

Common Music Genre Structures

Understanding the structure of music genres can be helpful for composing, analyzing, or simply enjoying music. Below, we outline the basic structures for several common genres, detailing their typical components such as verse, chorus, and pre-chorus, and their arrangement in a song. Additionally, we specify whether each section is instrumental or contains lyrics.

Pop Music

- **Intro:** Short instrumental section, sets the mood (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Verse:** Introduces the story or theme of the song (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Pre-Chorus:** Builds tension, leading into the chorus (4-8 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Chorus:** The most memorable part, often the song's hook (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Bridge:** Provides contrast, often emotional or dynamic (8-16 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Outro:** Concludes the song, often a repetition or fade-out (4-8 bars). *Instrumental or Lyrics*
- **Pop Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Verse 1 → Pre-Chorus → Chorus → Verse 2 → Pre-Chorus → Chorus → Bridge → Chorus (repeat/fade) → Outro

Rock Music

- **Intro:** Often guitar-driven, sets the tone (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Verse:** Builds narrative or emotion (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Chorus:** Powerful and anthemic (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Solo/Instrumental:** Guitar or other instrumental solos (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Outro:** Often climactic or abrupt (4-8 bars). *Instrumental or Lyrics*
- **Rock Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Verse 1 → Chorus → Verse 2 → Chorus → Solo → Chorus (repeat) → Outro

Rap Music

- **Intro:** Sets the beat or mood (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Verse:** Lyrical storytelling or wordplay (16-32 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Chorus/Hook:** Catchy and repetitive, anchors the song (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Bridge:** Optional, adds variety (8-16 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Outro:** May feature spoken word or repeated hook (4-8 bars). *Instrumental or Lyrics*
- **Rap Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Verse 1 → Chorus → Verse 2 → Chorus → Bridge → Chorus → Outro

EDM (Electronic Dance Music)

- **Intro:** Establishes rhythm and energy (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Build-Up:** Gradually increases intensity (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Drop:** Climactic, high-energy section (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Breakdown:** Reduced intensity, often melodic (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Outro:** Wind-down or fade-out (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **EDM Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Build-Up → Drop → Breakdown → Build-Up → Drop → Outro

Blues Music

- **Verse:** Often a repeating 12-bar progression, divided into three 4-bar sections. *Lyrics*
- **Solo:** Improvised instrumental based on the 12-bar progression. *Instrumental*
- **Outro:** A final verse or riff (4-8 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Blues Music Typical Structure:** 12-bar Verse 1 → 12-bar Verse 2 → 12-bar Solo → 12-bar Verse 3 → Outro

Country Music

- **Intro:** Sets a nostalgic or melodic tone (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Verse:** Tells a narrative or emotional story (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Chorus:** Reiterates the central theme or hook (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Bridge:** Provides a reflective or contrasting moment (8-16 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Outro:** Often fades with a repeating chorus or riff (4-8 bars). *Instrumental or Lyrics*
- **Country Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Verse 1 → Chorus → Verse 2 → Chorus → Bridge → Chorus → Outro

Jazz Music

- **Intro:** Often features a head melody (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Main Theme:** Played by the ensemble or lead instrument (8-16 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Solo Sections:** Improvised solos over the chord changes (variable length). *Instrumental*
- **Outro:** Return to the head or a coda (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Jazz Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Main Theme → Solo 1 → Solo 2 → Main Theme → Outro

Reggae Music

- **Intro:** Establishes the groove (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*

- **Verse:** Develops the song's narrative or message (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Chorus:** Repetitive and often uplifting (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Bridge:** Adds variation or highlights the theme (8-16 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Outro:** A smooth fade-out or repetition of the chorus (4-8 bars). *Instrumental or Lyrics*
- **Reggae Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Verse 1 → Chorus → Verse 2 → Chorus → Bridge → Chorus → Outro

Classical Symphony Music

- **Movement 1:** Often in sonata form with exposition, development, and recapitulation. *Instrumental*
- **Movement 2:** Slow and lyrical, often in ternary form. *Instrumental*
- **Movement 3:** A dance-like scherzo or minuet. *Instrumental*
- **Movement 4:** Fast and dynamic, often in rondo or sonata form. *Instrumental*
- **Classical Symphony Music Typical Structure:** Movement 1 → Movement 2 → Movement 3 → Movement 4

R&B (Rhythm and Blues Music)

- **Intro:** Sets a soulful or rhythmic mood (4-8 bars). *Instrumental*
- **Verse:** Expresses personal emotions or storytelling (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Chorus:** Emphasizes the song's emotional core or hook (8-16 bars). *Lyrics*
- **Bridge:** Adds contrast or a climactic moment (8-16 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Outro:** Often fades with ad-libs or the chorus (4-8 bars). *Lyrics and/or Instrumental*
- **Rhythm and Blues Music Typical Structure:** Intro → Verse 1 → Chorus → Verse 2 → Chorus → Bridge → Chorus → Outro