**Gothic music history**

Gothic music is a musical style of old-fashioned punk in late 1970s, including English punk rock. The genre creates darker music accompanied by introspective and romantic lyrics. Gothic rock then inspired many subcultures that included clubs, fashion and publications in the 1980s.

Gothic music is first known in 1967, in a review published in *The Williams Record*.The theme of this kind of music is given as pleasant, amusing hippies, and violent. In this music, a dark atmosphere on stage during the concerts is featured.

In the late 1970s, the word "gothic" was used to describe the atmosphere of old style punk bands like Siouxsie and the Banshees. Bauhaus's debut single, "Bela Lugosi's Dead", in 1979, was considered to be the beginning of the gothic rock genre. The song was written to be tongue-in-cheek style.

In the early 1980s, post-punk bands included more gothic characteristics in their music. For the example, using "sacred and profane" things, using old testament imagery with stories about sin, curses and damnation.

In 1983, there was a creation of "positive punk" with promises of revolution, either in the rock'n'roll sense or the wider political sphere. This gave an idea of personal revolution, and imagination. Later on the new, harder form of gothic rock had created. Including the cooperation of drum machine.

## **Style of gothic music**

According to music journalist Simon Reynolds, standard gothic music include, "scything guitar patterns, high-pitched basslines that often usurped the melodic role and beats that were either hypnotically dirgelike or "tribal" African polyrhythmic". He described the vocal that it is "deep, droning alloys".Some gothic music band used flanging guitar effects, producing a brittle, cold and harsh sound. They also used drum machines for the backbeat.

Gothic music presents dark themes by its lyrics and the music's atmosphere. The poetic style creates literary romanticism, religious symbolism or supernatural mysticism.

Gothic music creates a dark atmosphere by an influence from the drones used by protopunk group. Many goth singers are influenced by the "deep and dramatic" vocal style. J.G. Ballard was a strong lyrical influence for many of the early gothic rock groups.

**Impacts of gothic music**

In the 1990s, the music has inspired by gothic music style a lot, Such as atmosphere from goth and disco and industrial sound. As well as became darker, deeper and more disturbing.

In term of historical and cultural art, The Goth culture of the 1980s inspired Punk, New wave, and Glam.Including, movies, Gothic literature, horror films, vampire culture, noir science fiction film, and traditional mythology. For the example, Celtic mythology, Christian mythology, Egyptian mythology, and Paganism.

Lots of famous philosopher also inspired by this kind of music, such as Friedrich Nietzsche(1844-1900), Comte de Lautréamont (1846-1870), and Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980).

Gothic literature is a genre of fiction that combines romance and dark elements to produce mystery, terror, horror and the supernatural. Typical characters consisted of the cruel parent, sinister priest, courageous victor, and the helpless heroine, along with supernatural figures such as demons, vampires, ghosts, and monsters. The plot focused ill-fated, internally conflicted, innocently victim and insanity. The appearance of the characters are usually be in the dark eyeliner or dressing in black.

In the view of visual art, not only musicians, but also painters and photographers got this influence. In particular their work is based on mystic, morbid and romantic motifs. In photography and painting the spectrum varies from romantic images of vampires or ghosts. As well as well used dark colours, similar to Gothic fiction.

### **Gothic music’s development**

American gothic music began with punk-influenced style, became known as deathrock.The Southern developed more conventional hard rock music. While many other bands continue to be associated with gothic rock, the 1990s enhanced gothic music largely by crossover from the industrial, electronic and metal scenes. Goth music in most cities created popular culture.

In the 2000s, critics regularly noticed the influence of goth on new bands.English band mixed 1960s garage rock with 1980s goth.Even female singer accepted gothic style.

**Impacts of gothic music II**

In the view of fashion, Gothic fashion is stereotyped as conspicuously dark, mysterious, complex and exotic. Goth fashion can be recognized by its black colored clothing with dyed black hair, dark eyeliner, black fingernails and black period-styled clothing. Sometimes with piercings. Styles are often inspired from the Elizabethan, Victorian or medieval period expressing religious imagery.

Ted Polhemus described goth fashion as a "profusion of black velvets, lace, fishnets and leather tinged with scarlet or purple, accessorized with tightly laced corsets, gloves, precarious stilettos and silver jewelry depicting religious or occult themes".

Researcher Maxim W. Furek stated that "Goth is a revolt against the slick fashions of the 1970s disco era and a protest against the colorful pastels and extravagance of the 1980s. Black hair, dark clothing and pale complexions provide the basic look of the Goth Dresser. One can paradoxically argue that the Goth look is one of deliberate overstatement as just a casual look at the heavy emphasis on dark flowing capes, ruffled cuffs, pale makeup and dyed hair demonstrate a modern-day version of late Victorian excess."

### In film, gothic music inspired horror film images and soundtracks. There are uses of swirling smoke, rubber bats, and cobwebs featured as gothic club decoration. The goth kids are usually characterized listening to goth music, writing or reading Gothic poetry, drinking coffee, flipping their hair and smoking.

In books and reading culture, American literary was deeply influenced by the gothic scene. Such as alienation, loneliness, and the human condition. Not only did the characters torment themselves, but also the cruel world. It was not cleary represent the gothic culture, but gave ideas of romance and beauty of gothic style.

