French Music

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Small Facts

• Considered the center of European music and art

• France is the home of many legendary composers of classical music
History

• French music dates back to the 10\textsuperscript{th} century with organum (monophonic- single, unaccompanied melodic line)

• Notre Dame School (of Polyphony): group of composers working near Notre Dame Cathedral

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yi2MfMtIiY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yi2MfMtIiY)
• Middle Ages: songs of chivalry and courtly love were composed

• End of 12th century: a form of song called “motet” arose, which was accompanied by traveling musicians aka jongleurs

• 14th century: France produced two notable styles of music, Ars Nova and Ars Subtilior
Ars Nova, Ars Subtilior

• Polyphonic

• Ars Nova: musical style of the period from about 1310 to about 1370

• Ars Subtilior: Centered around Paris and characterized by rhythmic complexity
Operas

- *Akébar roi du Mogol*: First French opera in 1646
- Jean-Baptiste Lully: known best for composing ballets for Louis XIV and creating the French version of “opera seria”
- Georges Bizet: French composer who wrote *Carmen*
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlGTz0pSL8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlGTz0pSL8)
19th Century

- Hector Berlioz: one of the major French composers of all time and most innovative of the Romantic era

- Claude Debussy & Maurice Ravel: huge impact on 20th century music - both in France and abroad
20th Century

- Neo-classical music/serialism

- Albert Roussel and Les Six: especially influential

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9k0k-v_Gp6g&feature=relate
Spectral Music

- 1970s
- The most important French contribution to music
- Computer-assisted composition
Popular Music

• 1950-1960: “golden age” of Chanson française: typical style of French music
• Rock & Roll, which was inspired by the American and British
• 1980s: Hip Hop was inspired by African-Americans
• 1990s-2000: Electronic music- very popular in France
Chanson française

- Yolande Christina Gigliotti aka DALIDA
- “Bambino”
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRx5Zl070xQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRx5Zl070xQ)
Rock & Roll

- Elvis was a big inspiration of this style of music
- Françoise Hardy (Teen Idol)
- Johnny Hallyday
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwIaF6NYPj0&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwIaF6NYPj0&feature=related)
Hip Hop

• MC Solaar
• IAM
• “Qui Sème le Vent Récolte le Tempo”
• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4bPWcojrlQ
Electric

- Very popular
- Daft Punk
- David Guetta
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lH-0s0pR1eg
• #1 song for the week of April 26, 2010: