

Topic Background

Samba is a Brazilian music style with African roots and infectious rhythms. It developed as urban music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

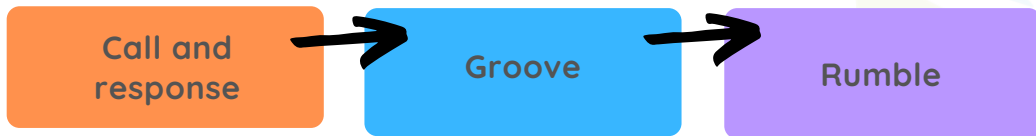
One of the greatest parties on earth happens in Rio De Janerio, Brazil. It is a celebration where music and dance play a major role. The most popular music performed in the Carnival is the percussion based style of samba music.

Today we see huge samba bands made up of 100's of musicians parading down the street at carnival time with dancers dressed in the most elaborate costumes and out of this world, magical scenes built upon gigantic floats travelling down the samba strip.

Samba music is the heart and soul of community life in Rio De Janerio.

Musical Knowledge

Structure of Samba



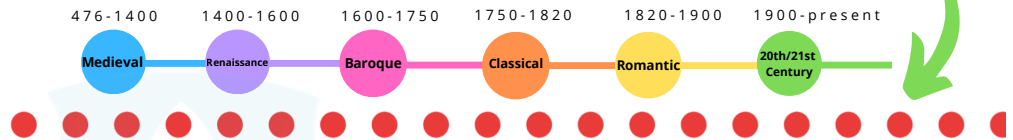
- crotchet
1 beat note
- crotchet rest
1 beat rest
- quaver
1/2 beat note
- paired quavers
two 1/2 beat notes
- two paired quavers
four 1/2 beat notes

Instruments

- agogo
- tamborim
- apito
- ganza
- surdo

Listening Pieces

- Rhythm is Gonna Get You, Gloria Estafan and Miami Sound Machine, 1987



Key Vocabulary

- call and response:** two phrases, the first phrase being the call and the second phrase is a response to the first
- conductor:** the leader of the orchestra, letting the musicians know when and how to play
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- ensemble:** a group of performers
- groove:** main section of repeated patterns layered on top of one another
- leaping:** moving more than one pitch at a time
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- neutral clef:** a symbol located at the beginning of a staff line used to indicate that the instruments used to perform the notation are untuned percussion
- octave:** eight notes of the scale
- off beat:** the weaker beats of the bar
- ostinato:** a musical phrase or rhythm which is repeated
- polyphony:** layering two or more melodies
- polyrhythm:** two or more rhythms played at the same time
- pulse:** the steady heartbeat of the music
- quaver:** a note worth half a beat, represented by a solid dot, a stem and a tail
- rhythm:** patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer note
- round:** a song in which singers perform the same melody but at staggered starting points, producing an overlapping harmony
- structure:** how a piece is organised
- texture:** combining different layers of music to give an overall effect
- timbre:** the unique sound of an instrument or piece of music

