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Free country sheet music

Everyone knows Nashville is famous for country music. But did you know it has a thriving music scene in other genres too? What are some of the hottest clubs? Which famous musicians own record stores there? A local musician gives us an insiderOs guide. Keep up with the latest daily buzz with the BuzzFeed Daily newsletter! Folk music and country music sound a lot alike. You can recognize the same melodies and the storytelling lyrics as you move from one genre to the next. There are also a number of musicians who dabble in both styles. Yet, is there a difference between the two? In reality, the line between folk and country is not well-defined. Let's explore what makes them simultaneously unique and similar. First of all, it's important to answer the more pressing question: What is folk music? There is no hard and fast rule, but generally speaking, "folk music" refers to a style of music that is universal within a community. It can be performed by people who aren't necessarily trained musicians, using whatever instruments are available. Both country and folk music have their roots in the story-song tradition, particularly in rural communities. If musical styles have ancestors, the common ancestor to folk and country music would be the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers. Both were Depression-era folk artists who helped popularize rural music to folks in the cities. Artists from Woody Guthrie to Johnny Cash have taken great influence from them (not to mention borrowing melodies and lyrical allusions). Television and radio also helped bring both folk and country-western music into the mainstream. The new technology brought artists from the south and the west were to audiences in the cities and suburbs. In those days, both were a bit of a novelty to mainstream America As they grew and evolved into the mainstream, both styles have managed to maintain their original integrity in their very tight-knit circles of devotees. Many country traditionalists would say the new Nashville sound isn't real country, just as many folk traditionalists bristle about calling someone like Jewel a folksinger. Some of folk music's greatest contributors started their careers in what have been called "country western" bands. Woody Guthrie, for example, was in the Corn Cobb Trio in Texas before forging his career as one of the most storied American folk artists. It could be argued that, before the mid-century folk revival, the line between folk and country music was thin and barely visible. The main difference is that folk music is a far more overarching term than "country music." Country music is a style of folk music, as is rap, Celtic music, bluegrass, Cajun music, old time, and the blues. Country music evolved out of the folk music tradition and continues to influence it in hindsight. However, much of contemporary country is far more relatable to pop music than to folk. The difference is the involvement of big business in the development of the careers of country stars. Folk artists occasionally find their way into the mainstream music industry machine. Yet, for the most part, folk music is a sub-corporate genre more concerned with community involvement and speaking for the people than it is in record sales and image consultants. A good analogy is the way language evolves into accents and slang terms. When an American moves to London, they may not acquire an English accent, but sooner or later they'll start utilizing phrases typical in the conversations of Londoners. At its core, country music still maintains a lot of these down home values. At the same time, the level of its mainstream popularity has taken it in an entirely different direction from the other styles of rural traditional music still referred to as "folk music." Much of this came from the evolution of the Nashville sound, around the same time that folk music was focusing hard on its social conscience (mid-20th century). As Nashville grew, and the influence of the Nashville sound increased, so did the Nashville arm of the music industry... hence the separation of country and folk. Absolutely. Many artists have crossed back and forth so often that they are embraced both by Nashville and the greater folkroots music community. Emmylou Harris is an excellent example, as is Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Jewel started out singing country music and has also been known to refer to herself as a folksinger as often as a pop star. Brandi Carlile and Lucinda Williams have also sung country music, and now occupy that very vague area of emerging folk music typically called "roots." In other words, there's not an enormous difference between a country singer and a folksinger. But most people know the difference when they hear it. "Pure Country" stars George Strait as a country singer sick of the limelight who abandons stardom for, yes, life on the farm. The setup's admittedly corny, but the movie's worth watching for Strait's first and (so far) only foray into film acting. "Pure Country" was a critical and box-office