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## THE BEST MUSIC FESTIVALS IN EUROPE 2017

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*The aim* of the thesis is to make a brief observation of the main music festivals of Europe 2017 and outline the most popular and widespread music genre.

*The tasks* are to study current resources about the subject of the paper in order to get interested readers about festival and music and to popularize festival culture among young people.

*The study object* is European music festivals of different music genres.

*The methods* of observation, classification, generalization, description are used in this paper.

*The scientific novelty* of the presented work is that for the first time the author has studied various European music festivals of 2017 and verified the most popular ones within their given genres.

*Results and discussion.* Music festivals are series of performances separate from the normal concert season and often, but not always, organized around an idea or theme, such as musical genre, nationality, or locality of musicians, or holiday [2]. Music festivals commemorate anniversaries, celebrate religious or ethnic traditions, or offer music of a composer, period, or type. They usually are held annually in the summer, sometimes in the open air. Many occur in rural settings. The concept has been traced as far back as the sixth-century B. C. Pythian Games at Delphi, which included musical competitions. In the Middle Ages competitive festivals were sponsored by guilds [3].

Music festivals come in all shapes and sizes and cater for a diverse range of styles [1]. Europe's finest and biggest music festivals are some of the heaviest hitters in the world. Tomorrowland and Glastonbury lead the way, followed by Creamfields, Ultra Europe, Sziget, Primavera Sound and Rock am Ring heading up the chase.

Whether music festivals are in countryside or post-industrial landscape, Europe's 2017 festival calendar means new events, old favourites, frenzied masses and boutique charm [4].

One of the two or three most prestigious dance festivals on the planet, **Creamfields** is always full to bursting with worldwide stars. Whatever flavour of electronic music you are into, you will find more than you could ask for at Creamfields [5].

Indie King and forceful supporter of new music, *Primavera Sound* prides itself on pushing the alternative scene forward. Creativity is paramount, with headliners often standing out from the festival crowd.

If rock and heavy metal are your game, then Germany's *Rock am Ring* needs no introduction. Along with sister festival Rock im Park, it pulls unparalleled line-ups year after year, and can lay claim to being one of the best-attended weekends in the world.

*Isle of Wight Festival (IOW)* is renowned for exclusive, legendary headliners – Fleetwood Mac, The Stone Roses, Bruce Springsteen – and eclectic line-ups that pay homage to its own incredible history. Approaching 50 years from the original edition IOW is as strong as ever.

Transported across the Atlantic from Miami's glamorous city centre, *Ultra Europe* established itself as a worthy successor to the original Ultra Music Festival. The biggest DJs in the world bring Croatia's stunning Adriatic coast to its feet.

Sold out in minutes and so respected that artists fall over themselves for the chance to play, *Glastonbury* continues to set the standard in rock, pop and urban festival experiences. Old heads and fresh young superstars line up side-by-side at some of the continent's most varied and diverse stages.



*Sziget* is one of those festivals that could never spend another cent on marketing and still sell out every single year. Its reputation precedes it by almost a decade, and Budapest makes an incredible host city.

Urban music and electronic dance music form the perfect partnership at *Wireless Festival*, creating a distinctive weekend that embodies one of London's many subcultures with perfection. *Wireless* basically hand-picks its headliners each year.

*Tomorrowland* is, simply put, the biggest electronic music show on earth. Massive line-ups from any artist they could want, allied to an intense attention to detail, create a unrivalled wonderland that keeps on mesmerising the world.

A varied dance line-up sets off the shores of Lake Balaton in impressive style, marking one of the highlights of Europe's summer festival calendar. *Balaton Sound* was voted 3rd best festival in the Electronic/Dance category of the Festicket Awards 2015, behind only *Tomorrowland* and *Ultra Europe*.

Nestled in the centre of London, *Lovebox* champions creative programming and a positive sense of fun. Just like with *Wireless Festival*, it's no surprise that urban and electronic music has found such a good home in the UK capital. *Lovebox* as a festival, urban event or “happening” is without comparison.

Madcap adventuring and spectacular themes are *Bestival's* calling cards. If you're looking for a huge musical line-up, you've come to the right place; though *Bestival's* really all about endless side-performances.

*Reading Festival* rightly sits among the world's genuine rock elite. Along with *Leeds Festival* – its northern English little brother – *Reading* has diversified somewhat over the last decade, but still packs a heavy punch each August.

Every sub-genre of metal in existence carves out its own corner of *Hellfest*, adding up to the darkest and heaviest festival on the planet. Not for the faint-hearted, but steeped in overdriven beauty.

Incredible music laying down a soundtrack for an entirely purpose-built, wild-west themed city – *BoomTown Fair* takes the idea of a unique festival to a whole new level. Leave your civilian clothing at home and buckle up for a wild ride.

Founded in 2012, *Fresh Island* has become increasingly popular among hip-hop and grime fans. Last year was undoubtedly the biggest year for the festival and it is estimated to become the biggest one this year in the field of hip-hop culture.

**Conclusion.** Music Festivals have been an important site for people organizing. Festivals have become extremely plentiful and diverse nowadays. The review of the biggest European festivals has shown that the most popular music genres are electro and dance music. Festivals in these music genres are mostly held in the UK. However, other music subcultures, such as rock or hip-hop, are presented on the European scene and have their followers.

**Keywords:** music festivals, Europe, popular music genres, cultural life, electro and dance music.

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