

POLY ~~AM~~OROUS



MEET THE

SONNY

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	SHE - TYLER, THE CREATOR	
02	RYD - STEVE LACEY	
03	CHICAGO - MICHAEL JACKSON	
04	SMUCKERS - TYLER, THE CREATOR	
05	ALL FALLS DOWN - KANYE WEST	
06	KEVIN'S HEART - J. COLE	
07	NICE GUYS - HARD LIFE	
08	WARM IT UP - LOGIC	
09	CLIMATE - BIGXTHAPLUG	
10	OKRA - TYLER, THE CREATOR	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

LILY

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	CATCHING BODIES - SEKOU	
02	VALENTINE - LAUFEY	
03	STIR FRY - MIGOS	
04	GABRIELA - KATSEYE	
05	FOOL'S GOLD - ONE DIRECTION	
06	AS - STEVIE WONDER	
07	STOMP - STEPS	
08	LOVERS ROCK - TV GIRL	
09	SWISS RETREAT - NAT KING COLE	
10	HOLD THE LINE - TOTO	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

KATIE

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	REWIND - PAOLO NUTINI	
02	GETT OFF - PRINCE	
03	JAILBREAK - THIN LIZZY	
04	LAST REQUEST - PAOLO NUTINI	
05	THE MOST BEAUTIFUL... - PRINCE	
06	FINGERBIB - APHEX TWIN	
07	SOUNDTRACK 2 MY LIFE - KID CUDI	
08	DRACULA - TAME IMPALA	
09	A\$AP FOREVER - A\$AP ROCKY, MOBY	
10	BETTER MAN - PEARL JAM	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

ZAC

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	CRACK ROCK - FRANK OCEAN	
02	NIKES - FRANK OCEAN	
03	FOR YOU - TV GIRL	
04	MIDNIGHT 01... - KING KRULE	
05	CELLULAR - KING KRULE	
06	CLOSE TO YOU - FRANK OCEAN	
07	THE OOZ - KING KRULE	
08	ROUGH SONG - BEACH HOUSE	
09	HER HIPPO - DRY CLEANING	
10	VACATION - STILL WOODY	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00



MARI

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	WGFT - GUNNA FT. BURNA BOY	
02	LOTTA42 - DRAKE	
03	DEJA VU - J. COLE	
04	DOING IT WRONG - DRAKE	
05	TRUTH IN THE LIES - CENTRAL CEE	
06	TIMELESS - THE WEEKND	
07	CASE DEPART - TEAM BS	
08	THE GAME - HOW WE DO	
09	CHEM HASKANUM - KRISTINA SI	
10	OPEN ARMS - SZA FT. TRAVIS SCOTT	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

JESS

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	EEO - BAD BUNNY	
02	VON DUTCH - CHARLIE XCX	
03	OFFENCE - LITTLE SIMZ	
04	ICED COFFEE - ARTHUR HILL	
05	MR. FANTASY - MR. FANTASY	
06	BACK TO THE OLD... - THE SMITHS	
07	MY HOME - MYLES SMITH	
08	DIVE - OLIVIA DEAN	
09	RUSH - TROYE SIVAN	
10	TAKE MY HAND - MATT BERRY	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

LEILA

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	HOMECOMING - KANYE WEST	
02	NAIVE - THE KOOKS	
03	BRITISH BOMBS - DECLAN MCKENNA	
04	JESUS WALKS - KANYE WEST	
05	THE MONSTER - EMINEM	
06	ALL OF THE LIGHTS - KANYE WEST	
07	OTTOLENGHI - LOYLE CARNER	
08	ICE WATER - LOYLE CARNER	
09	CANDY - PAOLO NUTINI	
10	IRIS - GOO GOO DOLLS	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

CORA

RECEIPTIFY

QTY	ITEM	AMT
01	YOUNGBLOOD - GREEN DAY	
02	RHIANNON - FLEETWOOD MAC	
03	WILDFIRE - BLINK 182	
04	WE'RE BREAK... - AGAINST ME!	
05	WAR - SUM 41	
06	WANT YOU BAD - THE OFFSPRING	
07	WAIT AND BLEED - SLIPKNOT	
08	VOICES... - FALLING IN REVERSE	
09	THE VIOLENCE - RISE AGAINST	
10	VICTORIOUS - P!ATD	

ITEM COUNT: 10.00

TEAM



ALT-POP



Alt-pop sensation 'Nory J' crafting a new melody.



Nory J cracks some jokes post-interview.

Inside The Mind Of Nory J

Nory J: It has got to be Pizza Express Live in Chelsea this year because it was all of my songs including like, 5 unreleased in a jazz environment while people are eating pizza and getting drunk. Plus it was all professionally recorded and mixed, then it got uploaded to YouTube and it was just the best experience. But then just under that are my two gigs in front of a Shrek crowd. They were so good because everyone's wearing Shrek ears and preparing themselves for this big Shrek show and I'm up there playing my songs, but I was so well received.

You read that right. Opening act for a Shrek-themed act. Iconic!

'Describe your next project in three words!'

Nory J: Ooo. Okay, I can give you hints. The hints towards my next project. I will be doing a huge string of releases starting in 2026 and will be using sounds that are easier to replicate live but still hint at the whole 'alt pop' thing. The next release in three words? Rap, complicated, keyboard. That's as much as I can do with three words. I want to elaborate for you, but I can't! It's fun keeping it secret.

Us at PolyJamorous are so excited to hear when these drop. If you are too, stay up-to-date via Instagram @noryjuk. While you're at it, give some of their other music a listen! You won't be disappointed!



For our first ever article, the team at PolyJamorous wanted to do a deep dive into an increasingly popular genre -- alt-pop. What better way to do so than to take a look inside the mind of an expert on the subject? We did just that through an interview with the rising pop star Nory J (just wait until you see what his favorite performance was).

'How did you first start making music?'
Nory J: I went to bath spa university doing the Commercial Music course. I played a lot of folk, rock, punk, a load of types of music as a grade a guitarist. I then realised that the worst part of being in a band is waiting for other people to sort out their stuff, so I taught myself to sing. I did singing lessons with the uni, I taught myself the marketing, song writing, and I used my jazz-orientated big band knowledge to then write the songs. So, when I finished uni, I started my Nory J solo project which was in late 2021 and I've been going for almost 4 years at this point.

'What pulled you towards the alt pop sound?'

Nory J: I haven't actually defined myself as 'Alt-pop' until this year when I got added to the Apple Music Alt Pop playlist with names like Chappell Roan, Charlie XCX, Gracie Abrahams, and people like that. That's because my music is all guitar led, jazz chords but with a pop production, the lyrics aren't basic, and it suits me!

