# **The best free music download sites that are free to download**

1.

# <https://musopen.org/faq/>

## Can I add content to Musopen that I got elsewhere?

Yes! Musopen’s goal is to be the largest online repository of music in the public domain. However, because of the complexities discussed above, Musopen strongly encourages Musopen users to familiarize themselves with copyright law and assess the public domain status of any specific musical composition or sound recording before uploading it to the site. Please remember that our Music Dedicator Terms and Terms of Service require you to represent and warrant that content uploaded to the site is in the public domain (for more information, see our Music Dedicator Terms and [Terms of Service](https://musopen.org/page/tos/)). The following links to copyright law resources provide additional information for your reference:

[U.S. Copyright Office – Copyright FAQ](http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-general.html)

# The best free music download sites that are totally legal

Below, we’ve rounded up some of the best sites we’ve found for downloading free music. Keep in mind that many of them are void of Billboard artists such as Taylor Swift, but if you look in the right spots, you’ll find a few hits from some big-name artists, along with scores of fresh independent artists, which should keep your ears happy and your wallet heavy.

## 2.

## [Free Music Archive](https://freemusicarchive.org/)

In 2009, New Jersey-based [WFMU Radio](https://wfmu.org/) embarked on a project to make contemporary music of all genres available to the public, and the Free Music Archive was born. Since its inception, WFMU has partnered with dozens of other curators, and the site has become a veritable treasure trove of free content.

The site combines two different approaches to posting tracks: First, it indexes free music posted by all of its partner curators, and second, it allows users to post their own music directly to the archives. This synthesis of sources creates a mind-boggling library of tracks that you could spend months browsing through, whether you choose to do so by curator or genre, or go even deeper with its [newly returned search function](https://www.freemusicarchive.org/search). The site also hosts a myriad of podcasts, and [renowned radio stations](https://www.digitaltrends.com/music/best-internet-radio-stations/) such as [Seattle’s KEXP](https://kexp.org/) frequently post live cuts from their studio sessions with big-name acts passing through. The smash tracks may lack some post-production, but they’re also free.

(Note: Tribe of Noise recently acquired Free Music Archive. While the website remains operational and [continues to host a full archive of everything that’s been uploaded](https://www.freemusicarchive.org/static), the developers have disabled uploading. Previously, searching was also unavailable, but that functionality has since been restored. There’s no certain timeline for the return of FMA’s full functionality. Be sure to [follow FMA on Twitter](https://twitter.com/freemusicarchiv) for regular progress updates.)

## 3.

## [SoundCloud](https://soundcloud.com/)

Not every song posted on SoundCloud is free, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t a significant selection of complementary content to choose from — both Billboard and independent artists have been known to offer a selection of their older tracks at no charge, though you may have to drop them a like on Facebook or a follow on Twitter for the privilege.

Songs can be navigated in a flurry of ways, ranging from artist and genre to what’s trending right now. There’s also an entire section of the site dedicated to tracks released under Creative Commons licenses that are free to download and remix, and royalty-free audio, which can be used for marketing purposes and in monetized material. Note that while there’s a paid element to SoundCloud, it’s entirely optional and doesn’t impede your ability to find free tunes.

## 4.

## [ReverbNation](https://www.reverbnation.com/?utm_campaign=brand&utm_content=text-ad&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google_adwords&gclid=CjwKCAiAtorUBRBnEiwAfcp_Y72yshwYRDKBC9dia7wBngmYsqS4lSSW166oMlIxIAK_rYJFgwXWtxoChDQQAvD_BwE)

Big names like Alabama Shakes, The Civil Wars, and Imagine Dragons all got their start on ReverbNation by sharing their music for free and building up their loyal fanbase. There is a mix of every genre on ReverbNation, but the site tends to lean toward more pop, alternative, and hip-hop than anything else. With a community of nearly 4 million artists, labels, and users, ReverbNation helps you sift through its immersive catalog with cool features like the site’s [Discover app](https://www.reverbnation.com/fan-promotion) and a [page that will help you](https://www.reverbnation.com/main/discover) find who is about to be the next big thing.

5.

[Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=sr_ex_n_1?rh=n:163856011,n:!195211011,n:!251258011,n:318768011,n:334896011,n:334897011&bbn=334897011&ie=UTF8&qid=1339862629&tag=digitren08-20)

You’re probably used to using Amazon to buy everything from [the best headphones](https://www.digitaltrends.com/home-theater/best-headphones/) to dog food, so why not add some free music to your shopping list? Believe it or not, the retailer has a massive assortment of thousands of free tunes available via its digital music arm, letting you pick through everything from obscure indie and classical music to hits by [Carole King](https://www.amazon.com/One-Small-Voice/dp/B01MYEINB7/ref=sr_1_1?qid=1552411694&refinements=p_lbr_music_artists_browse-bin:Carole%20King&rnid=3458810011&s=dmusic&sr=1-1&tag=digitren08-20) and [the Foo Fighters](https://foofighters.com/). Checkout is quick and painless, and it works just like buying a song that costs money on Amazon, sans payment. Simply add a song to your shopping cart, check out, and the tunes are yours.

## 6.

## [DatPiff](https://www.datpiff.com/)

Since the mid-aughts, the hip-hop community has become a veritable breeding ground for free music, much of which comes in the form of mixtapes. Some are original compilations by artists looking to cop some shine, some feature rappers freestyling over popular instrumentals from their contemporaries, and some are just dropped by artists looking to reward their loyal fans with some free tunes — we’re looking at you, Curren$y.

DatPiff is also the only site on this list that consistently offers free music from mainstream artists — think Future and Drake — and remains the No. 1 spot for fans to download new tapes, view release schedules, and listen to fan-made compilation albums. The site even features a pop-out player so you can listen before you download, as well as a news aggregator that collects stories from sites like [HipHopLately](https://www.hiphoplately.com/collection/new-music" \t "_blank).

## 7.

## [Audiomack](https://audiomack.com/)

There’s a new kid on the block that’s challenging DatPiff’s domination. It’s called Audiomack, and it’s home to what’s fast been branded the [best collection](https://audiomack.com/trending-now) of hip-hop, rap, and trap — comprising everything from smash hits from heavyweights like Kodak Black to viral tracks from emerging artists like NBA YoungBoy. As of late, however, a lot of creators have decided to disable downloads, instead opting to use the service’s streaming feature; though rest assured, there is still a large amount of downloadable material, including some mixtapes from Migos, Playboi Carti, and Rich The Kid.

## 8.

## [Live Music Archive](https://archive.org/details/etree)

Live Music Archive is essentially a partnership between [Internet Archive](https://archive.org/) and [etree.org](https://etree.org/), a community dedicated to providing high-quality, lossless versions of live concerts. You can think of it as a bootlegger’s paradise given the site’s sheer abundance of concert material, much of which focuses on jam bands such as the Grateful Dead, The String Cheese Incident, and Sound Tribe Sector 9. Still, there are a host of other bands to choose from — The Smashing Pumpkins, Jack Johnson, Animal Collective, etc. — along with plenty of genres, from jazz to reggae, to browse.

Navigation is a bit of a chore due to the overwhelming wealth of content, but there are ways to filter the results by title, publish date, or original creator. Once you find a particular show, you can often stream or download the individual tracks as a FLAC or MP3, allowing you to play the tracks in your media player of choice. Unfortunately, the site doesn’t ensure a quality performance — so we’d recommend previewing anything that sounds like it could tickle your fancy by using Live Music Archive’s web player before taking the plunge and downloading it for local playback.

## 9.

## [Jamendo](https://www.jamendo.com/en/)

With hundreds of thousands of tracks from thousands of artists, Jamendo is easily one of the biggest repositories of free music on the web. You won’t find all of your favorite artists here, but the site’s streamlined user interface makes it great for browsing and finding talented new musicians. In the past, Jamendo was mostly one-dimensional in its discovery approach, allowing you to pull up tracks from individual genres sorted by criteria such as release date. Popularity is based on user ratings, so despite the massive number of tracks on the site, you don’t have to spend a lot of time searching before you find stuff that pleases your ears. To be sure, the site’s penchant for lesser-known artists and experimental tracks makes it more suited for someone looking for something new or unique rather than specific artists.

## 10.

## [NoiseTrade](https://noisetrade.com/)

NoiseTrade is one part free music site, one part promotion platform. You can download any individual track or album an independent artist uploads to the site if, in turn, you generously supply them with your email address and postal code. The freemium promotion platform also encourages you to spread the word about artists you like via Facebook and Twitter while giving you the option to quickly tip the artist a suggested $4 donation.

