which sold many copies in 1851. Some of the author's songs became a tradition and were passed down orally from generation to generation. [32]

Stephen Collins Foster died in New York City, in 1864. His death followed the finishing of his last song called "*Beautiful Dreamer*". The great influence on this song had Vincenzo Bellini and Gaetano Donizetti, who had also influenced American popular music all the way up. [33]

Emerson (2012) believes that: "Foster created America's musical identity as surely as Giuseppe Verdi forged Italy's – Foster once declined an invitation to play "first anvil" in *Il Trovatore's* Anvil Chorus – and he is a forebear of American composers and performers from Charles Ives to Ray Charles and Bob Dylan."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/americanmusic.30.3.0397>.

## 6 Early popular music

### 6.1 Tin Pan Alley

The term “Tin Pan Alley” is the common name for the New York City music publishers and songwriters. They dominated the popular music that arose in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

However, at first the seat of the publishers was at Union Square in New York. They were attracted to this place by a large number of music halls in a large entertainment centre or theatre, in which there were also some dance halls. Over the years, publishers have found it important to create songs so that the singers feature them in their public performances. During the following decades, theatrical activity, along with publishers, moved to 28th Street, between Fifth Avenue and Broadway, which became the heart of Tin Pan Alley publishers. [34]

Tin Pan Alley included the composer’s commercially successful music. The songs mostly explored the ideal of romantic love and allowed the audience to all the more straightforwardly distinguish a personal experience with the artist. In popular music and the musical plays they helped to escape people the stress of their daily life. [35]

In the 1920s and 1930s, a new verse-refrain form was created, from which it was possible to create different and interesting variations. In this form, the refrain contained four equally long sections in scheme A-B-B-A. The most creative composers from Tin Pan Alley worked within these structural restrictions. [36]

As postulated by Larry Starr: “The A section presents the main melody, the basic pattern of the lyrics, and a set of chord changes to support them. The music of the A section is then repeated with new lyrics; often some slight melodic changes will be introduced, making this A, i.e., a variation of A. The B section, or “bridge,” is then introduced. The bridge presents new material – a new melody, chord changes, and lyrics. Finally, the A

melody and chord changes are repeated with new lyrics and sometimes with further melodic alterations or with an addition called a “tag,” producing an A, a second variation of A.”<sup>8</sup>

Many Tin Pan Alley composers, publishers or artists were of Jewish origin. Irving Berlin, whose song “*Alexander's Ragtime Band*” changed significantly the main course of pop music and brought him mass appreciation. Berlin wrote for Broadway stage as well as other Tin Pan Alley composers, including the famous George Gershwin. George Gershwin and Irving Berlin are a clear example of the founding generation of composers of modern popular music. Other composers still continue this work, because a popular song of the type that culminated in the swing period did not disappear even later, although it lost its position. [37]

## 6.2 Broadway as the forerunner of the musical

Theatre consists of related forms such as popular and amateur entertainment. In the 20th century, television, movies and the Internet were added to a large extent. Theatre is naturally taken seriously as high art, but Broadway does not produce high art overall. Since the 18th century, there has been a theatre section in New York, which is connected to Broadway. Broadway is considered to be the seat of 20th-century American musical theatre, where a large number of theatre stages take place. There are several talented singers, musicians and dancers. Broadway has also encouraged the growth of songwriting and allowed composers such as George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin to gain more visibility. [38]

The audience was more interested in a more entertaining type of performance, including a circus for example. American theatre was also temporarily influenced by European

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<sup>8</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 26.

music, especially from France, Italy and England, which accompanied the musical functions of performances of this type. [39]

At that time, also minstrel shows were popular, when the actors in these performances portrayed themselves as black people who were ridiculed. We also put black folk music to these performances. Black people as such appeared in minstrel shows only after the abolition of slavery, which means after the Civil War in 1863. [40]

To the predecessors of the musical we reckon also foreign operas, which were popular during the 19th century, especially in the upper class. The modern musical was created thanks to experience from European operettas or the field of music revue. The story of the musical revue constituted a simple plot, and for this reason, both singing and dancing scenes alternated in the performances. Part of the whole performance was already produced their own music, which, as in musical performances, was not always united. During the development of modern theatre, most composers were inspired by black music, which pointed to elements of early jazz music. [41]

The most successful composers of this type include mentioned above Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, including Cole Porter, and Richard Rodgers. In later years, for example, operettas or variety shows, which had such a great influence on the development itself. The original songs were distributed through the Tin Pan Alley that I mentioned above, which published a large number of songs. [42]

In the 1920s, jazz and popular music became increasingly popular on Broadway. Time went on and a new modern popular music theatre was created – a *musical*.