'When you are writing, what comes first - lyrics, melody or what you consider to be production?'

Nory J: I will sit on my guitar, I will come up with a chord progression that I like, think of the voice leading as well. Then pair the voice leading with the melody. Then the lyrics come last. So it would be harmony or production, melody, and then the lyrics.

'What has been your favourite live show so far and why did it stand out?'

Alt-Pop The New Wave: Diversity, Fusion, and the Future of Sound

The UK alt-pop scene is transforming, and it's never sounded more alive. Once dominated by a fairly narrow range of influences, today's alternative pop landscape is being redefined by cultural cross-overs and digital discoveries, and a new generation of artists unafraid to blur the lines between genres.

Thanks to social platforms like TikTok and the global reach of streaming, artists now have unprecedented access to differential musical cultures. These platforms have helped dissolve old boundaries, inspiring crossovers and hybrid genres that are creating a new uprising in the musical scene. The result? A sound that's more diverse, experimental and genre-fluid than ever. Artists from a wide range of backgrounds are bringing their own unique influences into alt-pop, pushing the genre towards new discoveries and inclusivity. This growing diversity isn't just to be heard but to be seen. It's cultural. There's been a noticeable rise in Black, Asian and other ethnic minority musicians in the UK's alt scene, particularly at beginner level. These artists are rewriting

the music scene and creating new fusions and challenging the industry's outdated boundaries.

Many of these voices grew up without seeing themselves represented in the music they loved. Instead of waiting for idols, they simply became their own, mixing influences that reflect their real-life experiences with the music they love. This evolution is especially visible in global music hubs of the world like London, New York, Seoul and Tokyo, where genres overlap and experimentation thrive. The alt-pop of today is not just about sound; it's about identity, connection and fearless creativity, creating an umbrella of representation for young people to grow up inspired and represented in music. Alt-pop's evolution reflects something bigger than music - it's a movement towards inclusivity and self-expression. Every artist experimenting at the edges of genres is helping redefine what 'alternative' really means. The future

of alt-pop isn't just about success; it's about growing the music industry, supporting small artists and encouraging community and creativity.

Five Artists Shaping The Future of Alt-Pop

1. Mount Kimbie - fusing rock, indie and grunge with great artistic presence. Mount Kimbie continues to push boundaries between traditional band structures and electronic experimentation.
2. Elias Ronnenfelt - known for transforming punk's raw energy into alternative rock, his music challenges rebellion and somber feelings with an intense emotional attachment to music.
3. Chanel Beads - A perfect example of 'bedroom pop' done right. Blending DIY style music with alternative melodies, Chanel Beads music captures the soul of our generation raised online but craving music that's real.
4. The Crying Nudes - With Lo-Fi and indie influences that drift between rock and pop, soaked in reverb. This band balances the borders of multiple genres, creating an out-of-body experience and a pathway to a new world of music.

5. Ivri - Mixing lo-fi and hip-hop rhythms with alternative and indie pop tunes, Ivri's sound is smooth, emotionally rich and modern. Ivri's music brings something refreshing and new challenging music genres tensions.

PolyJamous journalist Leila enjoyed a recent Ella Henderson performance.



★iNTErNAtIoNAl★



Kazakhstan And Russia On The Global Stage: Music That Crosses Borders

Music is one of the most effective bridges in human culture — a universal language that transcends borders, generations, and lifestyles. In the digital era in which we live, platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, and Spotify have dissolved any sense of geography. Musicians from Kazakhstan to Russia are making their voices heard louder than ever. They are combining local identity and global trends, re-mixing tradition and technology, and demonstrating the painful reality of these groups that some musical greats no longer belong to one place — they

belong everywhere. From Grammy-winning producers to post-Soviet rap icons, these musicians are using digital media to redefine what it means to be international. Through virality, collaboration, and innovation, they are taking the sounds of Central Asia and Eastern Europe to the world stage.



Imanbek - The Grammy-Winning Producer Putting Kazakhstan On The Map

conversation.

What made *Roses* extraordinary was how it spread. Without a record label or major marketing push, the track exploded across the internet, powered by TikTok videos and streaming algorithms. The remix's punchy bassline and hypnotic rhythm turned it into a viral phenomenon, collecting billions of plays on Spotify and YouTube. It became the perfect symbol of how digital convergence can take a local artist to international fame overnight.

Imanbek didn't stop there. His collaborations with stars like Rita Ora, David Guetta, and Usher proved

his success was no fluke. He helped redefine how electronic producers from smaller markets could compete on the world stage, simply by leveraging online communities and social media virality. For Kazakhstan — a country not traditionally associated with pop-electronic exports — Imanbek's journey represents a new era of cultural visibility. His rise also reflects a wider truth of modern music: that production, remixing, and re-interpretation are art forms in their own right. Through his sound, Imanbek has shown how local creativity can thrive in a global, connected media environment.

Up close and personal: member of our team, Mari scored a front row seat at an Imanbek show!

In 2021, a quiet revolution came out of the Kazakh town of Aksu. Imanbek Zeikenov, a 20-year-old producer who had been making beats on his laptop while working a day job at a train station, became the first Kazakh artist ever to win a Grammy Award. His win for Best Remixed Recording of Saint JHN's "Roses" wasn't just a personal triumph; it marked Kazakhstan's entry into the global music



