

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC I

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

What is instrumental music?

An instrumental music is a musical composition or recording without lyrics, singing, or any other sort of vocal input; all of the music is produced by musical instruments only.

In commercial popular music, instrumental tracks are sometimes renditions of a corresponding release that features vocals, but may also be compositions originally conceived without vocals. An instrumental version of a song which otherwise features vocals is also known as choir.

Pop music instrumentals that have reached #1 on the Billboard charts during the rock and roll era but before the Hot 100 include

- * “Autumn Leaves” – Roger Williams (1955)
- * “Lisbon Antigua” – Nelson Riddle (1956)
- * “The Poor People of Paris” – Les Baxter (1956)
- * “Moonglow and Theme from ‘Picnic’” – Morris Stoloff (1956)
- * “Patricia” – Perez Prado (1958)

Instrumentals that have reached #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 include

- * “The Happy Organ” – Dave “Baby” Cortez (1959)
- * “Sleep Walk” – Santo & Johnny (1959)
- * “Apache” - The Shadows (1960)
- * “Theme from A Summer Place” – Percy Faith (1960)
- * “Calcutta” – Lawrence Welk (1961)
- * “Wonderland by Night” – Bert Kaempfert (1961)
- * “Stranger on the Shore” – Mr. Acker Bilk (1962)
- * “The Stripper - David Rose And His Orchestra (1962)
- * “Telstar” – Tornados (1962)
- * “L’amour est bleu” (“Love Is Blue”) – Paul Mauriat (1968)
- * “Grazing in the Grass” – Hugh Masekela (1968)
- * “Love Theme from Romeo & Juliet” – Henry Mancini & His Orchestra (1969)
- * “Frankenstein” – Edgar Winter Group (1973)
- * “Love’s Theme” – Love Unlimited Orchestra (1974)
- * “Theme from ‘S.W.A.T.’” – Rhythm Heritage (1976)
- * “A Fifth of Beethoven” – Walter Murphy” (1976)
- * “Star Wars Theme/Cantina Band” – Meco” (1977)
- * “Rise” – Herb Alpert (1979)
- * “Chariots of Fire - Titles” – Vangelis (1982)
- * “Miami Vice Theme” – Jan Hammer (1985)

Billboard Top 20 Instrumentals

- * "In the Mood" – Ernie Fields Orchestra (1959) #4
- * "Green Onions" – Booker T. & the MGs (1962) #3
- * "Out of Limits" – The Marketts (1964) #3
- * "A Taste of Honey" – Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass (1965) #7
- * "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" – Hugo Montenegro (1968) #2
- * "The Horse" – Cliff Nobles (1968) #2
- * "Classical Gas" – Mason Williams (1968) #2
- * "Soulful Strut" – Young-Holt Unlimited (1969) #3
- * "Hawaii Five-O" – Ventures (1969) #4
- * "Hang 'Em High" – Booker T. & the MGs (1969) #9
- * "Time Is Tight" – Booker T. & the MGs (1969) #6
- * "Theme from Love Story" – Andy Williams (1971) #9
- * "Theme from Love Story" – Henry Mancini (1971) #13
- * "Scorpio" – Dennis Coffey (1971) #6
- * "Joy" – Apollo 100 (1972) #6
- * "Outa-Space" – Billy Preston (1972) #2
- * "Popcorn" – Hot Butter (1972) #9
- * "Dueling Banjos (Theme from Deliverance)" – Eric Weissberg & Steve Mandell (1973) #2
- * "Also Sprach Zarathustra" – Deodato (1973) #2
- * "Hocus Pocus" - Focus (1973) #9
- * "The Entertainer" – Marvin Hamlisch (1974) #3
- * "Tubular Bells" (Theme from The Exorcist) – Mike Oldfield (1974) #7
- * "Rockford Files" – Mike Post (1975) #10
- * "Nadia's Theme (The Young And The Restless)" – Perry Botkin, Jr. (1976) #8
- * "Theme from Close Encounters of the Third Kind" – John Williams (1978) #13
- * "Feels So Good" – Chuck Mangione (1978) #4
- * "Music Box Dancer" – Frank Mills (1979) #3
- * "Theme from Hill Street Blues" – Mike Post Featuring Larry Carlton (1981) #10
- * "Hooked on Classics" – Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (1982) #10
- * "Axel F" – Harold Faltermeyer (1985) #3
- * "Love Theme from St. Elmo's Fire" – David Foster (1985) #15
- * "Songbird" – Kenny G (1987) #4
- * "(Theme from) Mission Impossible" – Adam Clayton & Larry Mullen (1996) #8
- * "Sandstorm" – Darude (2000) #15