## 6.3 The work of George Gershwin

George Gershwin is one of the most famous American composers. He is the only Tin Pan Alley composer, who have achieved success in both concert music and popular music. He worked mainly in the field of revue, for which he composed a lot of songs that are played to this day. We include, for example, “*Somebody Loves Me*” or “*Lady Be Good*”, which he composed together with his brother Ira Gershwin. Gershwin was the personification of the jazz age. In 1923, his songs were performed, for example, with songs by Bellini or Purcell, and this was the beginning of his effort for equal status of popular and classical music. [43]

As postulated by Larry Starr: “Both Gershwin’s popular songs and his “classical” works demonstrate a sophisticated incorporation of stylistic devices derived from African-American sources – such as syncopated rhythms and blue notes – that far surpasses the rather superficial use of such devices in most other white American music of the time.”<sup>9</sup>

George Gershwin wrote not only opera and concert music, but also musical revue and songs. After the release of “*Rhapsody in Blue*” in 1924, Gershwin was considered the creator of new American music. This composition has gone through many editing processes and one of the versions is the classical version, which is intended for piano and orchestra. [44]

The highlight of Gershwin's efforts has become an American folk opera called “*Porgy and Bess*”. In this work, not only blues or spirituals are intertwined, but also European opera music. With this opera, he created a new American musical theatre, whose substance were American idioms. As a result, George Gershwin is the author of generally understood musical art. [45]

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<sup>9</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 29.

## 7 The development of popular Jazz and Swing

### 7.1 The formation of Jazz music

Larry Starr writes convincingly on this issue: “Admittedly, the ability of youth to indulge in the sorts of up-to-date pas times portrayed in Hollywood films and novels such as F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* was strongly affected by their position in society – after all, not everyone could afford luxury automobiles, champagne, and top-flight dance orchestras.”<sup>10</sup>

The origin of jazz and its development from contemporary American popular music at the turn is one of the turning points in the history of music. In this process, both the musical substance and overall view of music change. Jazz was a popular music, not an art music. The rise of Tin Pan Alley coincides with the rise of jazz around 1900 in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. Jazz is one of the original American art forms, when the improvisational form of jazz music itself was rather instrumental. Jazz music has its roots in blues and also ragtime. Jazz includes many other styles such as gospel, rhythm or blues, which were played by orchestras with a rhythm section – drums, piano and guitar, as well as a wind section. [46]

In 1917, the first jazz recordings were made by the New Orleans band *Original Dixieland Jass Band*. Thanks to these recordings, dance was popularized throughout the whole state at that time. [47] “By 1920”, writes historian James Lincoln Collier, jazz “was widely known and badly imitated throughout the United States”.<sup>11</sup>

The 1920s were also a turning point for the establishment of the solo as the primary form of jazz expression. The famous genius Louis Armstrong is mainly involved in this event. The artists could improvise as they performed solo, making the performance form

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<sup>10</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 20.

<sup>11</sup> Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40257338>.



more structured, which meant that the swing style of jazz emerged, culminating in the 1930s. [48]

The most popular musician of symphonic jazz in the 1920s was none other than Paul Whiteman. He performed with his big band at concerts and the audience present at his performances was mostly white. The big band also performed *Rhapsody in Blue*, which was a composition written by George Gershwin at the behest of Paul Whiteman. [49]

On the other hand, the greatest and most original figure in the jazz world was the musician and trumpeter Louis Armstrong, who helped to develop many jazz styles during his career. In the 1920s, this music developed mainly in the north of Chicago, where Armstrong worked and invented new ways of creating and improvising with New Orleans band member Joe King Oliver. [50]

## 7.2 The “Jazz Age” and Swing era

As postulated by Larry Starr: “This movement involved a blend of elements from “high culture” – the novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald, the paintings of Pablo Picasso, the plays of Eugene O’Neill – and from popular culture, particularly styles of music, dance, and speech modelled on black American prototypes. The idea of the jazz age was promoted by the mass media, especially by Hollywood.”<sup>12</sup>

The Jazz Age was a movement from which emerged jazz music and dance in the 1920s, after World War I. At the beginning of the Great Depression, in 1929, this era ended, but jazz has continued on in American popular culture. [51]

The seat of the Jazz Age became illegal speakeasies, where dance songs and shows took place. Thanks to this, jazz got a reputation as immoral, and some individuals considered

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<sup>12</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 22.

it to be a danger to the old social qualities. [52] Jazz has also arose concurrently with radio broadcast and recording technology.

