

What are the preferred music genres across the MBTI types? And does MBTI have any relation/correlation to music preference?

Abstract

Music is acknowledged as the predominantly popular art form. In recent years, music has continued to grow in popularity, with countless new musicians debuting each year in popular music genres such as pop, hip-hop, EDM and jazz. Despite this, people everywhere have their own preferred music genres that they favour listening to over these popular genres. Every individual has their own music preferences which are unique to themselves and their interests.

In personality typology, the MBTI, or Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, is an introspective self-report inventory designed to identify a person's personality type, strengths, social behaviours and indicate the differing psychological preferences in how people perceive the world around them, process information and make decisions. The questionnaire was developed by Isabel Myers and Katherine Briggs based on their work with Carl Jung's theory of personality types. Today, the MBTI inventory is one of the most widely used psychological instruments globally.

However, it is important to note that no test is "scientifically valid". Validity is not an element of a test, but specifically has to do with test score interpretation. The Myers Briggs personality inventory is not scientifically valid in terms of using MBTI types to assist in psychological disorder assessment. That being said, the Myers-Briggs type indicator has proven useful to identify general social behaviours, preferences and attitudes through the formation of communities on social platforms of those who share an MBTI type, as they are given spaces to bond and create connections with those who share the same typology as them. In this, the differences and similarities of the MBTI types and their preferences are made apparent.

Due to this, I am extremely curious to observe whether the MBTI types have any correlation with people's preferences in music, as people of the MBTI type tend to share many things in common, and I am curious to see if this applies to music preference.

I hypothesise that the Myer-Briggs personality types will have a moderate preference to the same music genres, whilst having mixed neutral results as well as an agreeance towards disliked genres.

Collaboration:

While in a discussion with two of my classmates, Siara Dimovski and Bianca Andonoski, about the topic of our choice, they had spoken about their decision to look at the music preferences of different age and gender demographics to see whether certain genres were more popular amongst particular people. Through this, I had gained the idea to look at the MBTI personality model. Rather than looking at gender or age, something that incorporates a wide range of different types of people, I chose to look into MBTI as a way to see if people who share the same cognitive type would also be more inclined to share the same music preferences.

Furthermore, I collaborated with the Year 9 Newman class in order to gather my information. I collected my information through sending out a survey to the other students, who in turn, chose to complete the survey to assist me in my research.

Methodology:

In order to gain data for this report, I'll be conducting a survey across numerous social media platforms, these being Reddit, Discord and Tiktok, the sample size consisting of as many as I can collect through shares and promotion. The survey conducted will aim to reveal if there is any correlation between MBTI personality types and music preference. These results will be gathered through a Google Form survey, with the raw results being represented in tables, then further analysed in graph form. The survey will include a sample song that is a popular or highly acclaimed representation of this genre in order to give them an accurate insight into the said genre, so they are then able to rate the genre below this, assuming they have previous experience with the genre. The analysis focus won't be on the songs, but on the genre rating.

Sample questions I may ask:

- What is your MBTI/Myers-Briggs personality type?
- What is your gender?
- What is your favourite music genre?
- How would you rate [popular song of a particular genre]?
- How would you rate [particular genre]?
- What are your least favourite genres?

Decided Questions and method of information gathering:

- What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- Other:

What is your MBTI Type?

- ENTP
- INTP
- ENTJ
- INTJ
- ENFP
- INFP
- ENFJ
- INFJ
- ESTP
- ISTP
- ESTJ
- ISTJ
- ESFP
- ISFP
- ESFJ
- ISFJ

Did you know your MBTI type before taking this survey?

- Yes
- No

1.Merry Go Round of Life- Joe Hisaishi (Classical)

[Video link]

How do you feel about this song?

- 1. Don't like it at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5. Like it very much

How do you feel about this genre?

