

Genre of the Month - Soul

What is Soul Music?

Soul originated in America in the 1960s combining elements of African American gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz.

Soul is popular for dancing and listening with popular labels Motown, Stax and Atlantic influencing civil rights.

The Motown label was created by Berry Gordy in 1960 and employed exclusively black musicians, artists and producers in its Detroit studios. Gordy wanted to produce music that could cross over from the R&B charts to the Pop charts. He employed a famous house band called The Funk Brothers.

Soul dominated the charts in the 1960s before branching out into various other styles including Northern Soul in British nightclubs.

How do I recognise Soul music?

Every song is different, but the below elements are typical of many Soul songs:

- Pop orientated approach
- Usually at a similar tempo to 120bpm
- Rhythmically inventive baselines
- Drums would stress the down beat or beat 1 with regular fills
- Strong vocal harmonies from backing singers
- Often a tambourine in the mix

Which Soul Musicians should I research?

- Stevie Wonder
- Marvin Gaye
- Diana Ross & The Supremes
- The Jackson 5
- Martha Reeves and the Vandellas
- Aretha Franklin
- Four Tops
- The Temptations
- Edwin Starr

How do I listen to these musicians?

Follow the below playlist link to listen to the artists on Spotify. You will need to set up a free account if you don't already have one/or premium account to remove all adverts:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6Vk3U8N4hd57KDVWtqnChE?si=w5bHjMgoRbKCSwnDEgvSBQ>