In 1935 a new style of music derived from jazz was created, which was called "swing". At the end of the 1920s, black dance bands also contributed to the development of swing. The origin of the word "swing" comes from African-American English. This word was used to as the name of the swinging movement in the rhythm of the music being played. Later, it was also used to express a feeling of freedom and overall good emotional status. The audience of the swing did not distinguish differences, for example, between natives and immigrants or between city dwellers and villagers. [53]

One of the greatest jazz orchestras was the Duke Ellington Orchestra, which was led by Edward Kennedy Duke Ellington, who was considered the most important musician of the 20th century. Other notable orchestras included Count Basie and Goodman band's, led by Benny Goodman. He was also crowned "King of Swing". Popular singers such as Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby also sang with jazz orchestras. [54]

Swing was generally very influenced by jazz. Other styles of this genre include for example bebop, cool jazz or soul jazz.

## 7.3 Louis Armstrong

### 7.3.1 The early life of Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was born in 1900 in New Orleans, United States. He was a famous American jazz trumpeter and singer, who is considered one of the most important jazz artists of the 20th century. Armstrong came from the proletarian background of a poor black family. At the beginning of 1913, he got into a correctional facility for coloured children and there he learned to play the cornet. Later, he started earning money, for example, as a newspaper salesman or as a construction worker. [55]

His great inspiration was his teacher Joe King Oliver, the bandleader of the jazz band. In 1918, Louis Armstrong replaced him in orchestra *Kid Ory's Brown Skinned Babies*, one of the best orchestra in New Orleans. Then he stopped working physically and he only made his living by making music. During 1924, Armstrong entered into a second marriage with a pianist Lilian Hardin. [56]

### 7.3.2 The career of Louis Armstrong

From 1921, Armstrong worked in the Tuxedo Brass Band and during his further initial experience he learned to read notes, for example. Louis Armstrong founded several basic features of jazz, including swing or emphasis on solo instrumental bravura. After World War I, Armstrong became an influential musician on the local scene. He then played in Chicago, in the King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, with which they made their first jazz recordings. [57]

In the beginning of 1924, Louis and his wife Lilian left to New York, where Louis joined Fletcher Henderson's band. Together, they moved to a higher level and began composing music in a more improvised style that helped to create the swing. During his stay in New York, he created a large set of recordings, in which he also accompanied blues singers. [58] He also performed with Ella Fitzgerald for many years.

After his return to Chicago in 1925, Louis Armstrong worked until 1929 in the ensemble of his wife Lilian Hardin, or in theatre orchestras. Armstrong began forming his own formations, and in 1925 the first recordings were made for the record company Okeh under the name *L.A. And His Hot Five* (ensemble included cornet, trombone, clarinet, banjo and piano). Another ensemble of Hot Seven has expanded with a tuba and drums. From 1928 to 1929, Armstrong led the changeable formation *Savoy Ballroom Five*. [59]

In 1932 and again in 1933, Armstrong escaped to England and in 1935 he signed a contract with the new manager Joe Glaser, and his career focused more on commercial production. [60]

Larry Starr wrote: “Throughout his career Armstrong often spoke of the importance of maintaining a balance between improvisation (or “routining,” as he called it) and straightforward treatment of the melody. “Ain’t no sense in playing a hundred notes if one will do,” Arm strong is reported to have said on his 70th birthday.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 22.

## 8 Rhythm and blues

"Rhythm and blues" is a musical genre also known as R&B, which has its origins in southern folk traditions. It was also linked to the return of several black Americans who headed to centres such as Los Angeles, Chicago and Detroit during World War II, where the genre had just emerged. [61]

R&B contained electrified guitar sounds or accordion sounds. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, there were also significant recordings of the "jumping band" that were influenced by the swing. During this time, the recordings were also considered race music, the sale of which was separate from the classical white recordings. When small record companies were rediscovered, artists who were not very interested also had new opportunities. [62]

The first category of rhythm and blues that culminated during and after World War II is called "Jump blues". Mostly, it was played by small groups and featured horns. Jump bands specialized mainly in party music based on boogie-woogie<sup>14</sup> and humorous lyrics. Bands of the early 1940s produced musicians such as Louis Jordan, who led the *Tympany Five*. In 1939 Louis Jordan began working for Decca Records. He was the most favourite artist of black listeners and it was until the war that a rather white audience became interested in him. Among the best hits of this artist was for instance "*G. I. Jive*". [63]