- 1. Don't like it at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5. Like it very much

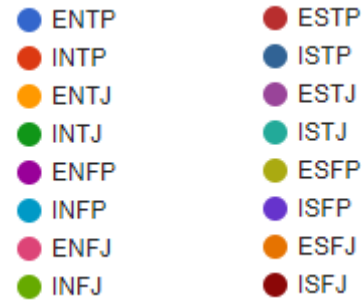
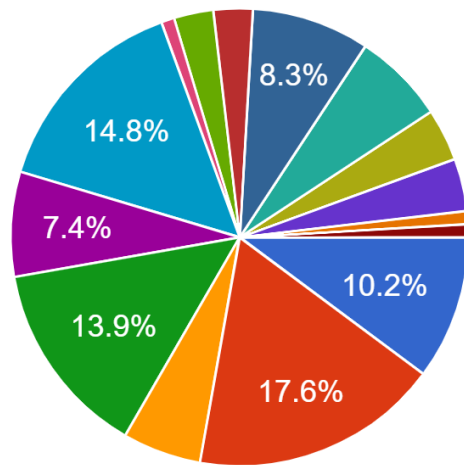
View the rest of the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/jT4MtSHtEZVuvNYi9>

Results/Data from conducted surveys:

There was no survey participant of the ESTJ personality type.

Number of MBTI Participants:



TOTAL: 108 People

- INTP:** 19 (17.6%)
- INFP:** 16 (14.8%)
- INTJ:** 15 (13.9%)
- ENTP:** 11 (10.2%)
- ISTP:** 9 (8.3%)
- ENFP:** 8 (7.4%)
- ISTJ:** 7 (6.5%)
- ENTJ:** 6 (5.6%)
- ESFP:** 4 (3.7%)
- ISFP:** 4 (3.7%)
- ESTP:** 3 (2.8%)

INFJ: 3 (2.8%)

ENFJ: 1 (0.9%)

ESFJ: 1 (0.9%)

ISFJ: 1 (0.9%)

ESTJ: 0 (0.0%)

Raw Scores of Genre Rankings:

Yellow = The Mode Score of the Ranking



ENTP									
Genre:	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwav e
Ranking:									
5	0	1	1	0	1	6	6	0	3
4	6	2	1	1	2	4	4	0	5
3	4	6	5	2	5	1	1	3	2
2	1	2	3	5	1	0	0	6	1
1	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	0

INTJ

<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
4	5	1	0	0	8	2	3	4	9
3	9	5	3	0	3	1	7	6	2
2	0	8	9	5	1	8	3	3	0
1	0	1	3	10	0	4	2	2	0

ENFP

<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
4	2	4	0	0	4	1	1	2	2
3	2	2	5	1	2	5	5	5	5
2	4	0	2	3	0	2	2	1	1
1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0

INFP

<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	0	0	0	4	2	0	4	0	11
4	5	4	8	8	4	4	6	2	5
3	7	9	5	3	7	8	4	7	0
2	4	3	2	1	3	4	1	6	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

ENFJ

<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
3	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

ESFP

<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	0	4	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
2	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	0
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3

ISFP

<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	3
3	1	1	0	3	3	1	3	1	0
2	0	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

ANALYSIS:

IS THERE A CORRELATION BETWEEN MBTI AND MUSIC PREFERENCE?

I. The raw scores

For this initial analysis, I am going to be looking at the most common MBTI types within the survey to look at whether the raw data from the survey displays any correlation between each MBTI and preferring the same music. This will be done through looking at samples of genres that a certain MBTI type has either shown a preference, neutrality, or dislike for.

For the purpose of this section of the analysis, I am going to be using the most common MBTI that participated in the survey; INTP (19 participants, 17.6%), INFP (16 participants, 14.8%), INTJ (15 participants, 13.9%) and ISTP (9 participants, 8.3%).

INTP									
<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	Contemp R&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	14	0	0	0	3	1	5	1	9
4	5	6	6	0	5	4	8	5	8
3	0	9	7	3	8	6	6	6	2
2	0	4	5	7	2	5	0	5	0

1	0	0	1	9	1	3	0	2	0
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INFP									
<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	ContempR&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	0	0	0	4	2	0	4	0	11
4	5	4	8	8	4	4	6	2	5
3	7	9	5	3	7	8	4	7	0
2	4	3	2	1	3	4	1	6	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

INTJ									
<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	ContempR&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
4	5	1	0	0	8	2	3	4	9
3	9	5	3	0	3	1	7	6	2
2	0	8	9	5	1	8	3	3	0

