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# Dark wave

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(Redirected from [Darkwave](#))

For the 1956 documentary film, see [The Dark Wave](#).

## Dark wave

- Stylistic origins**
- [New wave](#)
  - [post-punk](#)
  - [gothic rock](#)
  - [post-industrial](#)
  - [synthpop](#)

**Cultural origins** Late 1970s to early 1980s in Europe (most notably United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy) and Australia

## Subgenres

- [Coldwave](#)
- [ethereal wave](#)
- [neoclassical](#)
- [neofolk](#)
- [Neue Deutsche Todeskunst](#) ([complete list](#))

## Regional scenes

- [Coldwave](#)
- [Neue Deutsche Todeskunst](#)

## Other topics

- [Notable releases](#)
- [dark rock](#)
- [dark pop](#)

**Dark wave** or **darkwave** is a musical term used for dark, usually [gothic rock](#)-influenced music that incorporates [synthesizers](#), or elements of [new wave](#) and [synthpop](#), although the term is also applied to [post-punk](#) bands that produce a dark atmosphere. The label began to appear in the late 1970s in German music media, coinciding with the popularity of new wave and post-punk. Building on those basic principles,<sup>[1]</sup> dark wave is used to describe dark, introspective lyrics and an undertone of [sorrow](#) for some bands. In the 1980s, a subculture developed primarily in Europe alongside dark wave music, whose members were called "wavers"<sup>[2][3]</sup> or "dark wavers".<sup>[4][5]</sup>

## Contents

- [1 History](#)
  - [1.1 1980s](#)
  - [1.2 1990s](#)
  - [1.3 The 2000s and "wave"-divergence](#)
- [2 Darkwave in the 2010s](#)
- [3 Bibliography](#)
- [4 See also](#)
- [5 References](#)
- [6 External links](#)

## History

### 1980s



[Dead Can Dance](#) in 2005

The term was coined in Germany in the 1980s to describe a dark and melancholy variant of new wave and post-punk music, such as gothic rock and [synthwave](#) (i.e. electronic [new wave music](#)), and was first applied to musicians such as [Bauhaus](#),<sup>[6]</sup> [Joy Division](#),<sup>[7][8][9]</sup> [The Sisters of Mercy](#), [Tears for Fears](#), [Cocteau Twins](#), [The Cure](#),<sup>[8][10]</sup> [Siouxsie and the Banshees](#),<sup>[8]</sup> [The Chameleons](#),<sup>[8]</sup> [Depeche Mode](#), [Gary Numan](#), and [Anne Clark](#).<sup>[11]</sup>

The movement spread internationally, spawning such developments as French [coldwave](#). Coldwave described groups such as [KaS Product](#),<sup>[12]</sup> [Martin Dupont](#), [Asylum Party](#), [Norma Loy](#), [Pavillon 7B](#), [Résistance](#), [Clair Obscur](#), [Opera Multi Steel](#), [Museum of Devotion](#), [The Breath of Life](#), and [Trisomie 21](#). Subsequently, different dark wave genres merged and influenced each other, e.g. synthwave (also referred to as "electro-wave" in Germany) with gothic rock, or used elements of [post-industrial music](#). [Attrition](#),<sup>[13]</sup> [In The Nursery](#), [Party Day](#),<sup>[14]</sup> and [Pink Industry](#) (UK), [Clan of Xymox](#) (Netherlands), [Mittageisen](#) (Switzerland),<sup>[15]</sup> [Parálisis Permanente](#) and [Los Monaguillosh](#) (Spain), [Die Form](#) (France), and [Psyche](#) (Canada) played this music in the 1980s. German dark wave groups of the 1980s were associated with the [Neue Deutsche Welle](#), and included [Asmodi Bizarr](#), [II. Invasion](#), [Unlimited Systems](#), [Mask For](#), [Moloko †](#), [Maerchenbraut](#),<sup>[16]</sup> and [Xmal Deutschland](#). In the United States, [Eleven Pond](#) were the most prominent darkwave act, releasing just one album, [Bas Relief](#), in 1986.<sup>[17]</sup>

### 1990s