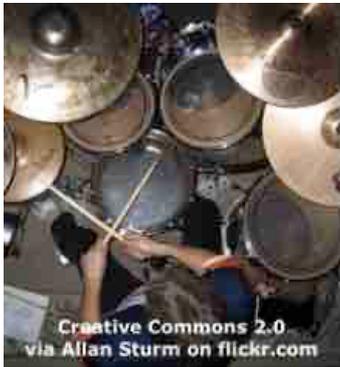


Chechnya bans music that is too slow or too fast

11th April 2024



The culture ministry of the Russian republic of Chechnya has made a rule about what speed of music people can listen to. The ministry has banned songs that are too fast or too slow. It made an announcement about the tempo of songs allowed. It said: "From now on, all

musical, vocal and choreographic works should correspond to a tempo of between 80 to 116 beats per minute." The new standard, which starts at 80 beats per minute, is much slower than a lot of modern-day pop music. However, the Russian national anthem is usually played at 76 beats per minute. There has been no word from the culture ministry about whether the anthem can be played. It seems likely the anthem will be an exception to the new rule.

The ban on music that is too up-tempo or too down-tempo is to protect Chechnya's culture and traditions. The Moscow Times said it was, "to root out any hint of Westernization". Chechnya's leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, said the ban was to make music, "conform to the Chechen mentality". He added: "Borrowing musical culture from other people's is inadmissible." Musa Dadaev, Chechnya's culture minister, said: "We must bring to the people and to the future of our children the cultural heritage of the Chechen people." Local artists have until June the 1st to rewrite their songs to follow the new tempo. People in Chechnya will no longer be able to listen to techno music, or many songs by Beyonce, Drake and Taylor Swift.

Sources: themoscowtimes.com / politico.eu / sky.com

Writing

Traditional music is better than pop music. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

culture ministry / Chechnya / music / tempo / beats per minute / national anthem / traditions / Westernization / ban / the future / heritage / techno music / songs

True / False

- 1) Chechnya's Ministry of Sound has banned up-tempo music. T / F
- 2) Chechnya has set a beats per minute range for allowable music. T / F
- 3) Most modern-day pop music is above 116 beats per minute. T / F
- 4) Russia's national anthem is slower than Chechnya's tempo range. T / F
- 5) The music ban is to protect Chechnya's culture from Westernization. T / F
- 6) Chechnya's leader said techno music is bad for mental health. T / F
- 7) Local artists were asked to rewrite their songs to fit the tempo range. T / F
- 8) People in Chechnya can still listen to all of Beyonce's songs. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. rule | a. special case |
| 2. banned | b. follow |
| 3. allowed | c. prohibited |
| 4. correspond | d. tunes |
| 5. exception | e. safeguard |
| 6. protect | f. regulation |
| 7. root out | g. match up with |
| 8. conform to | h. history |
| 9. heritage | i. permitted |
| 10. songs | j. destroy |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Westernization?
- c) What other cultures are affecting your own?
- d) What is the 'mentality' of your culture?
- e) Is it OK to borrow music from other cultures?
- f) What music from other cultures do you like?
- g) What do you think of techno music?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Chechnya's culture ministry?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The culture ministry of the Russian | a. 80 to 116 beats per minute |
| 2. a tempo of between | b. artists |
| 3. much slower than a lot of modern- | c. to the new rule |
| 4. Russian national | d. our children |
| 5. the anthem will be an exception | e. day pop music |
| 6. root out any hint | f. able to listen |
| 7. the future of | g. anthem |
| 8. cultural | h. of Westernization |
| 9. Local | i. heritage |
| 10. longer be | j. republic of Chechnya |

Discussion – Student B

- What kinds of music do you like?
- What do you think of your country's traditional music?
- What do you think of Chechnya's music ban?
- Do you prefer fast or slow music?
- Which is better, music or songs?
- What do you think of your national anthem?
- What are your favourite songs?
- What advice do you have for music lovers in Chechnya?

Spelling

- The culture isnirmty
- the Russian ipcbleru of Chechnya
- It made an canonteenunm
- the mpoet of songs
- the Russian national mteahn
- an neoeicxtp to the new rule
- tctpreo Chechnya's culture
- conform to the Chechen nilatymet
- the utuerf of our children
- cultural itehgear
- Local artstsi
- ctnoeh music

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. g	5. a
6. e	7. j	8. b	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Classical

You think classical is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): techno, pop or rap.

Role B – Techno

You think techno is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, pop or rap.

Role C – Pop

You think pop is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): techno, classical or rap.

Role D – Rap

You think rap is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): techno, pop or classical.

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music genres at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| • Folk | • Opera |
| • Classical | • Jazz |
| • Rap | • Pop |
| • Techno | • Ambient |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.