Skryptonite - The Post Soviet - Soviet Rap Icon

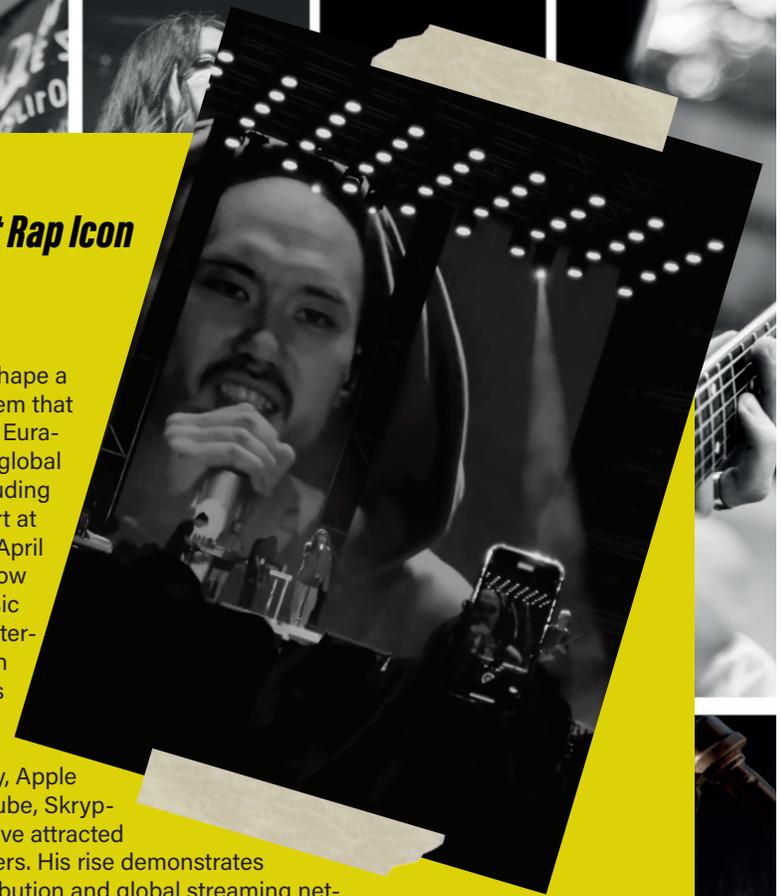
While Imanbek rides the digital wave, another Kazakh artist, Adil Zhalelov, known as Skryptonite, is redefining what it means to be a post-Soviet rap star. His music — a fusion of trap, R&B, rap, and experimental hip-hop — carries a distinctly raw and emotional tone. For Skryptonite, music isn't just entertainment; it's storytelling. His lyrics explore identity, urban alienation, love, and the search for meaning in a rapidly changing world.

Albums like "Mosco Loves" and "Don't Relax" have become anthems for listeners across Russia, Kazakhstan, and other CIS countries, with their moody beats and poetic depth. Unlike mainstream Western hip-hop, Skryptonite's work carries the texture of post-Soviet life — a mix of grit and melancholy, rhythm and realism. His smoky, layered vocals and introspective lyrics give voice to a generation navigating both old traditions and new freedoms.

As the founder of the Musica36 label, Skryptonite has also built a platform for other regional

artists, helping shape a creative ecosystem that stretches across Eurasia. His growing global presence — including a London concert at the O2 Arena in April 2025 — shows how non-English music can command international attention without losing its cultural authenticity. On platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube, Skryptonite's songs have attracted millions of listeners. His rise demonstrates how online distribution and global streaming networks are giving artists from places like Kazakhstan a new kind of independence. He doesn't need to change his language or style to be understood — the emotion in his voice is universal.

Mari caught some great videos from a live show of Skryptonite's too!



Miyagi: From Russian To Global Fans

Across the border in Russia, another artist has been quietly building a global following. Miyagi (Azamat Kudzayev), known for his blend of trap, melodic rap, and soulful hip-hop, has become one of the most-streamed Russian-language musicians in the world.

Tracks like "Captain," "Freeman," and "I Got Love" showcase Miyagi's gift for mixing introspective lyrics with smooth, haunting melodies. His music resonates with fans not just in Russia but also across Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, where listeners connect to the emotion and depth in his sound — even if they don't speak the language.

Miyagi's success also highlights the power of streaming platforms as global bridges. Through Spotify and Apple Music, his music reaches audiences thousands of miles from its origin. This kind of digital exposure was almost impossible a decade ago, but today it allows Russian-language artists to stand beside English-language acts on the same playlists and charts.

More than anything, Miyagi's story shows that in the era of global media convergence, emotion travels farther than language. His songs evoke a sense of reflection and unity — the idea that even in different cultures, people feel and dream in similar ways.



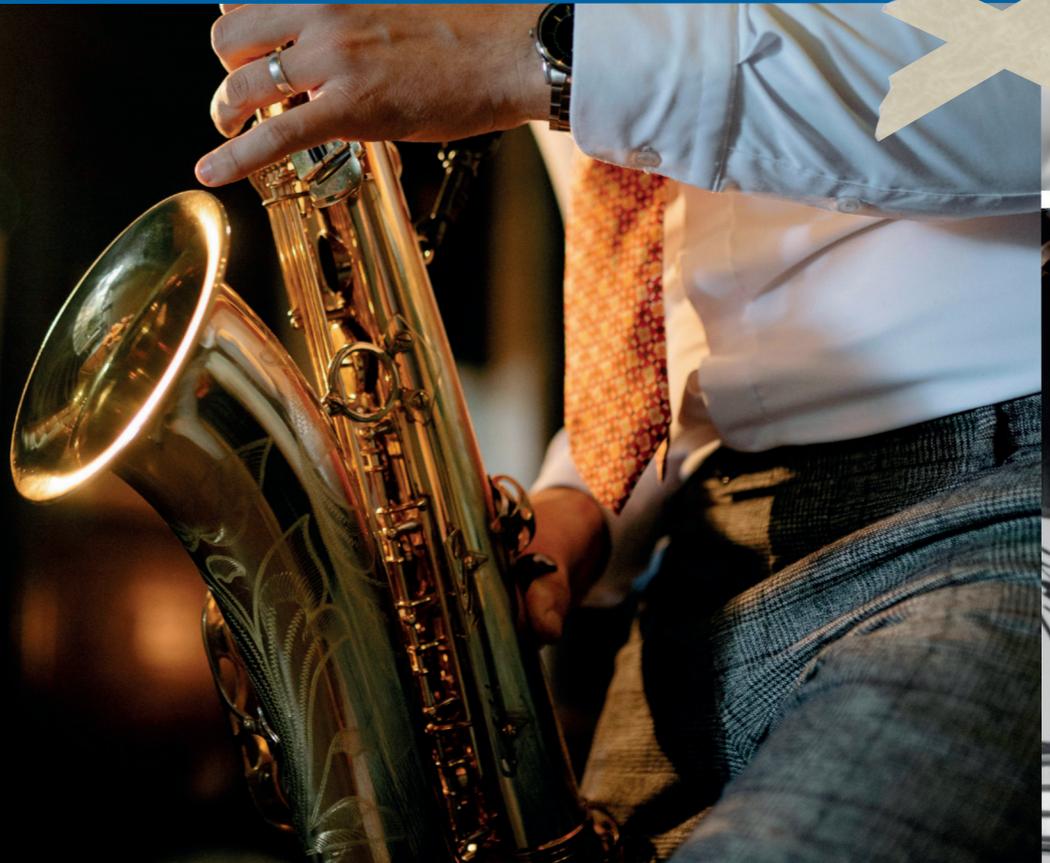
World-renowned, multi-genre artist Miyagi delivers an unbelievable performance.