Another inevitable encounter was called "Doo-Wop". In the post-war rhythm and blues, black vocal groups also appeared, recording secular material. These vocal groups mostly consisted of high school students from the black quarters of the cities. Some of them also initially thought that singing was taken for granted. [64] The community of doo-

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<sup>14</sup> Boogie-woogie was developed by African-Americans and it is a music genre of blues that became popular during the 1920s.

wop is taken as a socioeconomic formation, where we could experience a connection to youth again. [65]

As I would say, one of the most important personalities of the rhythm and blues music genre is Aretha Franklin. Aretha Franklin appeared as a pop star at the peak of her career in 1967, starting with the song “*I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You)*”. Aretha Franklin had the huge power and intensity of her amazing voice. The power she put into her performance took the songs to a completely different level. She was not a prominent political figure, but thanks to her the performances she showed, she made strong political statements. [66]

## 9 Rock 'n' roll – the 1950s

Rock 'n' roll was an example of how music was considered quite distinct from the music that had preceded this genre. As mentioned in the headline, the music of this area appeared during the 1950s and specifically in rock 'n' roll it was a gradual discovery of music. Related to this rock 'n' roll music is advances in audio and video recording and transmission technology. The basis of this music are considered rhythm and blues (black blues) and country and western (white country music). As for rock 'n' roll songs, it can be said that compared to jazz, they have a simplified but dynamically more expressive rhythm. They usually have a fast tempo and dance stroke. Here, more emphasis was placed on drums and especially on electric instruments, which include guitars. [67]

The birth of rock 'n' roll has its share in the legalization of black artists. Until then, only white copies of their songs were broadcast on the radio. The significance of rock was that it was mainly a protest against the music and values of the older generation. [68]

The key event that led to the creation of the protest songs was the Vietnam War. The main character of the protest movement was Bob Dylan, who created a number of important protest songs or ballads such as “*Blowin in the Wind*” or “*Masters of War*”. Bob Dylan's lyrics do not explicitly mention Vietnam, but at a time when the war was playing a major role, he refused to create folk music in general. [69]

Singer, bandleader and guitarist Bill Haley became the most prominent legend of this genre. The decisive year in his career was 1955, when appeared his recording “*Rock Around the Clock*”. Other rock 'n' roll stars include Elvis Presley or Chuck Berry. [70]

### 9.1 Elvis Presley, his early life and career

Elvis Presley was born in 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi, United States. He came from a Southern family that lived a simple and natural life. As a child, he sang with his parents in church, and when he was 13, he and his family moved to Memphis, which was a

music centre in South America. In Memphis he attended school, where he often sang in student programs or in the church. In 1953, he began working as a truck driver, spending his evenings with friends and singing with local bands. That same year, he also recorded “*My Happiness*” in Sun Records’ studio, which was created for his mother's birthday. [71]

In 1955, Elvis was noticed by Tom Parker, who took up his career and became his manager. However, this period did not last too long. RCA Records released Presley's “*Heartbreak Hotel*” and essentially kicked off his career. From the following year, he began appearing on television in famous shows such as the Steve Allen Show and the Ed Sullivan Show, and he also signed a contract with producer Hal Wallis. [72]

During the years 1956-1958, Elvis Presley won in many charts as the most popular singer both in the United States and in Europe, despite the fact that he never performed live in Europe, fans only knew him from records or movies. He also had to enlist in the military, and after two years he was able to return to the scene. Although most of us know Elvis more as a musician, he focused more on film and working in a recording studio. His first films were of the highest value, with increasing numbers they did not meet Presley's expectations, and the quality of the music that appeared in these films also deteriorated significantly. [73]

By the time, Presley stopped performing in public. His recordings from the late 1960s and early 1970s confirmed that Presley had returned to the music scene. We can include the song “*Suspicious Minds*” in his comeback. Presley also sang gospels, blues, or rhythm and blues. [74]

During his life, Elvis Presley really proved that his title of “King of Rock and Roll” is deserved. He was not only a rock ‘n’ roll singer, but also a performer in various industries.



As written by Larry Starr: “And Presley’s records racked up astronomical sales from 1956 on into the early 1960s, establishing him as the biggest-selling solo artist of rock ’n’ roll, and then as the biggest-selling solo recording artist of any period and style – a title he still holds at the beginning of the 21st century!”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 64.

