

ADDITIONS TO THE ISU ICE DANCE MUSIC RHYTHMS BOOKLET 1995

HIP HOP

Hip-Hop music is a musical genre consisting of a stylized rhythmic music originally created by DJs isolating the percussion breaks of popular songs, sometimes with two turntables to extend the breaks. Turntablist techniques, such as scratching, beat mixing/matching, and beat juggling eventually developed along with the breaks.

Hip-Hop music commonly accompanies rapping, a rhythmic and rhyming speech that is chanted. Beats, almost always in 4/4 time signature, can be created by sampling and/or sequencing portions of other songs. They also incorporate synthesizers, drum machines, and live bands. Rappers may write, memorize, or improvise their lyrics and perform their works *a capella* or to a percussive beat.

While often used to refer to rapping, Hip-Hop more properly denotes the practice of the entire subculture. The term *hip-hop music* is sometimes used synonymously with the term *rap music*, though rapping is not a required component of hip-hop music; the genre may also incorporate other elements of hip-hop culture.

To comply with the ethical values of sports, Hip-Hop music chosen for Ice Dance competitions must not include aggressive and/or offending lyrics.

Hip-Hop dance refers to dance styles primarily danced to hip-hop music or that have evolved as part of hip-hop culture. This includes a wide range of styles which were created in the 1970s by African Americans. What separates hip-hop dance from other forms of dance is that it is often *freestyle* (improvisational).

More than 35 years old, Hip-Hop dance has become widely known. Due to the popularity of these improvisational styles, the dance industry responded with a studio based version of hip-hop—sometimes called *new style*—and *jazz funk*. These styles were developed by technically trained dancers who wanted to create choreography for Hip-Hop music from the Hip-Hop dances they saw being performed on the street. Because of this development, Hip-Hop dance is now practiced at both studios and outside spaces. This studio Hip-Hop, often called *new style*, is the type of Hip-Hop dance seen in most rap, R&B, and pop music videos and concerts.

From a technical aspect, Hip-Hop dance is characterized as hard-hitting involving flexibility and isolations—moving a certain body part independently from others. The chest is down and the body is kept loose so that a dancer can easily alternate between hitting the beat or riding through the beat. This is in contrast to ballet or ballroom dancing where the chest is upright and the body is stidiff. In addition, Hip-Hop is very rhythmic and emphasis is placed on self expression, musicality—how sensitive your movements are to the music—and being able to freestyle. As long as dancers maintain the foundational movements, they can add their own (free)style and have a performance that is still Hip-Hop.

Following are some YouTube examples of *new style* Hip-Hop taken from TV dance performances. They are indicative of the many possibilities for dance styles and music.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o8we0lJptM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emy9R7zxAlg&feature=fvwr>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or-MW9J_pcc&feature=related

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4xW_aDYtJk&feature=relmfu