Best Smartphones for Music Lovers and Audiophiles

Description

Best Smartphones for Music Lovers and Audiophiles in 2024

In an era where streaming services and high-resolution audio dominate the music industry, having a smartphone that delivers exceptional sound quality is essential for music lovers and audiophiles. While many modern smartphones offer decent audio performance, only a select few are engineered with premium DACs (Digital-to-Analog Converters), high-fidelity audio processing, and superior speaker setups.

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Whether youâ??re a casual listener, a dedicated audiophile, or a musician, choosing the right smartphone can significantly enhance your listening experience. Below, we explore the **best smartphones for music lovers and audiophiles in 2024**, considering sound quality, hardware capabilities, software optimization, and additional features like headphone jacks and expandable storage.

Key Features to Look for in a Music-Focused Smartphone

Before diving into the best options, itâ??s important to understand the key features that make a smartphone ideal for music enthusiasts:

1. High-Quality DAC (Digital-to-Analog Converter)

A dedicated DAC ensures that digital audio files are converted into analog signals with minimal distortion, preserving detail and clarity. Some smartphones come with **ESS Sabre, Cirrus Logic, or AKM DACs**, which are industry-leading components for high-fidelity audio.

2. 3.5mm Headphone Jack (or High-Quality USB-C Audio)

While many flagship phones have abandoned the headphone jack, audiophiles often prefer wired connections for lossless audio. Some brands still include a **3.5mm jack**, while others rely on **USB-C audio with high-resolution support**.

3. High-Resolution Audio Support

Look for smartphones that support **24-bit/192kHz audio, MQA (Master Quality Authenticated), or LDAC (Sonyâ??s high-quality Bluetooth codec)**. These formats ensure that you get the best

possible sound from lossless streaming services like **Tidal, Qobuz, or Apple Music Lossless**.

4. Powerful Stereo Speakers

For those who enjoy listening without headphones, **dual stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos, Harman Kardon tuning, or Dirac Audio** provide immersive sound.

5. Expandable Storage (for Local Music Libraries)

Audiophiles often store high-resolution FLAC or WAV files, which take up significant space. A **microSD card slot** allows for expandable storage, making it easier to carry an extensive music library.

6. Low Latency & Bluetooth Codec Support

For musicians or those using wireless earbuds, **aptX Adaptive, aptX Lossless, or LC3plus** ensure minimal audio delay and high-quality wireless transmission.

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7. Customizable EQ & Audio Enhancements

Some smartphones offer **graphic equalizers, sound presets, and AI-based audio tuning** to tailor the listening experience to individual preferences.

Best Smartphones for Music Lovers & Audiophiles in 2024

1. ASUS ROG Phone 7 â?? Best for Gamers & Audiophiles

Why Itâ??s Great for Music:
â?? **ESS Sabre ES9281AC Pro Quad DAC** (one of the best mobile DACs available)
â?? **3.5mm headphone jack with 350mW amplifier** (supports high-impedance headphones)
â?? **Dual front-facing stereo speakers with Dirac HD Sound & Dolby Atmos**
â?? **LDAC, aptX Adaptive, and aptX Lossless support** for wireless audio
â?? **6,000mAh battery** (great for long listening sessions)
â?? **Expandable storage via microSD** (up to 2TB)

Downsides:
â?? Bulky design (not ideal for slim pockets)
â?? Gaming-focused UI may not appeal to all users

Best For: Audiophiles who also game, those who use high-impedance headphones, and users who want the best wired audio experience.

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2. Sony Xperia 1 V â?? Best for High-Resolution Audio & Musicians

Why Itâ??s Great for Music:
â?? **3.5mm headphone jack with high-resolution audio support**
â?? **LDAC, DSEE Ultimate, and 360 Reality Audio** for immersive sound
â?? **Dual stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos & 3D surround sound**
â?? **4K OLED display with 120Hz refresh rate** (great for music videos)
â?? **Expandable storage (microSD up to 1TB)**
â?? **Low-latency audio for musicians** (ideal for digital audio workstations)

Downsides:
â?? Expensive compared to competitors
â?? Average battery life

Best For: Musicians, producers, and audiophiles who prioritize high-resolution audio and immersive sound.

