

# Latin American and Caribbean Music

## History

- Latin American music is made up of many genres, cultures, and traditions of music which evolved over hundreds of years. Music of indigenous communities, which are the first people to live in a particular place, can even be thousands of years old.
- Music in these countries today represents combinations and influences from the indigenous people, European slave trade, technology, migration, Afro-Latinx citizens, and popular music from around the world.
- Music can be used to understand each other and tell stories by sharing different instruments, musical styles, and dances.
- Indigenous people, like the Maya and Incas, commonly used percussion and wind instruments made from local natural materials.
- People around the world love music from Latin American and Caribbean countries because it is easy to dance to and helps people connect to each other.

## Music of Mexico and Fun Fact

- Mariachi music comes from Mexico and celebrates the joys, struggles and achievements of the Mexican people
- Mariachi Instruments: violin, guitar, harp, trumpet, vihuela and guitarrón
- Ranchera is a type of music from Mexico that celebrates the ranching lifestyle
- Ranchera Instruments: violin, guitar, harp, trumpet, vihuela, guitarrón, saxophone, snare drum, harmonica, electric guitar and synthesizer
- Vicente Fernandez is considered a National Hero of Mexico, he is a Ranchera singer
- The Day of the Dead, or El Día de los Muertos, is a Mexican holiday that celebrates the lives of loved ones who have passed away.

## Music in Life Lesson

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom" played by Selena. "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom" is a pop song written in the Mexican Cumbia style. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

## Music of Cuba, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic

- The music genres highlighted from Cuba are Mambo and Cha Cha Cha
- Instruments of Mambo: trumpet, saxophone, double bass, maracas, cowbell, congas and bongos
- Reggae is a feel-good genre from Jamaica
- Bob Marley, whose music speaks of peace and social justice, brought Reggae to the world
- Instruments of Reggae: lead guitar, rhythm guitar, drums, bass, keyboards and vocals
- Merengue and Bachata are the highlighted genres from the Dominican Republic. They are similar but Merengue is faster, and Bachata is slower

## Music of Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Panama and Belize

- Puerto Rico brings us the sounds of Bomba, Plena and Reggaeton music
- Instruments of Bomba and Plena: Tambores, Barril de Bomba, Subidor and Buleador
- The highlighted genres from Trinidad & Tobago are Calypso and Soca
- Instruments of Calypso and Soca: Steelpan drum, marimba, horns, shaker, guitar and vocals
- Tamborito is the genre highlighted from Panama
- Tamborito is a style of music and a dance. It is sung and danced to celebrate love, life and work
- The musical style of Brukdown comes from Belize
- A Donkey's Jawbone is an unusual instrument that is played in Brukdown music, used by running a stick up and down the teeth

Music Workshop is grateful for our foundation, corporate and personal partners who help us to create and deliver a free of charge music education program for all students’ grades K-8. We thank them for educating, inspiring and motivating students through the art of music.

# Partners

















