

**Country** (also called **country and western**) is a [music genre](#) originating in the [Southern](#) and [Southwestern United States](#). First produced in the 1920s, country primarily focuses on [working class Americans](#) and [blue-collar](#) American life.<sup>[2]</sup>

Country music is known for its [ballads](#) and dance tunes (also known as "[honky-tonk music](#)") with simple form, folk lyrics, and harmonies accompanied by instruments such as [banjos](#), [fiddles](#), [harmonicas](#), and many types of [guitar](#) (including [acoustic](#), [electric](#), [steel](#), and [resonator](#) guitars).<sup>[3][4][5]</sup> Though it is primarily rooted in various forms of [American folk music](#), such as [old-time music](#) and [Appalachian music](#),<sup>[6][7]</sup> many other traditions, including [African-American](#), [Mexican](#), [Irish](#), and [Hawaiian](#) music, have also had a formative influence on the genre.<sup>[8]</sup> [Blues modes](#) have been used extensively throughout its [recorded history](#).<sup>[9]</sup>