
English folklore

The most authentic expressions of English Canada's folkloric repertoire are heard in eastern Canada in the Atlantic provinces of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Traditional Scottish music, for instance, thrives in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The influx of immigrants to Newfoundland from famine-stricken Ireland in the 1840s left a rich Irish repertoire that continues to flourish. Alongside the English cultural heritage, Canadians and Americans devised their own folk music expressing their experiences. The cowboy's lonely lament created the Country and Western songs, still popular today.

Other influences

The waves of immigrants arriving from eastern Europe and Asia before the 1900s enriched Canada's folkloric traditions. Today, 40 main cultures can be identified, each with its own music and dance. Various folk groups, including the Canadian Folk Music Society, sustain these traditions.



The late Hugh LeCaine, Canadian physicist and composer, was a pioneer in the development of electronic music. One of his earliest inventions was the synthetic device called Electronic Sackbutt.