

# Greek Music

Music plays a major role in Greek culture. Throughout Greek history, music has been used as a way of expressing emotions, identity and stories and continues to this day. There are three main categories of Greek music to be aware of: Rembetika- blues, Demotika- traditional folk, Laika- popular music.

**Rembetika:** Is the Greek version of the Blues. This was style of music influenced by the sounds of Asia Minor and was developed during the oppressive time of the Ottoman rule in Greece. The bouzouki instrument is a prominent feature to this style of music. Rembetika and the sound of the bouzouki had a major influence to the style of Laika- popular music, which is now listened to by many today. – (Matt Barrets Travel Guides, Rembetika and Greek Popular Music, [www.greektravel.com/music/rembetiksa](http://www.greektravel.com/music/rembetiksa))

Traditional Greek folk music is referred to as Demotika. Many Greek people living in Australia would have grown up listening to this music and continue to listen to it today. This music includes songs and dances from the islands referred to as Nisiotika. Each island has its own way of singing and performing songs by using different instruments or variations of a tune. The themes of Demotika music usually centre on important life influences such as marriage, death, working, love, and migrating. Instruments that are featured in Demotika include the violin, percussion instrument, the lyre (an eight stringed instrument) and the clarinet. ([www.greekcare.org.au](http://www.greekcare.org.au))

Usually Greek people will like to listen to Greek music whilst going along with their daily activities such cooking, cleaning and reading the newspaper.

## Accessing Greek Music:

The easiest way to access Greek music and Greek community news and events in Brisbane is to tune into 4EB 98.1FM Ethnic Community Radio. You can access the program of the station by going to this link:

<http://www.4eb.org.au/node/66> to find out when Greek is being aired.

Greek music and news can also be accessed through SBS radio on 93.3FM.

<http://www.radio.sbs.com.au/language.php?language=Greek>

Greek music can be purchased at music stores such as HMV, Kmart, and Big W under WORLD MUSIC or the INTERNATIONAL MUSIC section.