## 10 Introducing Hip-Hop

Hip-Hop has developed as a cultural and artistic phenomenon in the mid-1970s and early 1980s in the United States, specifically in the Bronx, in one part of New York. Hip-Hop included language, dressing style, and a different view of the world. It has influenced young people all over the world and we call it a musical example in postmodern dance music. It can also be considered as a symbol of cultural and political reality. This genre understands young people and thus expresses their feelings. Hip-Hop should be considered as a cultural movement and an equal musical genre with jazz or blues. [75]

Hip-hop was mainly the music of protest. Protests against the war in Afghanistan or Iraq are also related to this. In Afghanistan, for example, most music production has been banned, and not only has it revolted the world. As a result of these wars, a number of protest songs appeared. Many protesting singers such as Bruce Springsteen composed protest songs for the war. And it was Bruce Springsteen's song "*The Rising*" that was created especially in response to the 9/11 attacks. [76]

Some young artists, who worked in this field of music worked as DJs<sup>16</sup> at discos. This work consists of playing records and constantly operating the mixing desk. One of the first celebrities to start their career in this way was Kool Herc. He started DJing at parties in neighbourhood blocks or in dance clubs. Some artists used freestyle by speaking to the beat to make the music special and inserting rhymes into the speaking. We call these speeches "rap". In addition to rap, we include other elements in hip-hop, such as breakdance or visual art (graffiti). [77] Rap music responds primarily to racism and communicates between black communities in the United States. The audience of this music was mainly blacks, but over time the audience expanded to other races and rap became multicultural. Thanks to the single "*Rapper's Delight*", by The Sugarhill Gang, hip-hop developed as more commercial. This album became famous for using the term

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<sup>16</sup> DJ – Disc jockey.

“rapper”, instead of the term MC<sup>17</sup>. As rap became more popular and competition grew rapidly, DJs improved their beats with new techniques and one of them was “scratching”. The raps were also improved with more complex rhymes. [78] Starr (2007) believes that: “The text of “*Rapper’s Delight*” alternates the braggadocio of the three MCs with descriptions of dance movements, exhortations to the audience, and humorous stories and references. One particularly memorable segment describes the consternation of a guest who is served rotting food by his friend’s mother, seeks a polite way to refuse it, and finally escapes by crashing through the apartment door.”<sup>18</sup> Here can be seen the passage of the song:

*“Well it’s on-n-on-n-on-n-on-n-on  
The beat don’t stop until the break  
of dawn I said M-A-S, T-E-R, a G with a  
double E  
I said I go by the unforgettable name  
Of the man they call the Master Gee  
Well, my name is known all over the  
world  
By all the foxy ladies and the pretty  
girls  
I’m goin’ down in history  
As the baddest rapper there could  
ever be.”<sup>19</sup>*

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<sup>17</sup> MC – Master of ceremonies.

<sup>18</sup> Starr, Larry. Waterman, Christopher. *American Popular Music*, p. 87.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* p. 87.

## 11 The 1980s – Digital recording and other trends

The 1980s are mainly associated with the huge increase in digital recording, which has allowed music to grow more. [79] The popularity of genres that peaked just before these years, such as hip-hop, persisted throughout the years. Non-traditional musical instruments and electronic sounds were inserted into popular music, which meant the emergence of genres such as techno or electro.

Music video was another innovation that changed a lot in the music industry. In North America, the so-called mainstream emerged, which represented the evolution of trends such as the resumption of Top Forty radio or the beginning of music video programming around the world. [80]

A significant event of this time was also the emergence of music television. Part of that was the creation of MTV<sup>20</sup>. When MTV was formed, one of the main goals was to break records. Due to the fact that the audience rather listened to the recordings on the records, there was not much interest in the television program. Over time, however, the success of the program increased and the main supporters became more adolescents. This television channel was also used for various promotions of dance clubs or new recordings. An important change at this time was also the shortening of all musical practice pop songs to a length of 3-5 minutes. [81]

During these years, important artists also appeared, who shook the music industry. One of them was the well-known Michael Jackson, the biggest pop star of all time, whose album "Thriller" became the best-selling album ever. His music was extravagant and contained elements of both pop and elements of rock and other styles. However, men were not the only stars in the spotlight. During these years, for example, Madonna

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<sup>20</sup> MTV – Music Television – It is the first music television station in the world, whose broadcast lasted 24 hours a day.

entered the world of pop, a female artist who sold the highest number of recordings in the history of the music industry during her career.

