

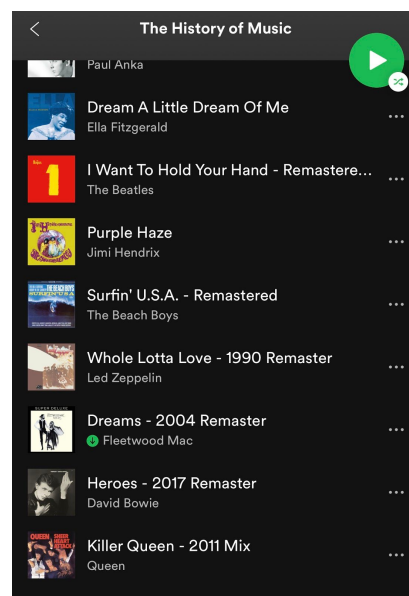
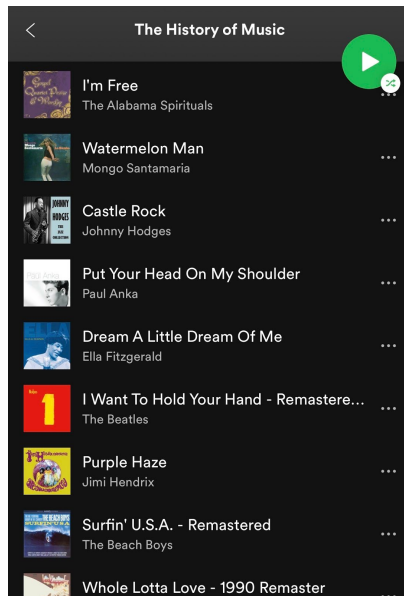
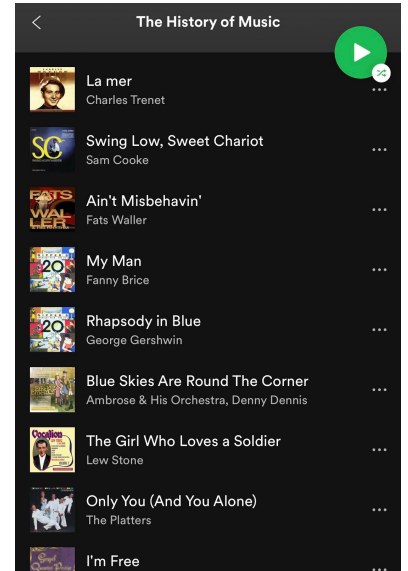
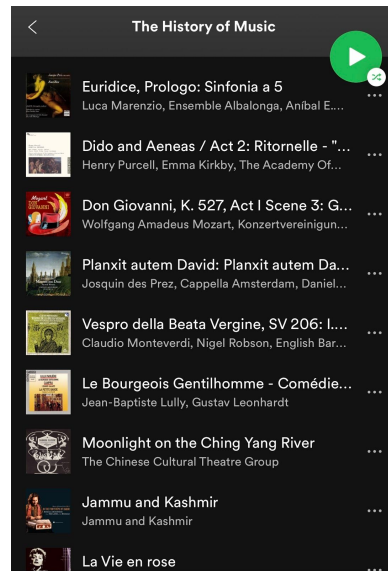
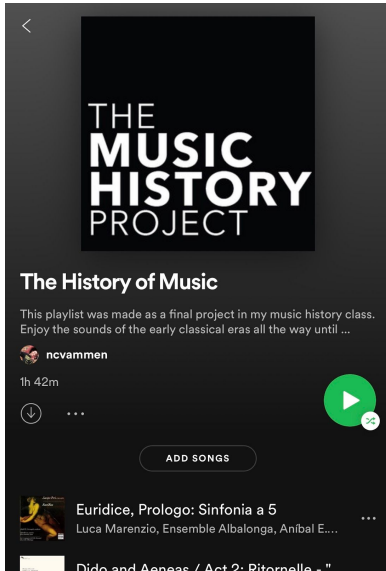
## The History Of Music

