

# OKLAHOMA STATE MUSIC

Oklahomans have always had a rich and profound impact on the world's music culture.

The types of music that have made Oklahoma great are:

## **American Indian**

Oklahoma is diverse crossroads of American Indian musicians. This rich collection of traditional music is performed in powwows all over the state. Additionally, the music is enriched by Indian musician's exposure to other tribe's songs through the many intertribal meetings in the state.

## **Country**

The traditional Appalachian folk ballads brought by new settlers from the South infused Oklahoma with a music about the lives of everyday people. Much of the music was overtly religious as the rural communities revolved around their churches. Another distinctive type of country music grew out of the dance halls and roadhouses, especially in the oil boom areas of eastern Oklahoma. This honky-tonk style music from Oklahoma and the surrounding states became a staple of American country music for years.

## **Gospel**

Oklahoma has had a long tradition of Gospel music. Albert E. Brumley, a Spiro, Oklahoma native, wrote a number of Gospel classics that have become a standard in Gospel singer's musical material. His best-known compositions include *I'll Fly Away*, *Jesus Hold My Hand*, and *Turn Your Radio On*. These songs are commonplace in many church hymnals today.

## **Jazz and swing**

The territory bands of the 1920s and 30s brought a new style of music to Oklahoma. Perhaps the most famous of the Oklahoma-based territory bands were the Oklahoma City Blue Devils. The Blue Devils were the foundation for Count Basie's orchestra. The Al Good Orchestra, also from Oklahoma City, began playing in the Oklahoma area in the 1940s.

## **Rock and roll**

One of the hot spots for rock and roll in Oklahoma during the 60's was Ronnie Kaye's "The Scene" in Oklahoma City. Tulsa's Cain's Ballroom has become a notable small-venue club for touring bands in the mid-90s. Alternative-rock band 'The All-American Rejects' was formed in Stillwater. The 1990s had a Hardcore Punk Rock scene in Edmond.

## **Western or cowboy**

Prior to Oklahoma's opening for settlement, cowboys pushing cattle from Texas to the railheads developed a style and subject of music that became known as Cowboy or Western. As they settled on the ranches they continued their traditional style of singing. Otto Gray, the first "Singing Cowboy" and his Oklahoma Cowboys were the first nationally popular cowboy band. All of the band members were recruited from Oklahoma

ranches.[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music\\_of\\_Oklahoma\\_-\\_cite\\_note-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Oklahoma_-_cite_note-3)

## **Western Swing**

Oklahoma was a center for the development and spread of Western swing. Performers playing the traditional western music, influenced heavily by the territory bands, added fiddles and steel guitars to their orchestras to produce a new and very popular type

of music. Bob Wills, and His Texas Playboys, based in Tulsa, influenced this music for more than a generation.

Now for a quiz - I have prepared a slide program with 14 pictures. Please write down the names on the sheets of paper you will find on each table. Please don't share as I have prizes for the ones knowing the most.

Show each slide.

Show slides again with information on each.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music\\_of\\_Oklahoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Oklahoma)