JAZZ

EVOLUTION OF JAZZ



Jazz has long been one of the world's most beloved genres and one with some deep cultural roots - It's a style that's both timeless and endlessly adaptable. Despite people focusing on well-known names like Sinatra and Armstrong, the genre of jazz is a wide umbrella with countless subgenres, each with its own distinct rhythm and flavour, making jazz perfect for every mood and moment.

Born out of the heat and hustle of early 20th-century New Orleans, jazz was never just music - it was a movement. Its roots stretch back to the fields and plantations of the American South, where enslaved Africans preserved their musical traditions through rhythmic work songs,

spirituals, and call-and-response chants. Those sounds carried the weight of survival and the spirit of resistance, eventually blending with the blues, gospel, and the syncopated swing of ragtime pioneers like Scott Joplin. In the melting pot of New Orleans, early innovators such as Buddy Bolden and Jelly Roll Morton fused African rhythms, Creole melodies, and brass band traditions into something wild, expressive, and defiantly free. For African American musicians, jazz was both a refuge and a rebellion—a way to turn the pain of oppression into beauty and power. As the Great Migration carried the music north, legends like Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith, and Duke Ellington transformed

The saxophone is a significant instrument within the genre.

jazz into the heartbeat of the Harlem Renaissance, celebrating Black pride and creativity. Even when critics dismissed it as "immoral" or "primitive," jazz kept swinging—challenging America to listen not just to the music, but to the history and humanity pulsing through every note.

From the lively streets of New Orleans to concert halls around the world, jazz has always been about more than just music. It's about connection — bringing people together, sparking creativity, and celebrating the joy of expression. No matter the era, jazz remains what it has always been: a fun, inspiring sound that unites us all.

WOMEN IN JAZZ



When people think of mid-century jazz cool, the mind often jumps straight to the Rat Pack — those smooth-talking, suit-wearing icons who ruled the 1950s and '60s. But behind that smoky spotlight stood a chorus of women like Billy Holiday and Bessy Smith who not only matched their male counterparts in talent, but often outshone them in innovation, emotion, and pure artistry. And their influence still ripples through the music we listen to today.

At the heart of jazz's golden age was Ella Fitzgerald, a black female artist in a time of oppression and inequality and the "First Lady of Song." Famous for her effortless vocal improvisation and her unmatched

mastery of scat singing, Ella's voice could dance, soar, and swing all in one breath. Between 1956 and 1964, she recorded an extraordinary 19 'Songbook' albums, re-interpreting the works of great American songwriters — a move that turned her into a living archive of jazz itself. Oh, and she just happened to be the first African American woman to win a Grammy — before going on to collect 13 more. No big deal.

Fast-forward to today, and the torch has been passed. Enter Laufey, the Icelandic-Chinese singer, songwriter, and cellist who's bringing jazz to a new generation of listeners. Her music feels like sipping coffee

in a rainy-day café, blending classic jazz with modern pop storytelling. Her album *A Matter of Time* didn't just win over critics—it topped the charts and earned her a Grammy for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album. Laufey's rise proves that jazz isn't stuck in the past; it's simply evolving with new voices, new faces, and new stories. From Ella to Laufey, these women show that jazz isn't just a sound—it's a language of emotion that keeps finding new ways to speak. Whether it's in a dimly lit club or through wireless headphones, their voices invite us to pause, listen, and, maybe for a few minutes, get lost in the music.



There's something pleasing about a well-chosen song in a blockbuster film; it can subtly shift tone, frame a character's inner life, or even send a surprising emotional under-current through a loud explosion. In the film *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*, directed by Matt Shakman, the inclusion of Chet Baker's version of 'Let's Get Lost' offers such a resonant moment.

Without spoiling anything for those who haven't seen the film, the track surfaces at a moment when the team is in transition from a comfortable world into an unfamiliar, chaotic territory. As the musical notes of Baker's voice and

trumpet drift in, we sense a kind of bittersweet undercurrent: hope tinged with vulnerability. Baker's version of the song has an introspective jazz-ballad feel. In a movie laced with high-stakes cosmic action and flamboyant powers, that textured musical moment gives the audience a little emotional breath. It tells the audience that there's more going on here.

The title, *Let's Get Lost*, may be playful but in the context of the film it carries weight. The characters are literally (and metaphorically) stepping into the unknown, their lives shifted, their relationships tested. The song's lyric and atmos-

The choice in music is equally important to the visuals in cinematography.

phere reflect a letting-go, a moment of drifting—perfect to underscore those internal shifts. For a film that could easily ride on spectacle alone, *The Fantastic Four: First Steps* acknowledges that its characters—and its audience—need moments of quiet, reflection, even melancholy. The invocation of Baker's *Let's Get Lost* invites us to pause, to listen, to sense what's beneath the powers and plot. In the best films, music doesn't just accompany imagery—it whispers what the characters feel. And thanks to this music choice, we get a little of that whisper.



alt-rock / PUNK

Deafcat: Anything But Tone-'Deaf!'



A collection of live shots from their headlining show at The Bear Cave, Bournemouth.

One of our editors, Katie, had the chance to interview up-and-coming alt-rock band Deafcat when they recently headlined at the Bear Cave in Bournemouth. The band formed in 2024 when they were all students at Bournemouth University. Here's what they had to say about their journey as an up and coming band:

'So you're called Deafcat. Where's that from? Who's cat is deaf?'

KAT: So, basically, me and Harry used to go to this cafe in Kent called Deafcat and then when we were thinking of band names earlier this year, we kind of thought about it. It was a placeholder, and then we ended up making it our actual name.

HARRY 1: Yeah, but that's how it always goes. Hopefully we don't get sued.

'Who are your influences? I'm hearing a bit of Grunge, bit of Gwen Stefani in there.'

KAT: STOP it RIGHT now.

HARRY 2: Well, I would kind of say

influences are different for different parts. Like my guitar playing is very Smashing Pumpkins.

KAT: Do you know what, honestly like, I just kind of feel the vibe, you know? I have people I admire definitely but I wouldn't say that I had people that I like aim to be like. I think we all prefer our own type of thing.

HARRY 1: I'd say my inspiration is that I really like Hip-Hop.

I've not actually put any Hip-Hop into our songs, but I want to be able to influence Deafcat with some Hip-Hop basslines.

HARRY 1: FUCK off.

'The idea of our magazine is that we want to involve all kinds of genres, for all those people who listen to a bit of everything. We want to expose people to music they wouldn't normally listen to as well. So, what genre do you consider yourselves, and what recommendations do you have for people just entering that space?'

KAT: So in our Instagram bio, we say that

we're an alt-rock band. I feel like we've found our sound definitely, but to say that its alt-rock, I'm not sure. But to answer your question, when we released our single 'Shame', the recommended songs it played after would always be bands like Wolf Alice and Deftones. So whatever genre that is, I'd say put us in that.