## 12 Popular music from the 1990s to the present 2020s

In the 1990s, the development of the music industry was very inspiring. New genres were created, a lot of new artists came to the top, and a lot of great songs were written and recorded. One of the first events included the gaining popularity of alternative rock and the so-called grunge scene, dominated by the band Nirvana, led by singer Kurt Cobain. [82]

In the 1990s the pop music continued in the same way as it did in the past. The only thing evolved during this time was plenty of girls groups and boy bands. The groups were specified mainly for teen listeners. In terms of girl groups, the biggest “boom” was experienced by the group The Spice Girls, which entered the American market and became a successful British group in North America. [83]

If I mention boy bands, then the Backstreet Boys, the most successful boy band in history, has clearly led and also has countless successes to its credit. The famous Britney Spears also became a big star at the end of the 1990s, and she made a significant contribution to teen pop music, for example with her song "*Baby One More Time*". This trend of teen pop music continued in popularity until the early 2000s. However, in the following years it was replaced by modern R&B and hip-hop. Solo singers such as Prince and Michael Jackson continued with their successful careers. [84]

The 2000s is a significant decade when pop music remained at the top and Lady Gaga and Beyoncé also achieved their first success. During this decade, the world also became acquainted with country artists, including Taylor Swift, who began to focus on pop music in later years.

2010s were well-known for the rise of various digital platforms. In the United States, social media such as Spotify, Apple Music and Youtube Music were launched, which quickly became popular. Specifically, Youtube made it possible to become famous even for amateur artists who planned to make themselves publicize in the music industry. The

emergence of social media broke the barrier between artists and fans, which meant that they had the opportunity to communicate together through these platforms. [85] Specifically, the Youtube platform works on the principle of watching videos and gaining subscribers, in other words, fans who have a certain favourite channel on which they watch videos and just by subscribing, the platform notifies them that the channel performed a new activity. By channel is meant either an artist or any account created. The more subscribers a channel receives, the higher the amount of money that channel can receive. As a result, Youtube allows you to upload videos or share live broadcasts.

K-pop or EDM<sup>21</sup> became famous as the main genres, which became mainstream, for example, thanks to the songs of Kanye West. The place also deserved music in the form of indie pop, which consisted of quiet vocal expression and, like pop itself, contained catchy melodies. Indie pop has also gained popularity among pop singers. [86]

After teen pop lost its popularity during the 2000s, it returned to the scene during the 2010s. The stars of teen pop were Demi Lovato or Selena Gomez, who became famous mainly thanks to the Disney Channel television program and continued their successful careers over the years and are still very influential artists today. Teen pop also includes singer Justin Bieber, who became famous thanks to the Youtube platform and his popularity has grown at rocket speed. However, it must be said that these years were only the start of a promising career for such performers. Their popularity has not declined even today and some of them, along with music, are also involved in acting.

As a result, music genres came together at this time to create music that continues into the current 2020s. And that brings me to the 2020s, a decade that is not only a difficult time for the music industry. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which erupted in 2019 and still lasts, many artists have been forced to cancel their scheduled concerts and tours.

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<sup>21</sup> EDM – Electronic dance music – It is a music, which is played mostly at nightclubs or festivals.

But even this unfavourable situation did not dishearten them from what they like. The artists come together and come up with a lot of alternatives to entertain their audience. It was this situation that forced them to get closer to the fans through social networks, where they broadcast online concerts or offer various online workshops. In addition, if the situation allows, the singers also shoot music videos. Some of them have also set up a channel on the Youtube platform and they are recording videos there, for example on how they deal with the current COVID-19 situation.

## 12.1 Britney Spears and her career

Britney Spears is a very prominent celebrity in American pop music. Since I highlighted more males in my work, I decided to choose a female artist Britney Spears as a representative of contemporary music.

She was born in 1981 in McComb, Mississippi, United States. Britney was one of those who helped the emergence of teen pop. [87]

After her first unsuccessful casting at the age of eight, she obtained an agent in New York, where she later attended a school of professional art. It was during these years that her career began in the form of television commercials and she also joined the Mouseketeers ensemble, which also included singer Christina Aguilera. When she was 15, she made a record that secured her a contract with a record company. Two years later, she released her first single "*Baby One More Time*", which was on the album of the same name. This album topped the charts in 1999, and her next album, "*Oops! ... I Did It Again*," created a record for first-week sales by a solo artist. Her other studio albums did not gain such success, but Britney remained a major celebrity in the world of pop music. Britney Jean, the album that was released in 2013, was very personal for Britney Spears, but both critics and fans did not like that her voice was too modified in this album with various effects. In 2012, she appeared as a juror in the television competition called X Factor and in 2018 she embarked on a world tour. [88]



In 2019, it was announced that Britney had decided to enrol in a psychiatric hospital. It was later said that Britney was being held here against her will. Because of this situation, the #FreeBritney fan movement arose.

