

The Music of Canada



And My Participation

Indigenous Music

- Indigenous music is diverse.
- Common elements include chanting, animal hide drums, gourd or horn rattles.
- Music is social and associated with dance and various ceremonies (such as a the Sun Dance, Pow wow).
- Sometimes there is an emphasis on the circle which reflects the shape of the moon and sun.



Indigenous Music



- A **Pow wow** is a sacred celebration held by many indigenous communities.
- It is a venue where First Nations communities meet to dance, sing, and honor their traditions.
- The event is often oriented around a series of circles: a spectator circle; a dancer circle; and a lively drum circle at the centre.
- The drumming propels the dancing.
- The singing is characterized by a harsh timbre and melodies typically follow a descending pattern.

Pow wow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKmpsbi9O2g>

Pow Wow Dancing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcnA5nUNSE4>

Indigenous Music

- Under the Indian Act (1884), Indigenous ceremonies were banned by the Canadian government. This was only changed in 1951.
- A revival and modernization of traditional indigenous music is underway in Canada.
- The modern revival of Indigenous music represents an attempt to resuscitate and preserve First Nations traditions.
- Some modern indigenous artists combine traditional indigenous forms with a wide array of music genres such as rock, rap, electronic, and country music.

Indigenous Music

- Throat singing is a traditional musical style of the Inuit peoples of Northern Canada.
- It was a friendly competition that women would do when men were out hunting.
- The form features the use of inhalation and exhalation to create rhythmic patterns.
- Tanya Tagaq is a contemporary Inuk (Inuit) singer who specializes in throat singing.
- Her music represents an evolution of the musical tradition while simultaneously taking cues from a wide range of non-indigenous music styles.

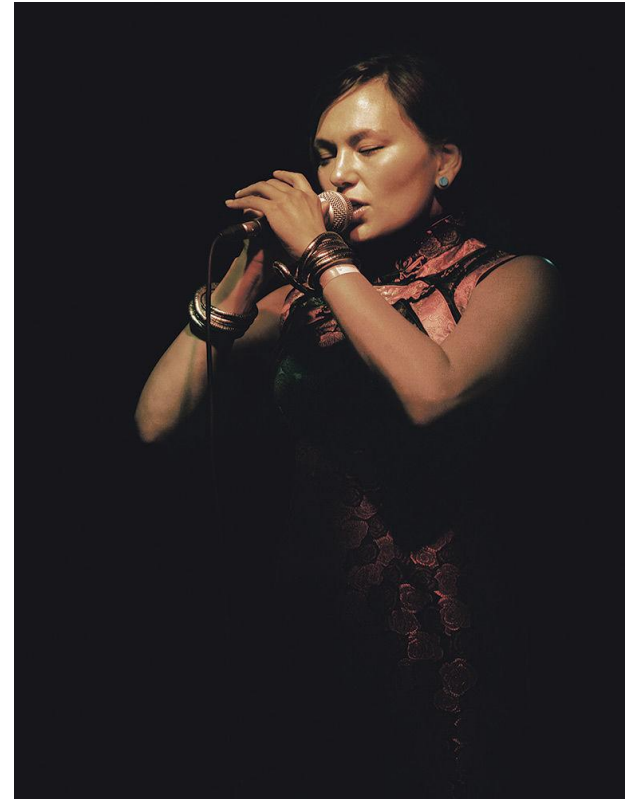
Tanya Tagaq <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dumvYzfuT0w>

Throat Singing Duets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLMIkjinYe0U&t=32s>

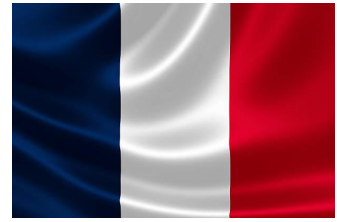
The Halluci Nation (A Tribe Called Red):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNi__fnadTM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAEmjW9J3_o

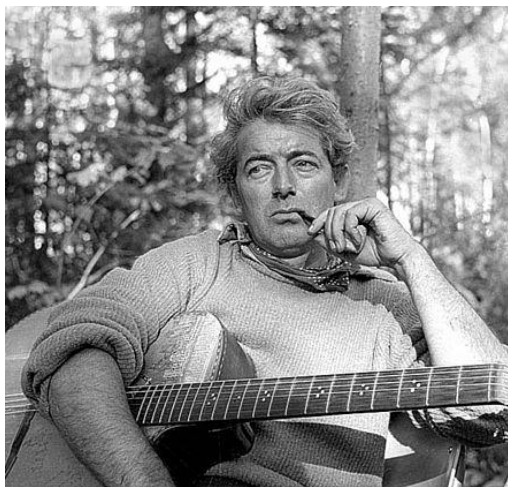
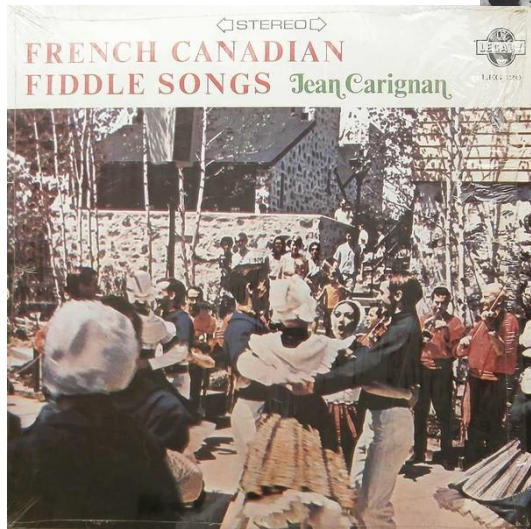


European-descended Forms



French-Canadian/Acadian Folk music

- French settlers brought their musical traditions to Canada.
- These early songs accompanied a variety of dances such as the jig.
- The main instruments are the fiddle and the accordion.
- French folk music in the New World interacts with the Celtic folk music of settlers from Ireland and Scotland. The two traditions influence each other.
- Quebecois folk music evolves out of a syncretic dialogue between these styles.