1	0	1	3	10	0	4	2	2	0
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ISTP									
<u>Genre:</u>	Classical	Pop	ContempR&B	Heavy Metal	Jazz	Hip-Hop	Prog Rock	Indie Folk	Synthwave
<u>Ranking:</u>									
5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
3	2	3	2	2	1	0	2	1	2
2	0	1	5	4	5	0	5	5	0
1	0	0	2	3	2	9	1	3	0

When viewing all the tabled data that presents the scoring of the genres from each MBTI type, for the majority of cases, it can be seen that each type votes within the 1-3 (dislike to neutral) range or the 3-5 (neutral to like) range when there is a strong preference to the said genre. However, in the majority of the data, most genres are voted as neutral, between the 2-4 range, as each type has a preference in genres. This will be further discussed below.

As previously mentioned, *when an MBTI type displays a preference to a particular genre, there is consistently no votes in a disagreeing rank to the majority.* While the majority of the 15 types that participated in the survey remain neutral to the mass of the genres and have votes randomly spread out, when they do have a strong preference or dislike, the scores follow this rule.

The following samples are key reflections that display the MBTI share the same preferences or dislikes to particular music genres, as well as follow the highlighted statement above.

1. Intp and classical music

Genre:	Classical
Ranking:	
5	14
4	5
3	0
2	0
1	0

There were a total of 19 INTPs who participated in the survey, this being the largest demographic in the results. Within this, classical music was the most preferred genre for the INTP MBTI type. As it is seen above, when the INTP has a music preference, there are no votes in disagreement with this, as the INTP survey participants all like classical music.

2. Infp and synthwave

Genre:	Synthwave
Ranking:	
5	11
4	5
3	0
2	0
1	0

The second key example that proves the rule of, when an MBTI has a music preference, none are in disagreement, is the INFP personality type when voting for the Synthwave genre.

As seen in the sample taken from the original INFP table, when voting for the Synthwave genre, the INFP personality type has a strong preference for Synthwave music, and there are no votes disagreeing with this.

3. Intp and Jazz (neutral)

Genre:	Jazz
Ranking:	
5	3

4	5
3	8
2	2
1	1

When viewing the INTP personality type and the Jazz genre, it can be viewed as a neutral genre for the personality type. As seen above, the votes are concentrated from 3-4, neutral to somewhat like, but are also distributed across the dislike and strongly like rankings.

This neutral rule applies to all of the MBTI. When the preference to the genre is neutral, the votes are spread across unevenly. This is further exhibited in INTJs and their opinion on Indie Folk Music.

Genre	Indie Folk
Ranking	
5	0
4	4
3	6
2	3

1	2
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4. Intj and heavy metal (dislike)

Genre:	Heavy Metal
Ranking:	
5	0
4	0
3	0
2	5
1	10

When viewing the INTJ personality type and the Heavy Metal genre, it can be seen that it is a strongly disliked genre for the personality type. As seen above, the votes are concentrated from 1-2, strongly disliked and somewhat disliked. The type once again follows the premise that when they have a preferred genre, it is a shared opinion amongst the type.

This is further exemplified when looking at the ISTP type and the Hip Hop music genre. As seen in the tabled results below, the ISTP has a strong dislike of the Hip Hop genre, following them all giving the genre a 1 out of 5 vote. Again, emphasising the idea that the MBTI have similar music preferences.

Genre:	Hip-Hop
Ranking:	
5	0
4	0
3	0
2	0
1	9

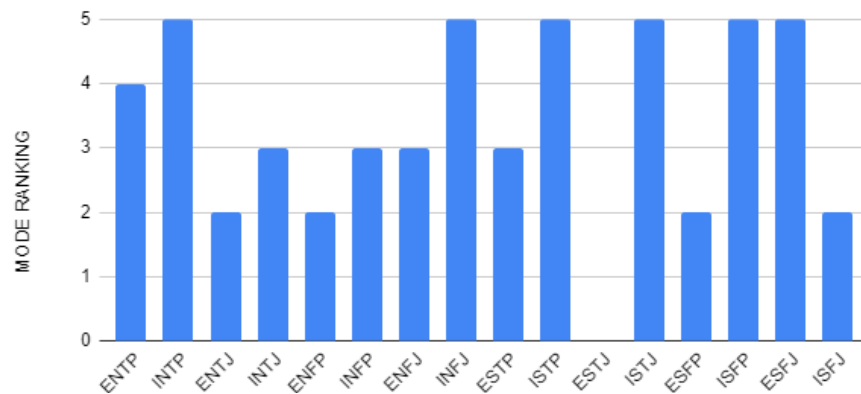
By looking at these initial stats, we can confirm that the MBTI has a correlation with music preference, this being seen through the agreed likes and dislikes amongst certain genres, however, now we need to see if the genre preferences are shared between all types, or are specific to certain types of MBTI personalities.