She was often the centre of attention mainly due to her personal life. Her unpredictable behaviour put her under guardianship. In the current year of 2021, the documentary "*Framing Britney Spears*" was introduced to television screens. [89]

At the present, Britney's mental state is still very much addressed among the fans, because it manifests itself somewhat strangely on social networks. Many of Britney's fans think that she is calling for help with her videos or posts that she publishes on her social networks.

## 13 The main differences between American popular music in the past and the present

The music industry has changed considerably in recent centuries and music brought plenty of positives to the world. Music is a form of art that originated as a way of expressing oneself. Every music genre has undergone many changes. Music has evolved in all different directions and nowadays, as is well known, the genres are clearly pop music or hip-hop. We encounter differences between the past and the present of popular music in the creation of music, in the development of musical instruments, recordings or musical technologies. The new technologies have influenced the way music is made.

Even before popular music itself began to emerge, classical music was considered as a popular music because at that time people did not know any other music or means of entertainment. Based on classical music, popular music then developed in the form of African-American music, so mainly worksongs were created, which helped to shorten or pass the time at work. Gospels intended primarily for religious purposes were also created. During this time, the music was passed among the people mostly by oral way.

In this chapter, it is necessary to mention the differences between music devices when listening not only to popular music in the past and today. The recording machines, gramophone and music boxes known to us all were created in the 19th century. In the 20th century, most changes took place in the music industry, and at this time a wide range of inventions was created, from radio stations, through a cassette that allowed recording for later music or CD<sup>22</sup>, to today's smartphones with their various music functions. [90]

I would like to start with jazz, because it has become one of the most influential movements in the 20th century. The most visible difference between jazz today and jazz before is the sound. Forms of older jazz music sound calmer and melodic. On the other hand, jazz today may seem more faster. Jazz songs from the past are significantly shorter

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<sup>22</sup> CD – compact disc.

than modern ones. After the development of electronic instruments, however, jazz artists began to use new innovations, and an electric guitar, for example, was added to the classical saxophone, trumpet or piano.

Hip-hop – A way that in the past was not just noise, but instrumental music too, and in the lyrics the artists truly expressed their feelings, including the worries they experienced in their lives. At present, we come across rappers who, in the lyrics of intentional swearing and allusions to their enemies, and in general today it is just a matter of gaining fame in any way. Hip-hop artists wore their distinctive baggy style of dressing. Nowadays, this is not much addressed. The rule here is that less is basically more.

Nowadays, there is clearly mainstream music which features both a catchy rhythm and lyrics and an ever-repeating refrain. This is what makes pop music very popular today. About 50 years ago, artists made their own music, and there was no possibility of using automatic sounds created in recording studios. Today, any music is accompanied by video, which, of course, we have never encountered in the past. On the above-mentioned Youtube platform, music accompanied by these videos can be found.

I have to mention that it used to be very difficult to become a famous person in the world of music, because artists needed real talent for that. Nowadays, it is not difficult and anyone can become famous. Pop music is not bad music, I like to listen to it myself, it just managed to adapt to current trends. As for the lyrics of these songs, it should be noted that they are not too deep and meaningful.

I have to say that the biggest difference for me is that people used to listen to music. Today, people tend to watch at music.

## 14 Conclusion

The history of popular music in America is conspicuously diverse and has its roots in African-American music, when blacks were imported to America as cheap labour. The amount of information that was available to process my topic of the work was very extensive. I tried my best to logically and comprehensibly formulate all the data found so that my work was interesting and enriching.

For me personally, it was entertaining and interesting to find out information about the formation of popular music, its genres and especially comparing the most important differences between music before and today was greatly riveting. The main idea of my work was to show how music genres and culture can interact during the development of popular music.

In the early days of popular music, minstrel shows played a major role, which included the problem of racism that played and still plays a role all around the world. In these performances, whites disguised themselves as blacks and ridiculed them. A key event was also the development of the musical, when composer George Gershwin, who by creating elements of European opera music in his opera "*Porgy and Bess*", created a new American Musical Theatre.

When a new swing style of jazz appeared during the 1920s, solo performance first appeared as the primary form of jazz expression. The artists therefore had the opportunity to improvise during the solo performance, which meant structuring a new form of performance.

The development of music also includes inseparable war periods, such as the period of the World War II, which had a great influence on the emergence of the musical genre of rhythm and blues. During this period, a wide range of black Americans returned to the metropolises.

The arrival of rock 'n' roll was associated with advances in sound recording and transmission technologies. In this musical genre, the emphasis was mainly on electric instruments and drums. The most popular personality of this period was the King of Rock 'n' Roll Elvis Presley.

