
THE 90S



NIRVANA

- Nirvana were a group from Seattle in the early 90s. They formed in 1987, but disbanded in 1994 after the lead singer's suicide. Their grunge and rock songs influenced many other bands in that genre and still have an influence on grunge music today. They went through many different drummers before settling on Dave Grohl in 1990. They have one Grammy award, an American Music award and many other wins and nominations. Nirvana's music is still loved by rock fans today and their logo has gained mainstream popularity in the fashion scene. The album 'Nevermind' got them mainstream popularity, after the release of their single 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' got a huge airplay when it was released.
- 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' was released in 1991. Since its release, it has been critically acclaimed by the public and magazines Kerrang! And Rolling Stone. The grunge song uses the instrumentation of a typical rock group; drums, vocals, bass and guitar. With there not being many instruments, they still managed to create a thick textured sound by using a distorted guitar effect, shouty vocals in the choruses and the drums being loud in the mix. As well as distortion, the guitar has a chorus effect during the verses. The time signature is in 4/4 and the BPM is 117, making this allegro. Both these things make for a conventional yet amazing rock song. The structure of the song is: intro, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, solo, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, outro. This is also fairly normal for a rock song as most of them have a similar structure and a solo somewhere in the middle or close to the end.

RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS

- Red Hot Chilli Peppers are an American rock/funk rock band from Los Angeles, formed in 1983 and are still together as of 2020. As well as rock and funk rock, their music can also be described as alternative and it is said their music is inspired by psychedelic rock. They are one of the best selling bands ever, have six Grammy's and are in the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame. They have released 11 studio albums, 'Californication', released in 1999, being their most popular and selling over 16 million records. Two of the four members have been there from the very start and are still in the band today; the bassist, Flea, and the lead singer, Anthony Kiedis. Other members like guitarist John Frusciante have been in and out of the band over time.
- 'Give It Away' was the lead single from their 1991 album 'Blood Sugar Sex Magik'. It has a Grammy award and reached the Billboard Charts top spot upon its release. The genre of the song can be described as rock or even funk rock in some cases. The song is in a 4/4 time signature and the BPM is 92; slightly slower than moderate, but not too slow. The instrumentation consists of: drums, vocals, bass, guitar, jaw harp, tambourine and an organ. Even though it has more instruments than a typical rock band, it is not massively textured and the dynamics don't change much throughout. Form is intro, verse, chorus, verse, chorus *2, solo, verse, chorus, solo, verse, chorus, post-chorus. This is interesting for a funk rock song as it makes the track fairly long and having two solos is quite unconventional for that time period.

BRIT POP



The Stone Roses

- Brit Pop was all about writing songs about the British Youth and their experiences, compared to the American youth. Bands like Oasis, Blur and Stone Roses dominated the Brit Pop scene in the 90s and they were clearly inspired by 60s and 70s glam and punk rock. Gallagher was a huge fan of The Beatles and John Lennon especially. Because of his influence, Brit Pop Inspired fashion to be more like the 60s again. Mod fashion (trench coats and sweaters) with an introduction to bucket hats casual sportswear like Adidas jackets and t-shirts was in. A huge moment in the Brit Pop scene was the battle between Blur and Oasis. The two were always battling for the top spot in the charts and the rivalry between the South (Blur) and North (Oasis) of England spurred this on further.

DANCE

- Dance consisted of many sub-genres of music that were similar, but each one has its own flair. Some of the most popular sub-genres were house, drum and bass, jungle and trance. House music had four-on-the-floor drums, deep basslines and usually sampled vocals. Drum and bass had much faster tempos and beefy bass drums, which is similar to jungle. Trance came around in the early 90s, and it is mostly instrumental and slower than the other dance genres. Use of drugs and going to warehouse raves were immensely popular at the time amongst British youth. 'What Is Love?' by Haddaway is a perfect example of 90s dance music; sampled vocals, four-on-the-floor drum beat, synth melody lines and basslines. Disco artists used sequencing to record/edit their tracks.



A dance club in the 90s

GRUNGE



Soundgarden

- Grunge was one of the most popular genres of the 90s, consisting of groups like Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. Grunge groups and fans dressed in their own ways and were not phased by social normalities and judgement. If you spent the least money on clothes, you were seen as cool as grunge fans were very anti-consumerist. Bands didn't play by the rules in recordings and in concerts which made them big amongst young people. Popular things in grunge tracks were doubling up on vocals, use of distortion and chorus pedals and a Lo-fi, technically flawed and unpolished feel, however this was deliberate. Many grunge bands stole things like riffs from other groups (for example the Come As You Are riff was originally from Eighties by Killing Joke.)

HIP HOP

- Hip Hop was huge in America in the 90s, often called the 'Golden Age Of Hip Hop'. The music was split between the West Coast (N.W.A and Snoop Dogg) and the East Coast (The Notorious B.I.G. and Jay-Z). There was a huge contrast between grunge and hip hop fans, especially in fashion. Grunge didn't buy commercially but hip-hop, especially the East Coast, promoted buying expensive clothing and spending money. A pivotal point in the hip hop scene occurred when Rodney King, an unarmed civilian, was a victim of police brutality in Los Angeles. Four officers beat him around 53 to 56 times and video footage went viral, sparking an outrage. The LA riots in 1992 were in retaliation to this and many hip hop artists got involved with the protests.



90s hip hop fashion