Music has taken an incredible journey from where it started to where it is today. It is arguably one of the most powerful forces we have as human beings. It can start a revolution, make a political statement, and even heal a war. Music can bring light where darkness has fallen and can heal those who have forgotten how to live. Music is an idea of unconditional expression and the feeling that no matter what happens, there is always hope. When given full creative ability to do anything regarding the history of modern music, I didn't know where to start. I feel as if I could take about this forever and still not give it the credit it deserves. I concluded that I would form a chronological playlist. I felt that a playlist was one of the better ways to not only visually show the changes, but also audibly. The first thing that stands out when looking at the playlist is the titles of the songs. It starts off in the 1600s where we are graced with the birth of Opera. You'll notice that all of the songs from this section have numbers in their titles and are mainly in a different language. These songs are from some of the first Operas that became well known. You'll hear the difference in texture and melodic movement throughout these songs. The vocalists possess a large amount of vibrato that echoes in your ears. The harpsichord and strings make up the most of instrumental music during this period. The following sequence of songs are from the Renaissance. In this section you'll hear acapella voices. A burst of vocal harmony and voice crossing. This music is very polyphonic and tends to pass the melody around through the different voice parts. This section also contains songs from early Renaissance theatre where the instruments become much more vibrant and joyous. Brass and woodwinds are more widely used to pull off this sound. The next section on the playlist features two songs that one would typically hear in a Chinese theatre production. Chinese theatre uses many drums, strings, and woodwind instruments to achieve its culturally unique sound. Instruments such as the banhu, erhu, pipa, guzheng, suona, gongs, drums and cymbals are all commonly used. French Chanson songs shift the mood next in the playlist. Featuring two of the more widely known songs, "La Vie en rose" and "La mer". These Chanson songs feature moods of love and romance, supported by the moody sounds of strings,

brass and woodwinds. After this section, I transitioned the playlist to dive into the start of modern music in America. We start with two spirituals that are known to most people. The African spiritual is at the heart of what American music became and what it still is now. You can hear elements of the spirituals in all the songs that follow them.

Expressive and edgy vocals, while also pouring your heart and soul into the music. The African spirituals are all about hope and freedom, and that is, at the heart, the American Dream. So, even though some artists may not be aware, there will always be spiritual influence in their music. After that, we take a trip through the different decades and eras that were significant for music evolution. Starting in the Roaring 20s where big band music and swing really influenced the social scene. The 40s and 50s are full of soul, blues, and jazz music and this is the era where that feeling of spirituality is very noticeable. The 60s will always be known as the “birth of rock and roll” decade. Where the world is introduced to The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, The Beach Boys, Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, and so many others. The focus was shifted onto electric guitars and rock bands. Woodstock was the place for hippies and lovers of music to go and express themselves. Many songs were considered rebellious and mentioned aspects of war and struggle. The 70s and 80s introduce us to the soft rock sounds of Fleetwood Mac, the expressiveness of David Bowie, and the iconic band that is Queen. All have different sounds, but still holding those elements from the African spirituals in their sounds. This is where the playlist ends. I figured that anything after the 80s was considered pretty much modern day. One thing I find fascinating is listening to the first and last song in the playlist. Queen is a very theatrical band, and we began the playlist in the theatre. So, no matter how far humanity tends to stray from what used to be, music will always hold the past deep in its roots. Throughout this semester it was so cool to see the similarities between different genres and cultures around the world. Many little details get overlooked to the average listener. I find that is one of the more rewarding things about being a musician. I can listen for those similarities, understand them, and appreciate the connections that they share. My one hope for this project is that someone, even just one

person, stumbles upon my playlist and can make a connection with the music somewhere along the way.



Spotify Link:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3aWDInubX1y8FwZyMstBHf?si=Gg2PREMnR7WNZc1EutoWXA>

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