The emergence of digital recording and other technologies has also led to the subsequent popularization of popular music. These innovations included music video and music television MTV, a program that promoted new recordings.

Many new genres or boy and girl bands originated after 1990. The recent past has also led to the introduction of music platforms that have maintained their popularity to this day. As a result it was this period that was just the beginning of a promising career for the new artists.

The current crisis, caused by the COVID-19 virus, is affecting artists and the music industry in a major way. Live concerts are not possible, so the performers come up with a large number of alternatives. There are also various organizations that help artists to deal with their performances.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the process of finding reliable information was more difficult than I expected. First, it was important to carefully read the selected sources in order to be able to select essential information on the topic and to engage the reader's work.

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## 17 Abstract

The goal of my bachelor thesis was to document the development of popular music in America, including a brief description of the main musical genres and their representatives. Furthermore, my task was to recognize the main differences between popular music in the past and in the present, which also included a comparison of trends, musical instruments and music devices.

Racism played a major role in American history, which was also an important point in the development of music. Popular music has its roots in African-American music, the origin of which was related to slavery. At this time, music helped to transmit history. Of course, African-American expressions of black people were also influenced by white culture. When it came to releasing songs, black people did not have it easy at all. These songs were published only as copies under the names of white artists.

Thanks to popular music, musicals were also strongly influenced, especially musicals on Broadway. The most important composer of the musical is George Gershwin, with whose composition "*Rhapsody in Blue*" he was considered the creator of new American music.

Over time, a lot of new music devices were developed, thanks to which it was possible to listen to music. The main ones were gramophones and recordings, later radios, cassettes and CDs were added.

The music industry has changed a lot over the decades. One of the most widespread genres in the history of American popular music has been jazz, which has maintained its popularity to nowadays. Part of today's music is mainly mainstream music.

It was interesting to look for information on how the current coronavirus pandemic affected the music industry, when artists had to find an alternative way for their production of music. For example, most artists have solved this problem by organizing the online concerts on social networks or on other websites.

## 18 Resumé

Cílem mé bakalářské práce bylo dokumentovat vývoj populární hudby v Americe, včetně stručného popsání hlavních hudebních žánrů a jejich představitelů. Dále bylo mým úkolem rozeznat hlavní rozdíly populární hudby v minulosti a v současnosti, čehož bylo součástí také srovnání trendů, hudebních nástrojů, či hudebních nosičů.

Velkou roli v Americké historii sehrál rasismus, což byl také důležitý bod pro vývoj hudby. Populární hudba má své kořeny už v afro-americké hudbě, jejíž vznik souvisel s otroctvím. V této době pomáhala hudba přenášet historii. Afro-americké projevy černochů byly samozřejmě také ovlivněny kulturou bělochů. Pokud se jednalo o vydání skladeb, černoši to neměli vůbec jednoduché. Tyto skladby se zveřejňovaly pouze jako kopie pod jmény bílých interpretů.

Silně ovlivněn byl také díky populární hudbě muzikál, a to především muzikál na Broadwayi. S muzikály je úzce spjat skladatel George Gershwin, s jehož skladbou *“Rhapsody in Blue“* byl považován za tvůrce nové americké hudby.

S postupem času bylo vyvinuto spoustu nových hudebních nosičů, díky kterým bylo možné hudbu poslouchat. Hlavními z nich byly gramofony a nahrávky, později se přidali i rádia, kazety či CD.

Hudební průmysl se v průběhu desetiletí velmi změnil. Jedním z nejrozšířenějších žánrů v historii americké populární hudby byl jazz, který si drží svou popularitu i do současné doby. Součástí dnešní hudby je především hudba mainstreamová.

Zajímavé bylo vyhledávat informace o tom, jak zasáhla současná koronavirová pandemie oblast hudebního průmyslu, kdy si umělci museli najít alternativu pro jejich tvorbu. Tento problém vyřešila většina umělců například online koncerty na sociálních sítích či na jiných internetových stránkách.

## 19 Appendices



Available at:

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Most Streamed Artists in 2020 on YouTube US		
Rank	Artist	Streams
1	YoungBoy Never Broke Again	2 660 000 000
2	Lil Baby	2 040 000 000
3	Juice WRLD	1 820 000 000
4	Rod Wave	1 630 000 000
5	Bad Bunny	1 550 000 000
6	Future	1 460 000 000
7	Drake	1 370 000 000
8	DaBaby	1 360 000 000
9	Eminem	1 320 000 000
10	Kevin Gates	1 250 000 000

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