3. LG V60 ThinQ 5G (Discontinued but Still a Top Pick for Audiophiles)

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Why Itâ??s Great for Music:
â?? **Quad DAC (ESS Sabre ES9218P) with 32-bit/384kHz support**
â?? **3.5mm headphone jack with high-impedance support (up to 600Î©)**
â?? **DTS:X 3D audio & Meridian tuning** for speakers
â?? **Expandable storage (microSD up to 2TB)**
â?? **Dual-screen option** (useful for music production apps)

Downsides:
â?? No longer in production (but available refurbished)
â?? Older Snapdragon 865 chipset

Best For: Budget-conscious audiophiles who want a **dedicated DAC and headphone jack** without spending on a new flagship.

4. iPhone 15 Pro Max â?? Best for Apple Ecosystem & Wireless Audio

Why Itâ??s Great for Music:
â?? **Appleâ??s A17 Pro chip with advanced audio processing**
â?? **Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos** (great for Apple Music Lossless)
â?? **USB-C port with high-resolution audio support (up to 24-bit/48kHz)**
â?? **Adaptive EQ & dynamic head tracking** for AirPods
â?? **Excellent app ecosystem (Logic Pro, GarageBand, Tidal, Qobuz)**

Downsides:
â?? **No 3.5mm headphone jack** (requires Lightning/USB-C adapter)
â?? **No expandable storage**
â?? **LDAC not supported** (uses AAC for Bluetooth)

Best For: Apple users who rely on **AirPods, Apple Music, and spatial audio** for a seamless wireless experience.

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5. Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra â?? Best for Android Audiophiles with Wireless Focus

Why Itâ??s Great for Music:
â?? **AKG-tuned stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos**
â?? **USB-C audio with high-resolution support (up to 32-bit/384kHz)**
â?? **LDAC, aptX Adaptive, and Samsung Scalable Codec** for wireless audio
â?? **One UIâ??s built-in equalizer & Adapt Sound** (personalized audio tuning)
â?? **DeX mode for music production** (connects to monitors for DAW use)

Downsides:
â?? **No 3.5mm headphone jack**
â?? **No expandable storage**

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Best For: Android users who want **high-quality wireless audio and a premium display** for music videos.

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6. FiiO M17 â?? Best Dedicated Music Player (Smartphone Alternative)

Why Itâ??s Great for Music:
â?? **Not a phone, but a high-end portable music player**
â?? **Dual AK4499EX DACs with 32-bit/768kHz & DSD512 support**
â?? **Balanced 4.4mm & 2.5mm outputs + 3.5mm single-ended jack**
â?? **Android 11 OS with streaming app support (Tidal, Qobuz, Spotify)**
â?? **THX AAA-78 amplifier for high-impedance headphones**
â?? **Expandable storage (microSD up to 2TB)**

Downsides:
â?? **Not a phone** (requires a separate device for calls/messages)
â?? **Expensive for a dedicated player**

Best For: Hardcore audiophiles who want the **absolute best sound quality** without smartphone compromises.

Final Verdict: Which Smartphone Should You Choose?

Use Case	Best Smartphone
Best Overall for Audiophiles	ASUS ROG Phone 7 (Quad DAC + 3.5mm jack)
Best for High-Resolution Audio	Sony Xperia 1 V (LDAC + 3.5mm jack)
Best for Apple Users	iPhone 15 Pro Max (Spatial Audio + Apple Music)

Use Case	Best Smartphone
Best for Android Wireless Audio	Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra (LDAC + AKG speakers)
Best Budget Audiophile Pick	LG V60 ThinQ (Quad DAC + expandable storage)
Best Dedicated Music Player	FiiO M17 (Dual DAC + THX AAA amp)

Conclusion

Choosing the best smartphone for music depends on your prioritiesâ??whether itâ??s **wired audio quality, wireless convenience, or immersive speaker performance**. The **ASUS ROG Phone 7** stands out as the best all-around choice for audiophiles, thanks to its **quad DAC and 3.5mm jack**, while the **Sony Xperia 1 V** is ideal for those who want **high-resolution audio and musician-friendly features**.

For Apple users, the **iPhone 15 Pro Max** delivers **seamless spatial audio integration**, while the **Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra** is the best Android option for **wireless audiophiles**. If youâ??re willing to forgo phone functionality, the **FiiO M17** offers **unmatched sound quality** for serious music lovers.

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No matter which device you choose, investing in a **high-quality pair of headphones or IEMs** (like the **Sony WH-1000XM5, Sennheiser HD 400S, or Campfire Audio Andromeda**) will further enhance your listening experience. Happy listening!

Category

1. Uncategorized

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vvfvw