MODE GRAPH COMPARISON:

See remainder of graphs [here](#).

CLASSICAL

MODE OF RANKING



The second half of my analysis surrounds looking at the commonalities between the MBTI and 4 randomly selected genres to draw out which types are prone to preferring each music genre.

Classical Music

In this diagram, it can be viewed that the types which gave the highest rating to classical music were INTP, INFJ, ISTP, ISTJ, ISFP and ESFJ, all of which had a mode scoring of 5.

Sensory Types: 4 out of 6.

Intuitive Types: 2 out of 6

Extrovert Types: 1 out of 6

Introverted Types: 7 out of 8.

Feeling Types: 3 out of 6

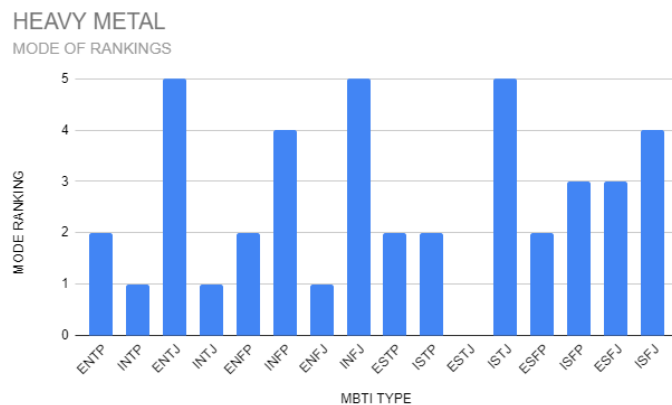
Thinking Types: 3 out of 6

Judger Types: 3 out of 6

Perceiver Types: 3 out of 6

It can be seen that the types that are most likely to prefer classical music are types that are of an ISXX structure, this meaning, they are Introverted Sensor types. By scoring alone, INTP, INFJ, ISTP, ISTJ, ISFP and ESFJ types.

Heavy Metal

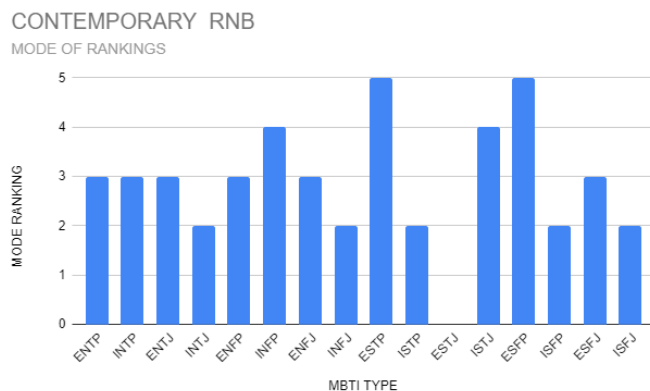


In this diagram, it can be viewed that the types which gave the highest rating to Heavy Metal music were ENTJ, INFJ AND ISFJ, all of which had a mode scoring of 5.

Extrovert/EXXX Types: 1 out of 3
 Introverted/IXXX Types: 2 out of 3
 Sensory/XSXX Types: 1 out of 3
 Intuitive/XNXX Types: 2 out of 3
 Feeling/XXFX Types: 2 out of 3
 Thinking/XXTX Types: 1 out of 3
 Judger/XXXJ Types: 3 out of 3
 Perceiver/XXXP Types: 0 out of 3

Here, it can be seen that the most likely types to prefer Heavy Metal music are the Introvert/IXXX, Intuitive/XNXX, Feeling/XXFX or Judging/XXXJ personality types, by combining these, INFJ would be the most likely type to enjoy Heavy Metal. By scoring alone, the most likely types to prefer Heavy Metal are ENTJ, INFJ AND ISFJ.