HARRY 2: Yeah, I just feel like bands can change it up all the time. In terms of your magazine, I think its really cool having lots of different genres because someone who likes lots of different music doesn't have to choose. Like when you're asked what genre you listen to, I think its good to be able to say 'I listen to everything'. I feel like Bournemouth is a very wide music scene so its just a bit untapped and obviously if you're bringing light to it then that's absolutely fantastic, you know what I mean?'

The interview concluded with lots of laughs and an invitation to go clubbing. Safe to say, the team at PolyJamorous had a great night! Be sure to give them a follow on Instagram @deafcat.band and see where they'll be performing next!

Straight Edge Punks and Sobriety

The straight edge punk movement represents a subculture within punk that rejects the stereotypical association between punks and substance abuse. While punk has often been linked to rebellion through drugs, alcohol, self-destruction and anarchy; straight-edge punks carve a different path, one rooted in sobriety, self-control and clean living whilst still adhering to the style and music taste of the punk way.

Straight-edge emerged in the early 1980s as a response to the explosive drug use at the scene at the time. Some punks who have struggled with addiction or who simply did not agree with the destructive lifestyle and norms in the community began to promote abstinence from alcohol, drugs, and other harmful substances and in some variations meat and animal products! Their stance was not about conformity but about reclaiming control and rejecting what they saw as another form of societal oppression: addiction. The name 'straight-edge' itself comes from the song by the hardcore punk band 'Minor Threat'. The symbol most associated with the movement is the black 'X' which originated from club policies that made underage attendees'

hands to prevent them from purchasing alcohol. Over time, the 'X' became a proud badge of identity for straight-edge punks.

Straight-edge punks challenge the notion that rebellion must come through self-destruction. Instead, they see recovery and restraint as powerful forms of defiance. For those who have battled addiction, the movement offers solidarity and a reminder that recovery is not a linear process but also allows a sense of community and togetherness, surrounding like-minded people with shared goals creates a space of understanding and community. For many the straight-edge lifestyle offers more than just sobriety, it provides a sense of belonging and community.

A photo from Wikimedia Commons titled: 'Young Mohawk Punk' (1984).

WHAT TYPE OF PUNK YOU ARE Based on Your Zodiac Sign

Capricorn- hyper-independent and ambitious, you're a hardcore punk!

Aquarius- because of your passion for social causes, you're a Riot Grrrl punk!

Pisces- Dreamy and sensitive, you make the perfect art punk.

Aries- Sometimes being a punk, specifically a crust punk, means you have a little attitude. Just Like an Aries!

Taurus- your home-body lifestyle makes for a classic garage punk.

Gemini- Known for your great communication skills, you're just like an Oi! punk.

Cancer- Being so in touch with your emotions, you'd make an excellent peace punk!

Leo- Pop-y but still rebellious, skate punk is the best way to describe Leo.

Virgo- With a tendency to be harshly analytical, you definitely possess some street smarts. Making you a street punk!

Libra- Flirty and ever so charming, there's no better fit for this sign than a glam punk.

Scorpio- A living, breathing mystery, you're a horror punk!

Sagittarius- Often high-energy individuals, you've got what it takes to be a death rocker!

In a culture where intoxication is often normalised, choosing abstinence becomes a radical act.

It's both personal and political; a way to resist social pressures and define rebellion in one's own terms. Whilst the core principles focus on avoiding drugs, alcohol and sometimes casual sex, many within the movement adopt additional forms of abstinence. Some straight-edge punks have embraced and adapted to forms of veganism, vegetarianism and even avoiding caffeine; this notion further expands one's self-control and to each person's own personal belief in abstinence but also expands the idea of 'clean-living' to all aspects of life.

For anyone struggling with addiction, recovery support is available through charities and organisations such as Samaritans, rehab, and other recovery-focused groups. These resources remind us that sobriety and healing are ongoing journeys and that choosing a straight-edge punk lifestyle is not about perfection but about commitment to yourself and a better life for you!

U.K. RAP

Street Stories To Chart Toppers



The origins of UK Rap stem from reinvention and resistance. Emerging in the late 1980s, a melting pot of different influences saw the growth of the genre, drawing from US Hip Hop and the culture of Jamaican sound systems. Artists such as London Posse, Roots Manuva, and Skinnyman were the pioneers in carving out a sound that felt unmistakably British. They mixed local slang and street-level storytelling with sharp political commentary, giving a voice to unheard communities. The creativity and influence of these artists set the tone for UK Rap as we know it.

By the early 2000s, this foundation evolved into the genre of grime, a rough and high temp sound born from pirate radio stations and tower-block studios in East London. Grime was a raw soundtrack giving a platform to the youth who saw themselves as excluded from opportunity but still determined to be heard. When TV and radio stations ignored the genre, online platforms like GRM Daily and Link Up TV created an underground community where new artists could rise on their own terms, long



POLYJAMOROUS

UK RAP THROUGH THE DECADES

1980S

THE BIRTH OF UK RAP

UK Rap first emerges on the scene as a blend of US hip-hop and Caribbean sound system culture. London Posse rap in their own accents, laying down the blueprint for the genre.

VOICES FROM THE MARGINS

Artists such as Roots Manuva and Skinnyman drive the genre forwards. UK Rap becomes a space for working class expression despite being ignored by mainstream radio.

1990S

THE RISE OF GRIME

Grime is born through pirate radio and tower-block studios. Artists such as Kano and Wiley become the voice of a generation, through platforms GRM Daily and Link Up TV.

2000S

BREAKING INTO THE MAINSTREAM

UK Rap finally breaks through commercially, marking a turning point for the genre. Skepta, Stormzy and Dave all pick up accolades, proving the worth of the genre.

2010S

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

UK Rap now defines youth culture. Artists like Central Cee and Little Simz have made their mark worldwide, utilising a mix of top-tier lyricism and social media to connect with audiences across the globe.

2020S



before streaming made this the norm. Artists like Dizzee Rascal, Kano, Wiley and Skepta became the voice of a generation locked out of the mainstream media but filled with drive.

In the 2010s, UK rap finally broke through commercially. Skepta's 'Konnichiwa' (2016) won the Mercury Prize, a landmark for a British rap album. One year later, Stormzy's 'Gang Signs & Prayer' (2017) became the first Rap album to reach number one on the Official UK Albums Chart, intertwining gospel, rap, and South London social reflection. Dave's debut album 'Psychodrama' (2019) followed suit, also debuting at number one and earning the artist a Mercury Prize.

