

Class name: Latin Percussion

USC Thornton School of Music

Class code: MUJZ 218 A, MUJZ 218 B Units: 2

Section: 44461

Room: TMC G128

Time: Fridays 10-11:50 AM Course Instructor: Aaron Serfaty

Office: TMC G134

Office hours: By appointment only Email: serfaty@usc.edu

This class focuses on popular rhythms of Cuba, Brazil and Perú and their percussion instruments. There is a strong emphasis on proper hand technique and proper feel of the styles studied.

Styles:

Cuba: Son, Son Montuno, Guaracha, Mambo, Mozambique, Conga de Comparsa, Guaguango, Bembe, Pilon.

Peru: Festejo, Lando, Marinera.

Brazil: Samba da Roda, Batucada, Choro, Samba Reggae.

Instruments: Congas, bongos, timbales, güiro, cajon, surdo, caixa de guerra, tamborim, chocalho.

Grading is based on attendance (10%), performance and participation in class (30%), one concert report (20%), and one final exam (40%).

Practice: There are three congas in CTV G128 available for practice at during hours of operation. Once the class roster is finalized other congas can be checked out through the music operations office.

Listening: There are many resources available. I suggest Spotify, Youtube and Pandora.

This is a short list of names to look for: Ray Barretto, Giovanni Hidalgo, Miguel “Anga” Diaz, Jerry Gonzalez, Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente, Ismael Quintana (A.K.A. Changuito), Candido Camero.

Week 1

Introduction to “Latin” music. Warm up routine. Basic conga sounds: open tone, Palm tone, muted tone, slap tone. Proper hand technique. Beginning marcha. Watch videos of Pedrito Martinez, Giovanni Hidalgo, and Ray Barretto.

Week 2

Review of basic tones and marcha. Expand to two slap sounds. Familiarizing with the basic styles of popular Cuban music that utilize the marcha pattern; son montuno, mambo, guaracha.

Week 3 and 4

Basic principles of clave and its origin. Introduction of two drum patterns. Expand to three slap patterns. Beginning bongo. Assignment: Find a song and talk about the direction of the clave.

Week 5

Pachanga, both modern and traditional with two drums. Introduction of the güiro. Transitions between mambo and pachanga.

Week 6

6/8 patterns for bembé. Understanding the 6/8 clave as the origin of the 4/4 clave.

Week 7 and 8

Rumba guaguancó, its socio-political history and the three main styles.

Week 9

Conga de comparsa and the Latin music of the 50's including the Mozambique. Rickey Ricardo (Desi Arnaz), Xavier Cougat, Damaso Perez Prado, Tito Puente.

Week 10

Chachacha and its origin in European music. Introduction to the timbales. The use of cowbells to build intensity in the music. Bolero on congas, timbales, and bongó.

Week 11

Introduction to Afro Peruvian music. The cajon and its most popular patterns, Lando, Festejo and Marinera.

Week 12

Introduction to the music of Brazil and its drums. Tamborim, pandeiro, surdo, caixa.

Week 13

Batucada with calls and responses. Samba reggae.

Week 14

Final exam. Playing and recognizing styles and patterns learned throughout the semester.