Contemporary R&B



In this diagram, it can be viewed that the types which gave the highest rating to Contemporary R&B music were ESTP and ESFP, which had a mode scoring of 5.

Extrovert/EXXX Types: 2 out of 2
 Introverted/IXXX Types: 0 out of 2
 Sensory/XSXX Types: 2 out of 2
 Intuitive/XNXX Types: 0 out of 2

Feeling/XXFX Types: 1 out of 2

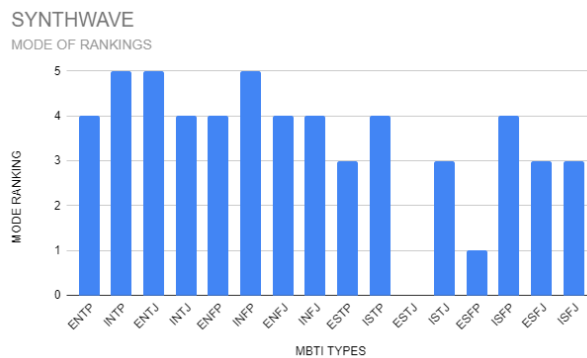
Thinking/XXTX Types: 1 out of 2

Judger/XXXJ Types: 0 out of 2

Perceiver/XXXP Types: 2 out of 2

Here, it can be seen that the most likely types to prefer Contemporary R&B are the extroverted/EXXX, sensory/XSXX and perceiving/XXXP types, or by combination, ESXP types. By scoring alone, ESTP and ESFP are most likely to prefer Contemporary R&B music.

Synthwave



In this diagram, it can be viewed that the types which gave the highest rating to Synthwave music were INTP, ENTJ and INFP, which had a mode scoring of 5.

Extrovert/EXXX Types: 1 out of 3

Introverted/IXXX Types: 2 out of 3

Sensory/XSXX Types: 0 out of 3

Intuitive/XNXX Types: 3 out of 3

Feeling/XXFX Types: 1 out of 3

Thinking/XXTX Types: 2 out of 3

Judger/XXXJ Types: 1 out of 3

Perceiver/XXXP Types: 2 out of three

Here, it can be seen that the most likely types to prefer Synthwave music are the introvert/IXXX, intuitive/XNXX, thinking/XXTX and perceiving/XXXP types, or by combination, the INTP personality type. By scoring alone, INTP, ENTJ and INFJ are the most likely to prefer Synthwave music.

Future Research:

This report and its findings, when considered with the other personality models, could prove to be a gateway into further research of how the way we think and process information and our environments correlates with our preferences in music.

Unlike the MBTI, which focuses solely on the cognitive aspects of people, the enneagram personality model is a typing tool that breaks down the patterns of human behavior into nine distinct types. Each type has a specific emotional motivation, along with basic fears, levels of emotional health, and so forth. Whilst this typology model is much more subjective in its nature, it goes hand in hand with the MBTI, as the enneagram looks into the emotions, motivations and nature of people, providing insight into the reasoning behind why certain MBTI types would conduct themselves in and how they would emotionally react to situations, providing a more individualised outlook on the correlation between MBTI, enneagram and music taste.

Another personality model that would also provide further research into whether typology is correlated to music preference is the socionics personality model. Socionics is a theory of how individuals select and process information. It can be categorized as a type of nomothetic psychology. Socionics has 16 sociotypes, with each sociotype representing a specific and unique mode of information metabolism. This model of typology is very similar to the MBTI in that it focuses on cognitive processes, however, Socionics also has a theory of relationships between types, which is absent from MBTI. Socionics makes a distinction between strengths and values, whereas in MBTI it is not clear that you can value something, yet be bad at doing it for yourself.

Going down this line of research could further indicate how people's personality type correlates with taste of music, as combining MBTI with another model would enable an in depth insight into whether people of the same specific typology and cognitive processes would have the same music taste.

Conclusion:

Conclusively, through my research I have gathered that the MBTI types do remotely correlate with an individual's taste in music. This renders my hypothesis correct, as the individual types are drawn to and preferring different types of music, whilst also disliking similar genres.