

City Pop: シティーポップ

By Austin Lanphear



What is City Pop?

- A loosely defined subset of pop music that originated in Japan in the late 1970s and 1980s.
- A modern term for older Japanese pop.
- Which in turn was influenced by Western 1960's, 70's, & 80's music.
- **Genres included are:** Soft Rock, R&B, Funk, Boogie, and many more.



Left: Keigo Oyamada an Shibuya-kei pop artist

Right: Ryuichi Sakamoto of YMO (Yellow Magic Orchestra)

Both influenced by western rock and jazz fusion music

Origin of City Pop

- No definite origin date but determined around mid 1970s.
- Credited to originate with artists Haruomi Hosono (細野 晴臣) & Tatsuro Yamashita (山下 達郎)
- Both Pop musicians with electrical elements as well as funk/soul.
- Genre became tied with the tech boom of Japan in the 1970s - 1980s, and introduction of: Walkmans, cassette decks, and FM stereos.



★ Popular Artists (Maybe, my favorites actually...)

- Mariya Takeuchi (竹内 まりや)
 - Funk, Soul, & Disco Artist
- Makoto Matsushita (松下誠)
 - Pop & Funk
- Anri (Eiko Kawashima - 川嶋栄子)



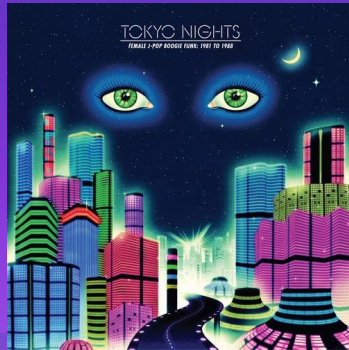
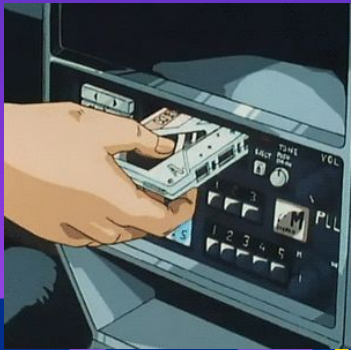
- Pop

Resurgence in Popularity

- After the initial popularity of the regional genre (Tokyo city), it waned after the Japanese asset price bubble burst in the 1990s.
- But since the 2010s it has been rising in popularity internationally online. With people finding or “refinding” artists such as Mariya Takeuchi.
 - This genre of music is often sampled in subgenres such as:
Vaporwave & Future Funk
- Most notable song in particular is: Plastic Love by Mariya Takeuchi where it currently has 27,201,195 views as of October 1st, 2019.

Resurgence in Popularity

- In 2010s after resurgence of genre, a certain artstyle has been associated with it.
 - Based on 80s japanese animation
 - Scenery generally based in city areas such as Tokyo, Los Angeles, and New York in 80s.
 - Focus on 70s & 80s technology



What does it sound like?



URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOs9ckJrqho>

References:

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