

What is Country Music?

Have you ever wondered 'What is the true definition of Country Music?'

There are so many different descriptions and opinions that confusion and conflict can easily arise when talking about this sensitive issue.

Yes it is better to *talk* it out rather than face up to your adversary with a pair of Colt 44's.



For some the definition of **Country Music** is... 'Slim Dusty...'

However, if one talks with members of **Gawler County Music Club...** one will discover that **Country Music** means different things to different people.

And of course,

everyone thinks that their definition is the correct one.

A discussion about the meaning of **Country Music** is like having a discussion about, sex, wars and religion... **it is taboo.** However, let's at least make an attempt to agree on some elements of this important topic... we all know how agreeable we are at **Gawler County Music Club ...**

Country Music has relatively simple chord progressions which contribute to its popularity and playability. It generally has a strong story-line with easy to remember lyrics. Guitars, banjos, fiddles, pedal steel guitars and harmonicas are generally the most popular musical instruments used.

But where can one begin to describe whether a song is a **Country** song or not?

The Green Green Grass of Home....?
Achy Breaky Heart?
Little Ole Wine Drinker Me?
Heaven is My Woman's Love?
Lights on the Hill?
Ten Guitars?
Folson Prison Blues?

What do they all have in common?

Em!

Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Snow, Kitty Wells, Dolly, Tex, Buddy and Slim have all sung songs about rural life. Is this what makes a true **Country Song**?

The following descriptions may provide some useful information in defining styles **Country Music?**

Country and Western is a style still popular with older audiences.... 'That can't be us...'

Country Rock is the hard driving sound of US singers and groups such as **Travis Tritt and Hank Williams Jr...** **Lee Kernaghan** blends his songs well with modern contemporary sounds. Country Rock appeals to the younger audiences..... 'Yes that's us...' 'I wish...'

Bluegrass is the blend of acoustic guitar and banjo... finger picking style very often with fiddle.

Western Swing originates from the 1940's with loads of brass and occasional fiddles.

Rockabilly up tempo with walking bass moving on from the days of **Hillbilly**.

Country Jazz, Country Blues, Gospel well what do you think?

Australian Country is a mix of styles still emerging and evolving. **Slim** has influenced the **Bush Balladeers** and the contemporary musicians who are now shaping the future of **Australian Country Music**. A strong representation from female artists is evident in the current phase of transition.

Well... having considered all of the above, and 'fallen out' with your friends while arguing about... '**What is Country Music?**'

Just give up..... But doggone it!

There is a Country Song that sums it all up.....



'I'm so lonesome I could cry....'

Gig Guide

Acknowledgement to

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