**Gothic bands**

1. Joy Division: English band formed in 1976 in Manchester. The band mainly uses guitar, keyboards, bass guitar, drums and percussion. The band is inspired by punk, and new post-punk movement. The vocalist Ian Curtis had depression and personal difficulties, he was then committed suicide. Later on, the left members developed the band. They form a new wave band achieving critical and commercial success.

2. Bauhaus : English band formed in Northampton in 1978. The band uses guitar, drums and bass. Their first single, "Bela Lugosi's Dead" gave them a kick-starting in the Goth scene. Bauhaus was inspired by punk music, glam rock, Krautrock, funk, and dub. They had unique gloomy style that was known as Gothic rock. Their essential elements included the vocal’s deep voice and dub-influenced bass.

3.Siouxsie and the Banshees : British band which formed in 1976.They only had vocal and bass at first. They formed during the age of punk rock. Their idea of music style was, "It was a case of us knowing what we didn't want, throwing out every cliche . . . Never having a guitar solo, never ending a song with a loud drum smash." For the guitar, they liked it to be sounded like "a cross between the Velvet Underground and the shower scene in Psycho.”

4.The Cure : An English band that formed in Crawley, Sussex in 1976. The band included both post-punk and New Wave movements style. They had dark and tormented music style, as known as the Gothic rock. The Cure had an outstanding musical traits, "dominant, melodic bass lines; whiny, strangulated vocals; and a lyric obsession with existential, almost literary despair."

**Gothic music in the present**

The classical music are more elite. These new media has more original music and recruited composers educated in the classical traditions. Popular music in turn had a strong influence on serious music, and jazz and other ideas became incorporated into the concert. There are uses of new instruments such as the electric guitar and synthesisers. More recently it creates and manipulates sound by using computer, as well as creating graphics and animations. New styles and techniques are invented, re-invented and combined this in turn stimulates further invention and discovery. However, it is clearly that gothic music creates an inspiration on this modern style music.

The influence has spread around the globe. The current bands are Joy Division, Killing Joke, Alice Cooper, David Bowie, New York Dolls, Gary Glitter, The Damned, and tons more, many of the bands re-created a gothic music showing dark culture by themes of death, love, and religion.

Goth was popular in the UK. In 2012, There are still great dark music, for the example, The Seer by Swans which creating a whole dark soundscape, as well as other upcoming bands, the Emo style bands, and fringe metal bands who present goth darkness. It is obvious that there is a brand with completely new concept. They just indie bands taking on a darker, more interesting, and the return of Goth.

**Gothic musician and techniques**

Musicians and sound artists who developed Gothic music are raxil4, Mu, Seesar, Charlie Collins, Anton Mobin, and Akoustik Timbre Frekuency. All of these musician have unique instruments and techniques to create their sounds. Raxil4 and Mu both created instruments specifically used in sonic style traditional instrument. Raxil4 used The Bone Guitar, and Mu used The Spine of Darkness. Both artists used cattle and goat bones in the instrument for the noise. Doing this, they are able to create “horror” or “Gothic” sound from the instruments.

Moreover, some musician creates the sound by using the theme of European history. Some used Eastern and Middle Eastern traditions as a theme, for the example, the spoils of Christian crusades. This is showed through Goblet drums, sistrums, and other instruments: Egyptian tablah, Celtic harp, non-keyed clarinet, cimbalom, recorders, Ghanaian dhun-dhun drums, Native American shaman drums, and ouds alongside acoustic and electric guitars, keyboards, and vocals sung in a wide range of languages evoking archaic styles.

**Comparison between original gothic music and and modern music**

Gothic music reflection:

Bauhaus - Bela Lugosi's Dead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKRJfIPiJGY>

The song has an obvious pattern of background drum. There is also a guitar sound in depressing and low key tone. Another guitar gives a higher pitch that soon develops into a very high pitch like a punk-rock style.

The lyrics give nonsense idea, however, it repeats the same idea about depressing environment. It uses words and phrases like “death”, “white translucent”, “black capes”, “bats”, “undead”, “victims have been bled”.

For overall, the song tells the theme about a vampire. The background of the song is showing the respect to Bela Lugosi. Bela Lugosi was an actor who famous in portraying as a count dracula in horror films during the 19th century.

This is obvious that the song is inspired by the idea of untouchable being, one of the main theme of gothic music.

**Comparison between original gothic music and and modern music**

Modern music reflection:

EGOIST- Fallen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BU8HEzAcKGc>

The song is published in 2015 which is considered as a modern music.

In this song, the main instruments are drum and very high piched guitar. Moreover, the vocal has a high tone voice, but sings in a depressing tone.

The song has romantic theme mixed with violence and untouchable being. For the example “angel”. The first verse of the song telling the picture of angel falling to the ground and die. There is also a part gives, “Staining me in scarlet-red.” Some of the words and phrases representing gothic idea are “scent of blood”, “eternity”, and “erased the sound of my breathing”.

The music video also supports the culture of gothic. It uses monochrome color with some red color representing blood.

To conclude, the song is clearly inspired by gothic music.