Today, UK rap stands as a reflection of British identity, shaped by struggle and creative independence. The genre has always been about more than music; it's about culture, and how the voices once pushed to the sideline now define the sound of the nation.

Women Re-writing U.K. Rap

For many years, UK rap was largely defined by the voices of males. However that tide has begun to shift, with female artists not only claiming their space in the scene, but setting new standards for the industry. At the forefront of this are figures like Little Simz, ENNY, and Darkoo, who each represent a different strand of the evolution of UK Rap. Simz's lyric-driven storytelling and emotion evoking projects over the years have earned her critical acclaim and international recognition. ENNY's production skills blend soulfulness with personal and political reflections, redefining expectations of what female rap sounds like. Meanwhile, Darkoo has bridged UK Rap with Afrobeats and R&B, achieving mainstream success without compromising her individuality.

Over the past decade, the rise of women in UK Rap has been highlighted through award recognition. Stefflon Don's 2017 MOBO win for Best Female Act marked a breakthrough moment for female rappers in the UK, paving the way for a new



generation of artists. Little Simz redefined the landscape in 2022 with her Mercury Prize and BRIT Award wins, proving that lyrically rich and introspective rap could command the mainstream. Around the same time, ENNY's 'Peng Black Girls' and Darkoo's 'Gangsta' gained popularity and highlighted the diversity of voices within the genre. Yet acknowledgement isn't the finish line. From underground stages to gaining glob

One our social media managers, Sonny, had the privilege to see Little Simz perform live!

al awards, women are redefining what UK Rap looks and sounds like. They're not here to participate in the genre, they're driving it.

Bars V.S. Buzz



In the space of UK rap, good old-fashioned lyricism and creativity is meeting a new challenger: virality. On one side of the spectrum you have artists leading the game like Dave, Little Simz and Loyle Carner. Each of these are artists who've built their career and legacy using narrative, identity and social commentary as their foundation. Their tracks dig deep, connecting with diverse audiences with personal storylines and reflections on society which provide lasting artistic weight. On the other side you have stars designed for the mass scrolling era such as Aitch, Central Cee and Russ Millions, who thrive on snappy, TikTok friendly hooks and

cleverly released snippets aimed to boost mass engagement.

So why does this matter? In 2025, TikTok has become the main gateway for young people discovering new music according to M1dia. Discovery of music today isn't driven by radio or playlists, but by algorithms that reward what's instantly catchy and visually engaging. For rappers on the rise, this means that their quickest route to success relies less on lyrical craft, and more on producing the catchiest 15-second snippet to grip attention. Sure, this increasingly popular strategy can launch a career overnight, but it leaves the risk of reducing rap to fleeting

hype where a hook matters more than a message.

So who 'wins'? Whilst artists like Dave and Little Simz may build dedicated followings, build critical acclaim and achieve long-term relevance, 'buzz' acts can scale faster and hit viral peaks. However for UK Rap in 2025, the sweet spot may be those who manage to merge both. For instance, Central Cee over recent years has found a way to pair short and catchy hooks with enough lyrical presence to avoid being disposable. This duality could be the key to the future of UK Rap, in which Bars and Buzz merge.





DNB

Staying Safe: Understanding Drug Use and Reducing Harm

When it comes to drug use, the most important thing is safety. Whether you've chosen to take drugs before, are curious, or simply want to understand how to protect yourself and others, being informed can save lives. This article strictly isn't about judgement or encouragement, but it's about awareness, safety, and support.

If you or someone you know chooses to use drugs, here are some key questions to ask yourself:

- 1) Do you know what you're taking and where it came from?
- 2) Are you in a safe, familiar environment with people you trust?
- 3) Have you eaten, stayed hydrated, and avoided mixing different substances?
- 4) Do you have a plan if something goes wrong?

In the event something does go wrong, knowing the signs of an overdose are important regardless of your decisions and beliefs, it can make a huge difference and can save lives! If someone looks out of their usual self and you're unsure, here are some signs to look out for:

- 1) Pale and clammy skin
- 2) Blue or purple lips and fingertips
- 3) Very small or very large eye pupils
- 4) Dizziness, confusion or shaking
- 5) Unconsciousness, gurgling or snoring noises, weak or slow breathing

Most importantly, if you come across these signs, it is vital that you stay calm.

Call 999 immediately - stay on the line for guidance; the operator will help keep you calm and guide you on what to do. If you suspect spiking let the operator know.

Then, put the person in the recovery position. Most importantly, **DO NOT LEAVE THEM ALONE**. Wait until assistance is with you.

Having just mentioned 'spiking,' let's talk about what it is and some ways to prevent it.

Spiking can happen with both drink and drugs; whether it be added to a drink, in a tablet or injected without a person's knowledge or consent. It's a very serious crime which can lead to victims feeling confused, vulnerable and scared and although it's scary there are many ways which you can go about preventing spiking and keeping yourself safe. Awareness and prevention can help stop spiking before it happens. Here are the top six ways to keep yourself and others safe from spiking:

- 1) Never leave your drink unattended or what a person you do not trust.
- 2) Avoid accepting drinks from strangers.
- 3) Use drink covers or bottle stoppers and straws when possible (when using straws make sure you cover the top when not in drinking use).
- 4) Look out for unusual colour changes, fizzing or a strange taste.
- 5) If you start to feel suddenly disorientated, confused or unwell, tell someone you trust and seek medical help immediately
- 6) If you believe someone has been spiked, stay with them, and call emergency services.

Let's not forget the number one best

form of harm reduction... community care. Always go out with friends you trust and keep track of each other. Know your limits and respect other people's choices when out and understand when to prioritise your safety. Before going out make sure you have a plan for getting home safely, ideally with others, so you are safe at all times. Most importantly, if you ever feel unsafe, contact venue staff, security or police, they have a duty of care, and you are never alone.

There are many anti-spiking gadgets which make helpful accessories for nights out. There's inbuilt keyring bottle toppers, scrunchies which unfold turning into a 'cup condom' which covers your cup, spiking test kits that can fit into your bag / pocket and spiking nail polish which when dipped your finger into your drink can alert you to any drugs within your drink. There are so many ways to keep yourself safe whilst still having a good time and ensure peace of mind. Remember, staying safe is the most important thing! You can investigate this further on our website!

If you're worried about drug use, whether that's your own or someone's else's, there are confidential services available:

- 1) Talk To Frank: talktofrank.com
- 2) The Loop UK: offers drug-checking and harm reduction advice at events.
- 3) NHS 111: for Non-emergency medical advice.
- 4) Student wellbeing Services: Most universities have trained advisors who can help without judgment.

Stay safe out there!