Money Musk ensemble <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BWzTKFI0js>

Medley Medard Bougie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmChWQ4codE>

French Canadian Reel performance (0:29)

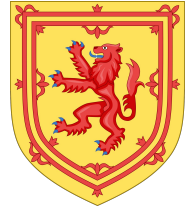
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiA1WlxWc2w&list=PLhOIPBL5YyDXCdYe1gce_WAAx5acGIF8f&index=9

European-descended Music



Maritime/Celtic music

- Eastern Canada was largely settled by Irish and Scottish people.
- These settlers brought with them their Celtic musical traditions.
- These folk traditions intermixed with other traditions such as Acadian folk (French).
- Many of the songs focus on fishery or seafaring (ex. sea shanties).
- Common instruments: guitar, voice, accordion, violin.



European-descended Music

- The style has experienced a revival with Celtic rock bands such as Great Big Sea and Spirit of the West coming to national prominence.
- There is a boisterous spirit to the genre and it is popular 'drinking music' across Canada.
- Great Big Sea is a Celtic rock band from Newfoundland and Labrador. They are one of my favourite bands.

Great Big Sea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XzSeu3Eso4&list=PLkkqErnXVckHrGzs3tg8uHbsYHO1I7m61&index=6>

Drunken' Sailor https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_RWtdm81WU&list=PLkkqErnXVckHrGzs3tg8uHbsYHO1I7m61&index=11

Spirit Of The West <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crlk87-mPzY>

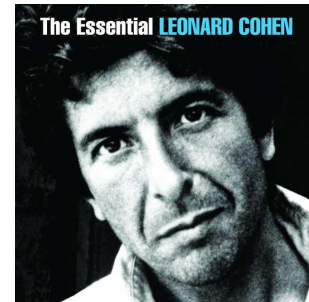
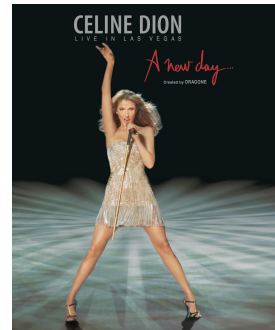
Notable 20th Century Artists

50's: Oscar Peterson

60's-70's: Neil Young, Guess Who, Rush, Joni Mitchell,

80's-90's: The Tragically Hip, Bryan Adams, Shania Twain, Alanis Morissette, Celine Dion, Barenaked Ladies, Great Big Sea

00's-10's: Justin Bieber, Michael Buble, Drake, The Weeknd, Shawn Mendes



Bobcaygeon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qxGYnZCeTY

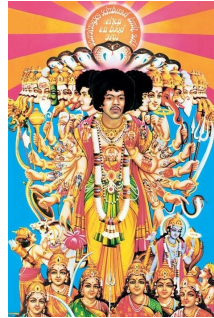
If I Had A Million Dollars <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6vbYaiuGel>

Music of My Region

- Toronto is the centre of the Canadian music industry.
- Channels like Much Music, broadcasting from downtown Toronto, brought the city and its musical energy into suburban homes like mine.
- My hometown has one of the more prominent Canadian Jazz Festivals, The Unionville Jazz Festival. My grandpa was a jazz aficionado who helped organize the event for many years. This exposed me to jazz, blues, and swing.
- Public schools in my region feature relatively robust music programs with concert bands beginning around grade 6 (I played trumpet). I began playing piano around age seven, and guitar at age eleven. I've been writing songs with friends under different names as long as I can remember.

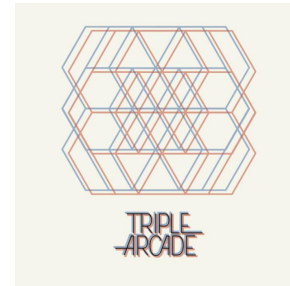
My Participation

- During high school I performed original music with a band, The Delta Gents. We were influenced by blues music, The Beatles, reggae, and other styles.



My Participation

- Later on, I was influenced by the Indie Rock coming out of Newmarket, Ontario, a community very close to where I grew up.
- Successful bands had come out of this scene, including Tokyo Police Club, The Elwins, The Salads, Ruby Coast, and Glass Tiger.
- In university, I met people from the Newmarket scene and began to play music with them. I played keyboards for a little bit with an indie rock band called Triple Arcade and also played lead vocals and bass guitar with a pop rock band.



The Elwins <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3R0gRJoWTw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0g3koBZgWk&list=PLNz57a6lLzF0Vly8aEoqpexF5OpyrFCgQ&index=3>
Ruby Coast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWgyR8Pv8_A
Triple Arcade <https://triplearcade43.bandcamp.com/album/triple-arcade-ep>

My Participation

- I studied music under Canadian and International jazz artists in university.
- I spent time enjoying live jazz at jazz clubs in Toronto such as 'The Rex'.



My Participation

- After school, I pursued music education and also played keyboards with Newmarket-based indie rock band, The Fiscals.



The Fiscals acoustic <https://www.instagram.com/p/BfXTMGfnXG4/>

The Fiscals show https://www.instagram.com/p/B_7scLNAIJ9/

Strangers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxfFS3stGnY>

Thanks for listening!