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Introduction

It is argued by some that The Beatles were on of the most important bands in music. I wouldn't argue with that but I'd place Düsseldorf quartet Kraftwerk on at least equal footing and possibly on a bigger pedestal. The Liverpoolian band revolutionised pop music and song-writing, and possibly invented the heavy metal genre with Helter Skelter from The White Album. Kraftwerk and their synthesised melodies coupled with machine-like rhythms changed the face of pop music more. They influenced the like of David Bowie, who in turn influenced the emerging New Romantic scene of the early 80's, and rather bizarrely seemed to be the single most influential factor in the creation of the hip hop genre. Kraftwerk were innovators and brought their Teutonic influences to a series of ground-breaking albums starting with 1975's *Autobahn*.

Of course, Kraftwerk were in turn influenced by those pioneers who came before them and weren't always totally electronic. This film traces the two scenes of the influential Krautrock genre and the origins of German electronic music. Music was never meant to be electronic, and never totally electronic, it just wasn't done. Two pioneers led the way and turned expectations on their head; France's Pierre Schaeffer and Germany's Karlheinz Stockhausen.

10 / 10
score

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This in turn influenced two distinct scenes in Germany; one in Berlin centred around the Zodiac Club and the other in Düsseldorf. Whilst both were highly influential in terms of creating an electronic underground scene in Germany, the Berlin scene tended to be much more serious about their art than those in Düsseldorf who appeared almost campy (according to contributor Ingeborg Schober, this was mainly due to the fact that most advertising agencies were centred around this area and thus the importance of image and presentation influenced the Düsseldorf crew).



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