

# The Deming High School Band

The Deming High School band has consistently received Distinguished Ratings at KMEA Concert Band Festival and last year received a rating of "Excellent" at the Music in the Parks Festival at 6 Flags Kentucky Kingdom. Many of our band students actively participate in extra-curricular music events such as KMEA All-District Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Morehead State Band Clinic, and many others.



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# What is Art Music?

Art music (or serious music or erudite music) is an umbrella term used to refer to musical traditions implying advanced structural and theoretical considerations and theorists may define it differently. Musician Catherine Schmidt-Jones for example defines art music as a frequent musical distinction, referred to by musicologist Philip Tagg as an "axiomatic triangle consisting of folk, art and popular music." He explains that each of these three is distinguishable from the others according to certain criteria. In this regard, it is frequently used as a contrasting term to popular music and traditional or folk music.

The term is mostly used to refer to music descending from classical tradition. This is the common definition of musicologists and scholars including Theodor Adorno, Deryck Cooke, Joseph Swain, Nicolas Cook, Nicola Dibben, and Philip Tagg. However, some other authors interested in music theory may define it differently. Musician Catherine Schmidt-Jones for example defines art music as a frequent musical distinction, referred to by musicologist Philip Tagg as an "axiomatic triangle consisting of folk, art and popular music." He explains that each of these three is distinguishable from the others according to certain criteria. In this regard, it is frequently used as a contrasting term to popular music and traditional or folk music.

not necessarily imply any kind of artistic superiority over popular music or traditional music. While earlier musicological approaches tended to consider art music in an elitist way (for example Adorno), many modern musicologists (most particularly ethnomusicologists) dispute the notion of superiority. In a recent international musicology colloquium dedicated to music and globalization, some ethnomusicologists such as Jean During insisted that no matter the technicality and difficulty of music, every musical tradition has the same claim and no one can dignify any superiority over another.

Furthermore, many art music composers have made reference to popular music including Darius Milhaud, George Gershwin, Leonard Ber-

nstein, Vincent D'Indy, while others like Steve Reich, John Cage, Claude Debussy, Lou Harrison, Olivier Messiaen, Maurice Ravel, Bela Bartok, Francois-Bernard Mache have drawn influence from regional or extra-European traditional music. Moreover, in some cases the distinction between popular and art music has been blurred, particularly in the late 20th century. For example minimalist music and post-modern music in particular got closer to popular music and rejected older cleavages. Conversely, some popular experimental musicians developed a special interest in the minimalist and post-modern approach, thereby incorporating certain aspects of art music into popular music. Therefore, some may consider certain forms of popular-based music such as art rock or art music. However, in the strict, original sense these forms of music cannot really be regarded as pure erudite music because they do not match most of the criteria. Besides, many fans of experimental popular music (such as art rock and avant-garde metal) tend to mistake the sense of the term art music. In their conception, "art music" is used to refer to authentic and creative music as opposed to commercial music. Hence, use of the term "art music" sometimes leads to misunderstandings.

The term primarily refers to classical traditions (including contemporary as well as historical classical music forms) which focus on formal styles, invite technical and detailed deconstruction and criticism, and demand focused attention from the listener. In strict western practice, art music is considered primarily a written musical tradition, preserved in some form of music notation, as opposed to being transmitted orally, by rote, or in recordings (like popular and traditional music). Historically, most western art music has been written down using the standard forms of music notation that evolved in Europe beginning prior to the Renaissance period and reaching its maturity in the Romantic period. The identity of a "work" or "piece" of art music is usually defined by the notation, rather than a particular performance of it (as for example with classical music). However, other cultural classical traditions may refer to oral transmission. For example, Indian classical music is transmitted mainly orally from master to disciple, despite its typically strict western practice, greater sophistication of rhythmic and melodic frameworks than western classical music.

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