How To Dress Like A Raver: Dress For The



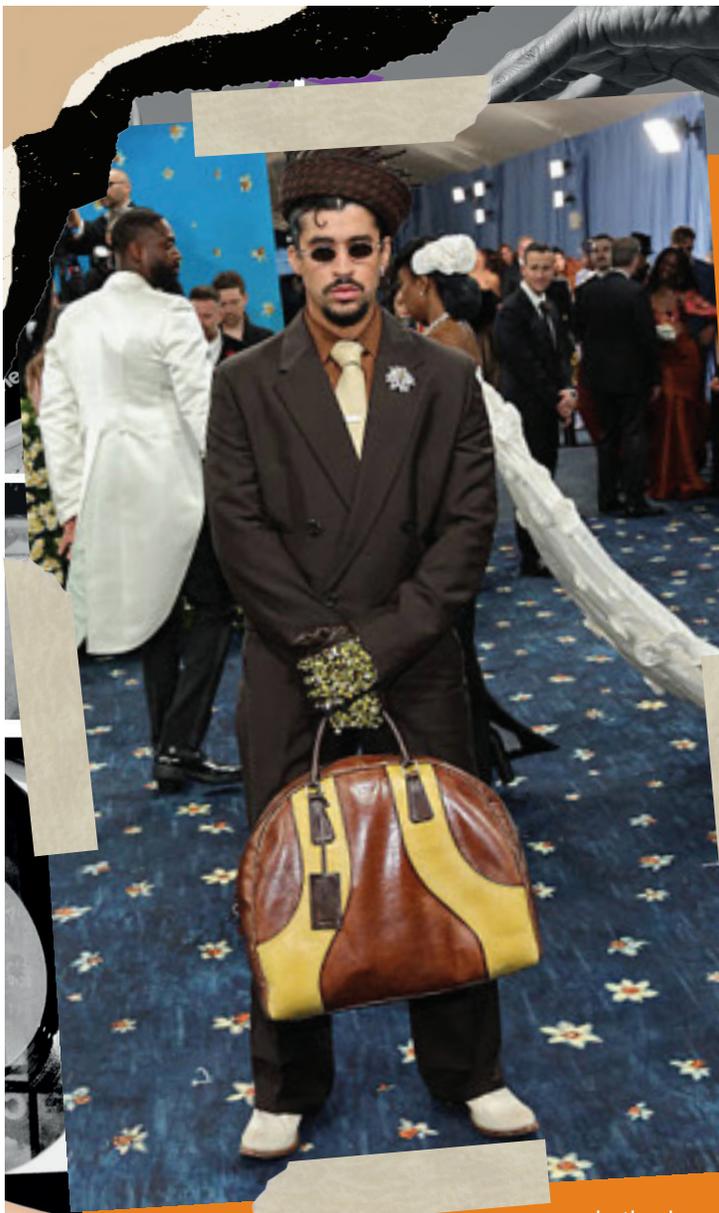
Whether you're heading to a warehouse party, a neon-lit rave or an underground club; rave outfits are all about energy, freedom and self-expression. It's not just a look but a reflection of you and your vibe! Here's how to nail the raver aesthetic, no matter the occurrence.

Rave style is bold and expressive but it's important to be comfortable. You're going to be dancing around, in a cramped place and going to be sweaty, so lightweight, breathable fabrics are the key to keeping cool and feeling good! Rave style isn't about perfection or conformity, it's about confidence, energy, and being

completely yourself under the strobe lights. Remember there are no right or wrongs, it's all about personal style and comfort! Wear whatever makes you feel confident; whether that's your brand-new flashy sunglasses, a mesh skirt, a button-up top or some new cargoes, but remember if you're outside dressed for the weather! Importantly the right footwear is vital for feeling good and looking good. Always wear a closed shoe that'll protect your feet and possible sharp objects on the floor; after all that dancing you'll want to make sure, you're staying safe whilst having fun!

Finally, it's time for the accessories; this where there's no limitations. Go big, go crazy! Cool sunglasses, big jewelry, body-paint, artistic makeup, chains and belts or fun hats - there are truly no limitations to what you desire just make sure it's within the club / events acceptance list first! And that's it - now you know how to be confident in your own style and rave the night away!





Bad Bunny attending the Met Gala.

Born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio in 1994, the Puerto Rican superstar went from uploading tracks on SoundCloud to becoming one of the most streamed artists in history. His 2022 album *Un Verano Sin Ti* was not just music — it was a cultural moment, a soundtrack for sun-drenched rebellion, joy, and self-expression. Whether stepping into the wrestling ring, starring in films, or redefining fashion norms, Bad Bunny refuses to fit any mold. He does not just represent a generation of Latin musicians — he defines it, one unapologetic rhythm at a time.

When the NFL announced in early October 2025 that Bad Bunny would headline the Super Bowl LX halftime show, the internet erupted. Social media feeds flooded with reactions, and mainstream news framed the moment as a cultural battleground. For fans, it was a

LATIN

Bad Bunny V.S. The Republican Party

long-overdue recognition of his global influence. For critics, it was a provocation. Known for blending artistry with activism, Bad Bunny has built a career challenging expectations. He has spoken openly on immigration, even cancelling U.S. shows over fears that ICE agents might target undocumented fans. His proud embrace of his Latin and LGBTQ+ identity has made him

both a hero to millions and a lightning rod for controversy.

The backlash, however, runs deeper than music. It taps into America's ongoing debates over identity, belonging, and representation. To some conservatives, Bad Bunny's activism makes the NFL's choice "too political," with even President Trump questioning whether the Super Bowl should be "so political." Yet to others, that tension is precisely what makes the moment so powerful. His refusal to separate art from advocacy challenges the comfort zones of a mainstream audience accustomed to entertainment stripped of meaning. On the world's biggest stage, Bad Bunny isn't just performing — he's forcing a conversation about who belongs in the spotlight and whose stories deserve to be heard.

Meanwhile, fans around the globe have embraced the announcement with joy and pride. Across Latin America, Bad Bunny's Super Bowl spotlight feels intensely personal — a celebration of

language, culture, and visibility rarely seen in mainstream U.S. media. Social feeds overflowed with messages of defiance and admiration, from "¡Por fin!" to declarations of global unity. To them, this isn't political theatre — it's cultural evolution. Bad Bunny stands for a generation refusing to apologise for who they are, the languages they speak, or the communities they uplift. In the end, when he takes that stage, he won't just entertain the world — he will reshape the conversation about identity, representation, and what it means to be truly seen.

