**Sub-Saharan**

Music is considered the food for the soul. It is used to effectively convey the meaning of our thoughts and the emotions and feelings going in our mind. Some countries and even continents have a rich history of music. One of these continents is Africa. African music has a rich culture and a long history that dates back to BC (Agawu, 2014). Point to any instrument, anything at all, and it is sure it originated from either Africa or China, or the instrument’s ancestor came from the same. Few instruments evolved independently from any African or Chinese influence.

In terms of musical style, almost everything in the Billboard top 100 today is influenced by African music. African rhythm has infused itself in genres like jazz, gospel, rock and roll, blues, and dance just to name a few. Now knowing that these genres are the precursors to many of the other genres we have now, like hip hop, rap, metal, etc., you can see the breadth of the influence of African music. Interestingly, the “whitest” genre, metal, is actually not quite “white”, drawing heavily from African and Indian music, as well as European folk music.

African music had an enormous impact over the various genres of the music of other countries as well. Jazz and polyrhythmic music are two of the most popular examples of such music. One of the few things the French admire about America is the invention of jazz and the many American composers and performers who have contributed to its development since the early 20th century ((Agawu, 2014). Some American jazz composers who have had a world impact include Scott Joplin (ragtime, the “American classical music” style that “played” a significant role in the development of early jazz), George Gershwin, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Samuel Barber.

**References**

Agawu, K. (2014). *Representing African music: Postcolonial notes, queries, positions*. Routledge.