failure — proving that cashing in on the '90s country boom wasn't so easy. But Strait got the last laugh. His accompanying soundtrack became his best-selling album. Of all time. Said Roger Ebert in the Chicago Sun-Times: "Pure Country" tells a laborious but likable story, not amazingly original... Strait is not an actor in the class of Mellencamp or Nelson, but he is genuine and has a winning smile and holds his own in a screenplay that makes few demands." "Urban Cowboy" was released while disco was in its death throes, and this honky-tonk counterpart to "Saturday Night Fever" helped boost the careers of its soundtrack singers and launched a nationwide craze. In the film, John Travolta plays Bud, a small-town Texan drawn to the dim lights and thick smoke of Houston's honky-tonks. On a stage of sawdust floors, he looks for love, blunders into heartbreak and mounts a mechanical bull. Whether you're an admirer of '80s kitsch or a sucker for redneck romance, "Urban Cowboy" is required country music viewing. Gwyneth Paltrow plays a hot mess of a country singer trying to pull herself out of a deadly downward spiral. After a stint in rehab, she tries to put her scandals behind her and return to the spotlight. But can she keep away from the bottle? Or the pills? Or the razor blade? Tim McGraw co-stars as the singer's harried husband, and Paltrow does a fine job singing on the tunes (several of which were written by the redoubtable Hayes Carll). "Coming Home" was nominated for Best Song at the 2011 Academy Awards. Jessica Lange delivers a phenomenal performance as country legend Patsy Cline. "Sweet Dreams" follows Cline's rise to fame — and tragic, too-early death at age 30 in a plane crash. Lange dazzles, but don't ignore the supporting cast. Ed Harris is remarkable as Patsy's Mr. Wrong. Lange doesn't sing in the picture, but the strength of her acting overcame any quibbles about "authenticity"—earning her an Oscar nod in 1986 for Best Actress. When it hit theaters in 2005, this Johnny Cash biopic brought renewed attention to the Man in Black. Joaquin Phoenix channels the country icon, and Reese Witherspoon plays his eventual wife June Carter. If the human drama is a bit Hollywood, the stellar musical performances are hardly canned. Phoenix's performance approaches Cash's but doesn't try to impersonate him. Sure, you can think of this is a biopic, but "Walk the Line" is really more successful as a concert film. Watch trailer In "Songwriter," Willie Nelson plays Doc Jenkins, a talent-rich, cash-poor songwriter who manages the career of his pal Black Buck, played by Kris Kristofferson — and a hot young firecracker played by Lesley Ann Warren. The buddy comedy, directed by Robert Altman protegee Alan Rudolph, was based in part on Nelson's experiences with the dark side of the record industry. James Wolcott called it "a litterbug comedy, eating up the white line in the middle of the road." Rip Torn shows up as an unscrupulous record producer. "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," starring George Clooney and John Turturro, follows fugitives from a chain gang through obstacles that include a crackpot Bible salesman (John Goodman) and sudden celebrity as bluegrass singers ("How can I lay a hold of them Soggy Bottom Boys?"). This Depression-era Odyssey, directed by the Coen Brothers, also brought old-timey music came back into fashion. T. Bone Burnett's soundtrack, featuring Alison Krauss and Gillian Welch, became a best-seller. Sissy Spacek was handpicked by Loretta Lynn to play the singer in this movie based on her autobiography. All around, this movie is a class act. The Band's Levon Helm plays Lynn's coal-mining father, Tommy Lee Jones plays the singer's domineering husband, Mooney. The stirring results weren't ignored by the Academy. "Coal Miner's Daughter" was nominated for Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay; Spacek won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1981. Robert Altman's panorama of Music City will confound some viewers and delight others. The '70s drama takes place over five days in Nashville and boasts more than a dozen main characters, 20-plus original songs and a cat's cradle of plotlines. Some critics have called it a political parable, others a cutting-edge musical, still others a sprawling mess. It's a bit like a Hieronymus Bosch painting. What you get out of the movie depends on where you decide to look. The film demands repeat viewing. Whatever your take, it's worth being seen — and argued about. Jeff Bridges stars as down-and-out country musician Bad Blake, made of equal parts Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard and Old Crow. The sleeper hit was aimed for the direct-to-video market but was spared that fate thanks to Bridges' Oscar-winning performance and T. Bone Burnett's phenomenal soundtrack — featuring the songwriting of Ryan Bingham, Greg Brown and Billy Joe Shaver. Robert Duvall stars as Mac Sledge, a boozing country singer on the run from his past. "Tender Mercies" has a quiet way about it and, by movie's end, you don't feel like you just know the characters — you