

Popular Music in Iran

Iran – Persian culture, Farsi



political/religious policies

Ershad – government's ministry of Islamic Guidance

Since the 1979 Revolution, the government has wanted to prevent Western influence on culture

Censorship

Solo female performance is forbidden in public (except in front of all-female audiences) – to protect the “sexuality” of women

Dancing is forbidden on stage

Lyrics – grammatical errors are forbidden, unsuitable words, lyrics that declare love for anyone but Allah

Musical Style – too much electric guitar is forbidden

Appearance – shaved heads, unsuitable clothes

Rap

Rap music – deemed “illegal” 2007 (same year, there was a crackdown on fashion)

Many recording studios have been shut down

Rap-e-Fahrs (rap in Farsi) – lyrics are political, sexual – influenced by Iranian rap scene in Los Angeles – circulated back to Tehran via underground networks

Music Distribution

No nightclubs – musicians have no place to perform

Internet – government censorship, but they find ways around it - tehran360.com

2009 – a rock concert was raided by police – 109 audience members arrested for being devil worshippers and drinking alcohol (alcohol is banned in the Islamic republic)

Iran – traditional instruments

Tar (left) Setar (middle)



Kamanchech – spiked fiddle

