



P A Siepmann
Uppingham School Music Department
<http://www.petersiepmann.net/teaching>

Upper Fifth Listening

Dance Music (1985 - present)
4 x 1 hr Lessons



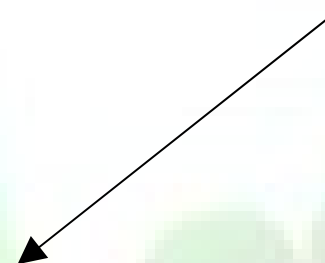
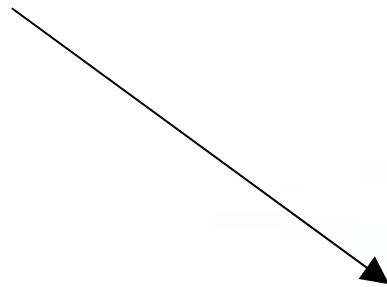
How did dance music begin?

Really a mixture of 1970s and 1980s influences from Jamaica, the USA and Germany:

**Jamaican
Dub**

**Disco & Hip-hip
from the USA**

**'Synth-pop'
from Europe**



DANCE MUSIC

plus

- rave culture (big [illegal] parties organized in deserted warehouses, etc.)
- increased availability of technology
- Internet made it possible for individual people to distribute music

Let's now look at these influences one by one...



Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON ONE

Jamaican Dub

Grew out of reggae and rock steady music.

Reggae:

Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zTxUxFjLB0#t=3m08s> - what musical features do you notice?



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LESSON ONE

Jamaican Dub

Grew out of reggae and rock steady music.

Reggae:

Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zTxUxFjLB0#t=3m08s> - what musical features do you notice?

- 4/4 time
- strong bass line
- short fragments of melody
- call and response
- often played at one-off club nights – speakers/amps set up on waste ground and taken away in the morning (inspired UK rave scene in the 1980-90s)

DJs often talked to the dancers over the music – called ‘toasting’
= early version of rap.

Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBWGF8ynVec> - a description of the rise of the DJ in Jamaica



Disco (USA)

- Until 1970s, live bands were the norm (jazz, soul, funk)
- In the 70s, amplifiers, loudspeakers and lighting rigs became bigger and better
 - o DJs took over from band leaders



Before Disco



DISCO!

Here's an example of disco music: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCAjmuA1HDk>



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LESSON ONE

Hip-Hop (USA)

- used two turntables to play drum sections from disco songs over and over again, rapping over the top
- first hip-hop hit – Sugarhill Gang: *Rapper's Delight* (1979)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6gD_CwF5YM
- invention of 'scratching' – turning the record back and forward by hand so the needle scratches the vinyl
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bcm6L2CuWXE>





Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON ONE

Electronic 'synth' Pop (Europe)

- influence of Stockhausen (*remember him from the Electronic Music topic?!*)
- entirely electronic music
- pioneered by Kraftwerk in Germany
- influenced many British artists and hip-hop DJs

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c81X6Bi0Y>



If time... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DP1tkspU5yw>



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Upper Fifth Listening

Dance Music (1985 - present)
Lesson 2



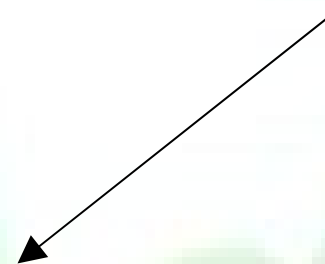
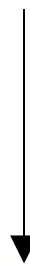
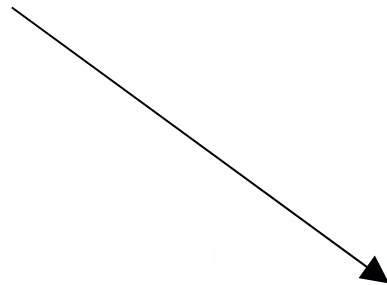
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LESSON TWO

Genres of Dance Music

Disco
+
Made 4/4 beat deeper and stronger ('4-to-the-floor')
+
Layered motifs from dub, jazz, synthpop, etc. using music technology
=
HOUSE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B87snXgV7Pg>

Features





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LESSON TWO

Genres of Dance Music

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Features

- short repeating patterns
- bass loops
- drum machine sounds
- rasping hi-hats, artificial hand claps, etc.





Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON TWO

Genres of Dance Music

HOUSE
+
Faster tempo (130-150 bpm)
+
Lots of electronics (European influence)
-
any live sounds or voices
=
TECHNO

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBgu62LRvfs>





Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON TWO

Genres of Dance Music

Mega-fast tempo (up to 170 bpm)

+

Strong drum beat

+

Breakbeats

+

Very strong, deep bass line

=

DRUM 'n' BASS

(or Jungle)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6MV_0DZHCo

Drum'n'Bass drumming is HARD!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpAx9J4lM4Q>





Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON TWO

Genres of Dance Music

As House music developed in the UK, it took on elements from

Drum 'n' Bass and Rhythm 'n' Blues

to form a style that became known as

UK GARAGE



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=menm4ERMtZw>



Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON TWO

Genres of Dance Music

TRANCE

- very repetitive
- uses lots of electronic effects
- slow chord changes over a fast beat gives trance-like effect

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WPCLda_eri

AMBIENT

- slow, sometimes jazzy
- usually sounds 'chilled' and 'out of this world'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee-elB4gywc>





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Upper Fifth Listening

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Lesson 3



Genres of Dance Music and their features

How much do you remember?

~

The History of House Music

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EznncXgJqyU&feature=PlayList&p=B53E956517308E84&index=0&playnext=1>

(Teachers: note that you may wish to censor the latter half of the third video in the sequence)



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Upper Fifth Listening

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Lesson 4



Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON FOUR

- **Revision of genres and features**

- **Listening Tests**
Rhinegold Book 4: 19, 20, 21



Structure in Dance Music

- usually involves an intro, verses & choruses, **breakdowns/build-ups** and an outro.

What is a breakdown?

- The main beat stops
- The main riff (e.g. piano/synth) repeats
- Often a breakdown will end with a **build-up** that gradually adds intensity until the beat comes back in
- The breakdown usually results in a pause in the dancing

Often the **intro** will be a build-up (adding instruments one at a time, for example).
The **outro** often reverses this process.

Much dance music uses the following structure:

Intro - Breakdown 1 - Main Section - Breakdown 2 - Final (main) section - Outro

*Listen to Move your body (Marshall Jefferson)
along with the 'structure map' in the EdExcel anthology.*



Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON FOUR

As we've seen, Dance Music makes **HEAVY USE** of
Music Technology

Mixing

Scratching

Sampling

Looping

Digital Effects

Quantizing

Sequencing



Upper Fifth Listening: Dance Music (1985 - present)

LESSON FOUR

Video

Let's continue with the 'History of House' documentary:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3StqT8C6o0&feature=PlayList&p=B53E956517308E84&index=5>