



Key Vocabulary

melody	a sequence of musical tones that create a musical phrase or theme
contemporary	the period of music that followed the modern music period; begun in 1945—present
genre	a category or style of music, such as jazz, hip-hop, blues, or reggae, that shares similar musical characteristics
percussion	musical instruments that produce sound through striking, shaking, or scraping, like drums, shakers, and bells
polyrhythms	the simultaneous occurrence of different rhythms or beats, commonly found in African music

Notation and Dynamics

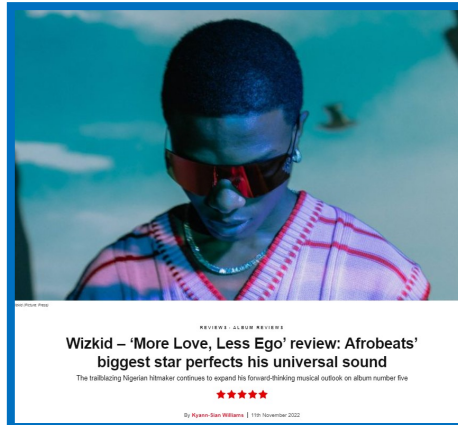
Notation refers to the way that music is written down. Written music indicates the time and length of a note to be played. Dynamics are alterations in the volume of a piece of music.

<	Crescendo: getting louder	f	Forte: loud
>	Diminuendo: getting quieter	mf	Mezzo forte: fairly loud
pp	Pianissimo: very quiet	mp	Mezzo piano: fairly quiet
p	Piano: quiet	sf	Sforzando: sudden accent
ff	Fortissimo: very loud		

L & A— African Music

What is a music review?

An NME-style music review is a concise and edgy critique of a music release, typically within 100 words. It includes a brief summary of the artist's work, an evaluation of the musical elements, and a subjective opinion on its impact. Common features include engaging language, vivid descriptions, and an emphasis on the cultural relevance, genre influences, and overall appeal of the music to the target audience. The review often reflects the distinct and bold style characteristic of the NME (New Musical Express) publication.



In this review of Nigerian-born artist Wizkid's album, 'More Love, Less Ego', the author has begun the review by describing the artist as 'forward thinking' and 'trailblazing.'

The author also provides a score for the album, by giving a perfect five out of five star score for 'More Love, Less Ego'.

The 13-track record sees the 32-year-old continue to exhibit his melodic genre-blending prowess. Tracks like 'Money & Love' and 'Flower Pads' see elements of funky Jazz and R&B being embedded into Wizkid's brand of Afropop, while recognizable tropes from the South African-born, house music indebted Amapiano movement can also be found across the record: take recent single 'Bad to Me', which utilises Amapiano-style soft-rolling 808 beats and chant-like vocals. It's refreshing to see a trailblazer like Wizkid adapt his sound.

The author makes more detailed comments here, discussing the blend of genres present in the record and mentions specific songs.



L & A—African Music

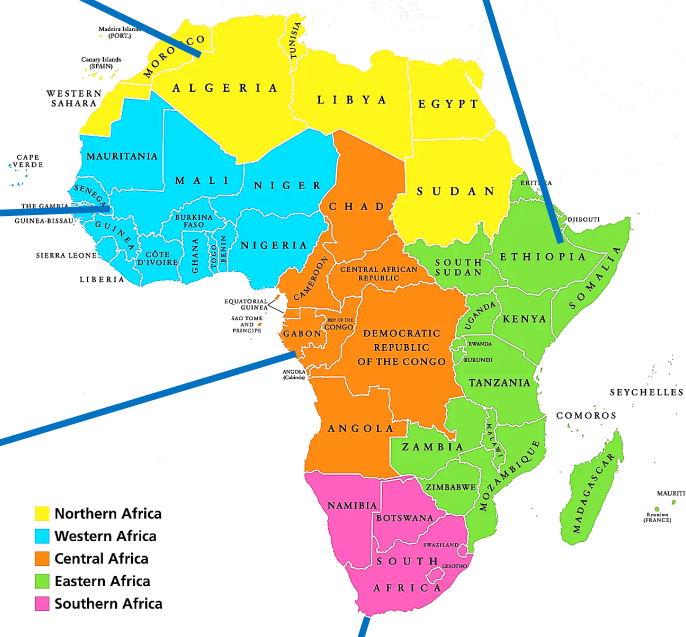
Due to its location, Northern Africa music has been heavily influenced by Ancient Greek and Roman Cultures.
Key genres: Rai, Gnawa Music

Eastern African music has been heavily influenced by Middle-Eastern music, often utilizing similar melodies.
Key genre: Inkiranya

Western African music is known for its rhythmic complexity. These rhythms are often achieved through the use of instruments such as the djembe and balafon.
Key genre: Afrobeats

Music plays a significant role in Central African social situations such as rituals, ceremonies, and celebrations. A common instrument used here is a marimba.
Key genre: Soukous

Vocal harmony, where a group of people sing together, plays a key role in Southern African music. Instruments such as the mbira are also used.
Key genres: Mbaqanga



African Instruments



A **Djembe** is a curved drum often covered with animal skin. It sits on a stand and features a hole in the top.



The **balafon** is similar to a xylophone in that it is bound with strings and played with two sticks known as clubs.



The **Marimba**, also similar to a xylophone, is made of wooden planks and a resonator and is played with two small mallets.



An **mbira**, known as a thumb piano, consists of metal tines attached to a wooden resonator box and is played by plucking the tines with the thumbs.



A **Shekere** is an instrument covered in beads and is played by simultaneously slamming the bottom of the instrument whilst shaking it too.