

MODERN AUDITORIUM: TECHNO MUSIC

Techno is music produced with electronic instruments such as drum machines, synthesisers, samplers, etc. Techno music emerged in Detroit in the 1980 and quickly spread across the rest of the world. The concept of techno reflected the post-industrial decadence of that city and the increasing importance of information technology.

The origins of techno music can be found in the music of the 1970s. At that time, groups like Tangerine Dream started to substitute traditional instruments (guitar, bass and drums) with synthesisers and electronic percussion. Other groups such as The Human League and Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark followed them.

But the true home of techno in Europe in the 1980s was in Germany, with groups like Japan and Kraftwerk. Kraftwerk were the first group to use exclusively synthesised sounds in their music. Later, groups such as Depeche Mode and Erasure used synthesisers and electronic percussion as their 'star' instruments.

At the end of the 1990s, techno music was completely integrated into the commercial music market thanks to groups such as Ultra Naté and Sash. The Prodigy has developed a very interesting alternative line called rave music, which combines elements of other styles such as punk in techno compositions. The Prodigy and The Chemical Brothers were the main forces behind the big beat style.

The main musical characteristic of techno is rhythm. Techno normally uses a small variety of repetitive but very lively rhythms in 4/4 tempo. It is ideal for dancing. In contrast to other styles, techno does not use the usual song format, and its development is generally quite repetitive. However, this does not mean that techno is frivolous, cold or mechanical. The artists mentioned above are examples of how interesting techno music can be.