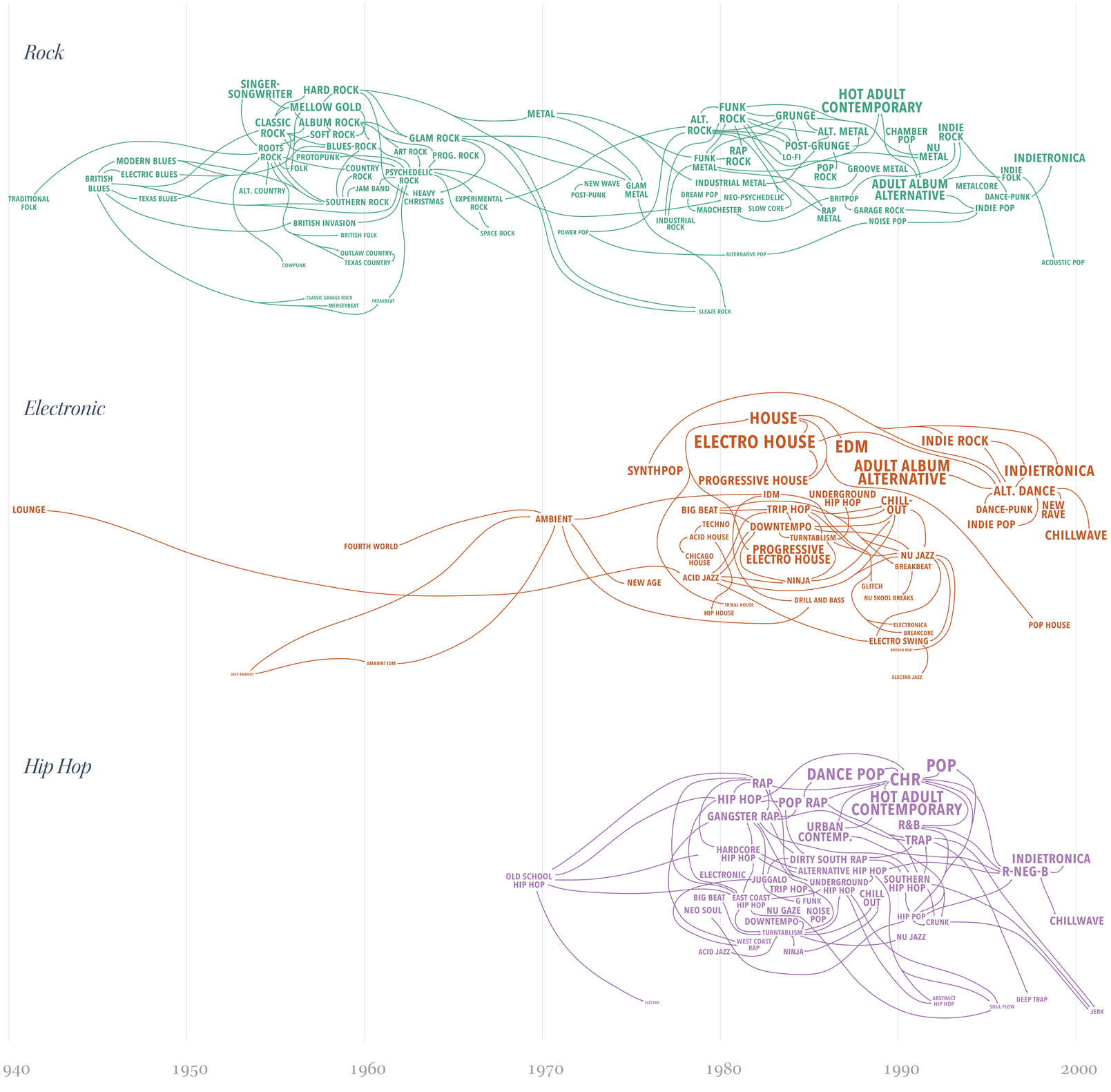
Mapping Musical Genres

INFO VIS & DESIGN · ADI DAHIYA

This composite graphic depicts the development of (and the associations between) major music genres from 1940 to 2000 using data from the EchoNest music database.

Each genre is linked to its influences and to its derivatives. The genres are placed on a time axis based on the earliest activity of their popular & representative artists. Type size is used to represent the *current popularity* of a genre (EchoNest's "hotttnesss" metric), while vertical position within each section of the three-part graphic represents *historical popularity* (in other words, how "familiar" that kind of music is in the world).

Below are representative artists for selected genres.



CLASSIC ROCK

- Credence Clearwater Revival
- Led Zeppelin
- The Rolling Stones
- Steve Miller Band
- Canned Heat

MELLOW GOLD

- Fleetwood Mac
- Don Henly
- John Mellencamp
- Rod Stewart
- Billy Joel

FUNK ROCK

- Rage Against The Machine
- Audioslave
- Red Hot Chili Peppers
- Incubus
- Limp Bizkit

GRUNGE

- Soundgarden
- Pearl Jam
- Alice in Chains
- Nirvana
- Foo Fighters

BIG BEAT

- Propellerheads
- The Crystal Method
- The Chemical Brothers
- Fatboy Slim
- Orbital

TRIP HOP

- Bonobo
- Massive Attack
- Tricky
- DJ Krush
- UNKLE

ELECTRO HOUSE

- Deadmau5
- Calvin Harris
- Tiësto
- Steve Aoki
- Swedish House Mafia

ALTERNATIVE DANCE

- Hot Chip
- Cut Copy
- Crystal Castles
- Metronomy
- Empire of the Sun

GANGSTER RAP

- Ice Cube
- Dr. Dre
- Snoop Dogg
- 2Pac
- The Game

ALTERNATIVE HIP HOP

- MF Doom
- Madvillain
- Aesop Rock
- Mos Def
- Talib Kweli

TRAP

- Young Jeezy
- Gucci Mane
- Rick Ross
- DJ Khaled
- Soulja Boy

R-NEG-B

- The Weeknd
- Frank Ocean
- Purity Ring
- Kelis
- James Blake