feel like you've lived with them. This contemplative drama written by playwright Horton Foote earned Oscar nominations in 1984 for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Actor. Duvall and Foote both won. Foote based Duvall's character on a country singer he met who had been through the wringer of the music industry. Rip Torn's wild and profane performance as country singer Maury Dann is the stuff of legend. Dann sings songs in road houses set along an embattled strip of Southern highway. Between bedding fans and swilling down bottles of Wild Turkey, he's the boozey embodiment of "live fast, love hard, die young." Dann's descent into the seven circles of country music hell isn't for the faint of heart. Underrated, underseen and over the top, "Payday" is an underground classic. Most of the sheet music found today was produced from the 1890s onward. The early examples feature favorite songs from popular stage productions. Later, movies and radio introduced popular music to even more American homes. Performers associated with the original versions of those songs were often depicted on the cover of the music, a side benefit for today's collector as a crossover into pop culture memorabilia. This type of ephemera was in such demand back in its day that many examples sold more than one million copies when they were first issued. Collecting Paper by Gene Utz (Collector Books—now out of print, available through used booksellers) reports that "A Bird in a Gilded Cage" sold two million copies in 1900. In 1910, familiar tunes "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Down By the Old Mill Stream" sold the astounding sums of five to six million copies each. Any professional musician of the day would have stacks of colorful sheet music stashed in piano benches and tucked away in boxes. Amateur musicians patronized merchants selling sheet music for use in homespun entertainment as well, especially during the holidays. The faces of early 20th century personalities such as Al Jolson, Fannie Brice, and Eddie Cantor graced many early sheet music issues. Later, stars of the 1940s such as Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour thrilled fans on colorfully illustrated covers. Even sheet music from The Beatles, The Beach Boys and other more recent issues featuring pop culture icons, like Michael Jackson, are collected today. The more recognizable stars and songs most often hold the most value with a few exceptions for sheer rarity or attractive cover illustrations. Competition is not extremely fierce for this ephemera since there are plenty of song titles to go around, but there are some cases of crossover collecting when it comes to sheet music. For instance, pieces with a military theme often interest collectors of militaria, also known as military collectibles. Broadway musical enthusiasts will seek out numerous titles from Rodgers and Hammerstein or Irving Berlin as well. Collectors of sports memorabilia look for music with illustrations featuring baseball heroes of yesteryear. As an example, "The Climber's Rag" featuring cameo illustrations of the 1911 St. Louis Cardinals baseball team can sell in for more than \$2,000 in the right market. Other shoppers are attracted to the numerous covers featuring colorful drawings of beautiful women. Framed and hung on a wall, these can make a lovely accent in the home or office most anyone can appreciate. Because of the sheer volume produced and distributed as noted above, even though they're made of paper and can be somewhat fragile as they age, only a few sheet music examples are truly rare. Most common examples sell in the \$3 to \$5 range today in antique malls and sometimes for even less via internet auctions. For instance, it's not uncommon to find lots of 25 to 30 pieces of sheet music selling online for \$10 or less for the entire lot. Most common pieces have to be in excellent condition to bring even that much. However, many pieces of Scott Joplin's work do bring high prices, so it's wise to thoroughly research pieces you may own before offering them for sale or tossing them in the donation bin. For instance, Joplin's "The Chrysanthemum" could bring over \$1,000, and many of his other sheet music works sell for \$500 or more. Pieces of music falling into the Black Americana category are also very highly valued when in very good to excellent condition. A copy of "The Hoogie Boogie Dance" by Mose Gumble dating to 1901 sold on eBay.com for \$1,400 in 2016. When autographed by notable celebrities, common pieces of sheet music can also jump exponentially in value since autograph collectors are in the running for those as well. And while they aren't found often, sheet music examples dating to the early 1800s can also be valuable. These are usually simple sheets of handwritten music recorded on paper before the advent of mass printing. They are void of illustration and very plain looking, but again, it's wise to research what you have before disposing of one of these rare items. You may have a treasure, even though it doesn't look like much.

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