The site’s user interface is also remarkably clean and simple, allowing you to effortlessly search or browse artists within a visual hub loaded with recommendations and complimentary mixtapes that cover a wide swath of genres, musicians, and forthcoming events. Furthermore, the site often boasts exclusive samplers and releases from artists before they premiere elsewhere, along with corresponding links that connect you with artists’ social media pages and management. Some of our favorite albums being offered last time we checked? [Wild Ones’ Keep it Safe](https://noisetrade.com/wildones/keep-it-safe) and [John Prine’s Live in Asheville ’86.](https://noisetrade.com/johnprine/john-prine-ashville-85)

## 11.

## [Musopen](https://musopen.org/)

Graphical user interface, website

Description automatically generated

If you’re a fan of classical music, finding free downloads is easy — after all, most classical compositions and many performances have long been in the public domain. Musopen, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and accessibility of classical music, hosts an impressive library of compositions **without any copyright restrictions**. Users can browse by composer or performer, or filter results based on the time period and instrument. Whether you enjoy the complex arrangements of the Baroque period or the fierce passion of the Romantics, Musopen probably has what you’re looking for.

The selections are available for streaming or downloading — some even in high resolution — and the site offers a copious amount of helpful background info for your perusal. If you’re curious about what a rondo is or what defined Chopin’s style, you can learn all that here. Musicians may also be delighted to learn that the site provides sheet music, so if you find yourself falling in love with a particular piece, you can follow along or even learn to play it.

## 13.

## [Last.fm](https://www.last.fm/music/+free-music-downloads)

When Last.fm was initially created in 2002, it functioned as an internet radio station in a similar fashion to [Pandora](https://www.pandora.com/) and [iHeartRadio](https://www.digitaltrends.com/music/iheartmedia-chapter-11-bankruptcy/). In 2005, however, the site adopted Audioscrobbler, a music-recommendation system that collects data from dozens of media players and music-streaming websites to craft individual user profiles that reflect their musical taste and listening habits. Last.fm has now “scrobbled” info from nearly 100 billion plays, which total more than 7 million years’ worth of listening.

Unbeknownst to many Last.fm users, though, is the site’s repository of free music. It’s accessible via the “Free Music Downloads” link at the bottom of the page — or [here](https://www.last.fm/music/+free-music-downloads) — and offers a fairly diverse library of free music, ranging from Sufjan Stevens to The Glitch Mob. It’s eclectic, if limited, and free.

## 14.

## [SoundClick](https://www.soundclick.com/)

One of the sleepers of the lot, SoundClick should command your attention for its vast library of free amateur music. It’s a lot like SoundCloud in that it primarily offers a melting pot of tunes from the independent scene, all uploaded by the artists responsible for creating them.

SoundClick, which has been in business since 1997, has millions of tracks across over a dozen genres, including hip-hop, country, jazz, alternative, and more.

You can download many of those songs for the price of mere megabytes and a few seconds of your time, and streaming (up to 160kbps, a boon for free services like these) is an option for anything that you can’t. Like others of its ilk, you’ll come across your fair share of forgettable music, but it’s worth wading through to find the gems.

## 15.

## [Bandcamp](https://bandcamp.com/)

Popular among independent musicians, Bandcamp allows both artists and labels to upload content to the site and sell albums, singles, and merchandise directly to fans. However, not every artist charges for their work, making Bandcamp an excellent location to [find a few new tunes for free](https://bandcamp.com/tag/free). Founded in 2008, Bandcamp has amassed a collection of works across popular genres, including electronic, rock, alternative, hip-hop, punk, folk, jazz, ambient, experimental, and more.

If you find a piece of music that you love, you can later contribute to the artist by purchasing other albums or memorabilia. One factor that makes Bandcamp unique is the ability to pay a minimum set price or higher amount for works; some musicians use this system to allow fans to pay what they can and choose how much they wish to support an artist.

## 16.

## [CC Trax](https://cctrax.com/)

If you’re a fan of electronic music, you’ll want to check out CC Trax, which offers up free downloads of great dub, techno, house, downtempo, and ambient singles and albums. Music is organized by genre neatly, and you can keep an eye on your favorite musicians or labels. Much of the work hosted on CC Trax is under Creative Commons licensing, and there are even options for those who wish to include the music within their YouTube videos. If you don’t want to decide what to listen to next, CC Trax offers up a selection of one-click playlists sorted by genre and tempo.

This guide highlights a great collection of sources for grabbing free tunes, but CC Trax stands out as the ultimate option for electronic music fans. If you want to see what’s currently hot, the homepage hosts a weekly chart, showing what new additions are getting the most attention. We will note that CC Trax does offer up a few other music genres, including rock, modern classical, and jazz, but if you’re looking for more traditional work within these genres, you might want to look at one of our other top picks.

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/music/best-free-and-legal-music-download-sites/>

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