



Emo music began as a derivative subgenre of the punk and hardcore scenes of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Out of the Washington D.C. hardcore scene, which featured bands such as Fugazi and Minor Threat, Rites of Spring and Embrace emerged as two of the first “emo” hardcore bands. While the D.C. hardcore scene music primarily consisted of subject matter pertaining to political and societal issues, the “emo hardcore” subgenre featured music which consisted of more personal and emotional themes, while still retaining many of the other musical motifs of the hardcore scene. However, emo hardcore, or “emocore” as it would later be shortened, remained strictly within the underground music scene until it crossed paths

with the development of the new “pop punk” scene of the 1990s. Bands such as Sunny Day Real Estate, Jawbreaker, and Cap’n Jazz drew influence from the underground emocore scene, as well as newly emerging pop punk acts such as Green Day and Blink-182, and grunge and alt-rock titans Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins. By the end of the decade, emo music had become a mainstay in rock music, with aforementioned acts Green Day and Blink-182, now quite within the mainstream, adopting a much more emo punk style. The early 2000s witnessed the emergence of the vast majority of bands which many today associate with the emo genre, ranging from Jimmy Eat World, Brand New, and Dashboard Confessional in the early years of

the decade, to My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Taking Back Sunday, Paramore, and The All-American Rejects in the middle years of the decade. This was evidently the peak of popularity for the emo genre, as rock music as a whole began to fall off the charts by the start of the 2010s. Today, emo music exists, yet again, somewhat within the “underground” of music. Today, emo genres of music often fall into the categories of pop punk, indie rock, post-hardcore, and metalcore, and includes bands such as The Front Bottoms, Pierce the Veil, Modern Baseball, and Bring Me the Horizon, and all are forever immortalized on t-shirts shoved in to the closets of emotional teens and alternative young adults.

