Sound of the West Midlands

The West Midlands is the birthplace of two major music genres – heavy metal and two-tone – but is also home to a range of artists inspired by its heritage, diversity and energy.

From classical to indie, pop, bhangra and rap – the sound of the West Midlands is recognised across the globe.

Many of the region’s top artists are also profiled for their creativity and bold thinking in ‘50 ways the West Midlands has made its mark’. This includes West Midlands acts ranging from Black Sabbath to Jorja Smith, who have earned international recognition and awards. A pioneer of electronic music, Coventry’s Delia Derbyshire, created the original theme tune to Doctor Who. And composer Edward Elgar penned the world’s first ever football chant, called ‘He Banged the Leather for Goal’, for Wolverhampton Wanderers.

To learn more about how the West Midlands’ vibrant cultural scene has shaped the world, visit makeitwm.com.

You can also stream the Top 40 of the West Midlands via a Spotify playlist called ‘Sound of the West Midlands’, where every artist or band has a connection to the region. Here’s a list of the tracks in full:
Sound of the West Midlands

Top 40 playlist

Electric Light Orchestra – Mr. Blue Sky
Black Sabbath – Iron Man
Led Zeppelin – Whole Lotta Love
Duran Duran – Rio
Dexys Midnight Runners – Come On Eileen
UB40 – Red Red Wine
Fine Young Cannibals – She Drives Me Crazy
The Streets – Has It Come to This?
The Vamps – All Night
Liam Payne – Strip That Down
Slade – Cum on Feel the Noize
Laura Mvula – Green Garden
The Beat – Mirror in the Bathroom
The Selecter – On my Radio
Judas Priest – Breaking the Law
Aman Hayer – Tharti Hilde
Ocean Colour Scene – The Riverboat Song
Musical Youth – Pass The Dutchie
Babylon Zoo – Spaceman
Beverley Knight – Middle of Love
Sukshinder Shinda – Dildarian
Goldie – I Adore You
Jorja Smith – On My Mind
Lady Leshurr – Queen’s Speech 4
The Enemy – Away from Here
Panjabi MC - Mundian to Bach Ke
Napalm Death – The Wolf I Feed
Edward Elgar – Cello Concerto in E Minor
Delia Derbyshire – Doctor Who (Original Theme)
James Morrison – Broken Strings
Klaxons – Golden Skans
Pato Banton – Baby Come Back
Harry Styles – Sign of the Times
Spacemen 3 – Lord Can You Hear Me?
Malkit Singh – Jind Mahi
Lotto Boyzz – Birmingham
The Wonder Stuff – The Size Of A Cow
The Specials – Gangsters
Dodgy – Good Enough
Jamelia – Superstar

Stream the Sound of the West Midlands playlist on Spotify today.
About us

The West Midlands Growth Company helps the region to make its mark nationally and internationally. Its primary purpose is to attract investment, jobs, visitors and businesses to the West Midlands.

It is committed to promoting the area as a leading place to invest, do business and visit, working in partnership with Local Enterprise Partnerships, Councils, Growth Hubs, Universities, Chambers of Commerce and hundreds of local businesses.

Find out more at > wmgrowth.com