As the countdown to Super Bowl LX continues, one thing is clear: Bad Bunny isn't just taking the stage — he's taking a stand. With every beat, every lyric, and every bold choice, he challenges the norms of entertainment and amplifies voices too often left unseen. Whether celebrated or criticised, his performance will be more than a show; it will be a moment that redefines visibility, culture, and what it means to be unapologetically yourself in the spotlight.



Latin America Takes Broadway



New York City...the perfect backdrop for Miranda's work.

In the bustling heart of Washington Heights, New York, music pulses through the streets like a living heartbeat—steady, vibrant, unstoppable. Laughter mingles with salsa rhythms, voices rise over the hum of traffic, and dreams float in the summer air. This is the world of *In the Heights*, Lin-Manuel Miranda's groundbreaking musical that celebrates the heartbeat of a Latinx immigrant community chasing hope, love, and opportunity

under the bright city sun.

At its centre are four characters whose lives weave together across a few city blocks, creating a vivid tapestry of ambition, struggle, and celebration. Through their stories, Miranda asks timeless

questions: What does it mean to belong? What is home? And what are we willing to sacrifice for our dreams? When Miranda first wrote *In the Heights* in the early 2000s, he wasn't just writing a musical—he was penning a love letter to his neighbourhood, to a culture he grew up in, and to a community of first-generation immigrants balancing the weight of their parents' roots with the pull of the American dream. By blending Spanish and English seamlessly, he brought voices to Broadway that had that communities, that give

cities their soul, being erased. Miranda reminds us that immigration is not just a policy debate; it is a lived reality that shapes neighbourhood's, identities, and the very idea of home. Across America, and around the world, the question of who belongs, who can stay, and who must leave continues to echo. However, in the face of these struggles, *In the Heights* bursts with joy. It is a celebration of community power—the strength found in neighbours who watch out for one another, families who share dreams alongside meals, and traditions that endure across generations. Miranda's musical is a testament to hope: a reminder that heritage does not hold us back, it carries us forward. And in every song, every dance, and every laugh, *In the Heights* affirms the resilience, creativity, and enduring spirit of the people who call its streets home.

Make Your Own Tamales

Step 1- Cook 1.5kg pork shoulder.

Step 2- Remove the skin from the shoulder and chop into big chunks, pop in large saucepan and cover with at least 20 cups of water. Add 1 tbsp each of salt, pepper, cumin, garlic powder, and recado paste. Bring to a boil, then simmer for around 2 hours until meat can be shredded. When pork is ready, remove from broth and leave to cool. Keep the broth!

Step 3- Prepare the masa by mixing 6 cups each of corn masa flour and broth, 1 tbsp each of salt, pepper, chili powder, paprika, and 2 tbsps each of cumin, garlic powder, baking powder.

Step 4- Dissolve the lard in a bowl in a microwave. When liquified, beat in to the dough for about 10 mins to get some

air into the mix. This makes for a fluffier masa. Leave covered to cool.
Step 5- Put 50 corn husks in a mixing bowl and cover with hot water to soften (about 30 mins).

Step 6- Make the Mole by frying 3 onions until brown. Add a tin of chopped tomatoes, 2 tbsps of garlic powder, 1 tbsp each of cumin and dried oregano.

Step 7- Soak 10 dried chipotle chilis in water until soft. Then dice.

Step 8- Add the chilis and remaining broth. This will be your mole. Bring to a boil, then turn down to simmer. Add 1 cup of masa flour and stir until the mixture thickens. Leave to cool.

Step 9- Shred the pork with 2 forks and

These tamales are making our mouths water!

put into a mixing bowl. Add mole until you have a nice moist mixture (not to runny)
Step 10- Make your tamales by placing a corn husk on a flat surface. Take one tbsp of masa dough and spread over husk to within 1 inch of the edges. Place 1 tbsp of filling onto the centre of the masa, pick up husk and roll the masa over the filling. Roll into a tube then flip up the pointed end to make a packet and tie with a strip of husk. Place in your steamer and steam for 90 mins, till cooked.

Step 12- Enjoy your tamales with some salsa or alongside a salad!

QUIZ

What Genre Of Music Best Describes Your Personality?

Pick a song from the 1970s

- A) Paranoid - Black Sabbath (1970)
 - B) Dancing Queen - ABBA (1976)
 - C) Rappers Delight - The Sugarhill Gang (1979)
 - D) New York, New York - Frank Sinatra (1977)
- Pick song from the 1980s

- A) Sweet Child O' Mine - Guns 'N' Roses (1987)
- B) Billie Jean - Michael Jackson (1983)
- C) Push It! - Salt-N-Pepa (1986)
- D) Songbird - Kenny G (1986)

Pick a song from the 1990s

- A) Come As You Are - Nirvana (1992)
- B) Rhythm Of The Night - Corona (1994)
- C) California Love - 2Pac, Dr Dre (1995)
- D) The Lady Is A Tramp - Frank Sinatra (Remastered 1998)

Pick a song from the 2000s

- A) In The End - Linkin Park (2000)
- B) Hey Ya! - OutKast (2003)
- C) Lose Yourself - Eminem (2002)
- D) Sway - Michael Buble (2003)

Pick a song from the 2010s

- A) Do I Wanna know - Arctic Monkeys (2013)
- B) Style - Taylor Swift (2014)
- C) HUMBLE. - Kendrick Lamar (2017)
- D) Anything Goes - Harry Connick Jr (2019)

Pick a song from the 2020s

- A) Getting Started - Sam Fender (2021)
- B) As It Was - Harry Styes (2022)
- C) Denial Is A River - Doechii (2024)

From The Start - Laufey (2023)

What's your music intellect type?

- A) The Scholar - Loves lyrics and meaning
- B) The Feeler - Connects emotionally
- C) The Explorer - Always seeking new sounds
- D) The Loyalist - Sticks to what they know

Which Music icon are you?

- A) David Bowie
- B) Madonna
- C) Snoop Dogg
- D) Louise Armstrong

Choose your music superpower

- A) The Human Jukebox - channels the energy of every genre ever heard, firing sonic-infused bullets that change style and function with each shot
- B) Mosh Pit Monster - Fuelled by raw chaos and the rhythm of destruction, uses bass-powered shock-waves that blast through the battlefield.
- C) Song Reciter - Every lyric recited imprints a target, syncing with their heartbeat and tracking their soul.
- D) Concert Addict - Powered by the energy of live shows, the more noise, adrenaline, and emotion in the air, the higher their precision, speed, and power.

What era do you belong to?

- A) 2000's EMO
- B) 70's Disco
- C) 20's Tick-tock
- D) 90's RnB

If you answered mostly:

- A) You are Rock
- B) You are Pop
- C) You are Rap/ hip hop
- D) You are Jazz

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