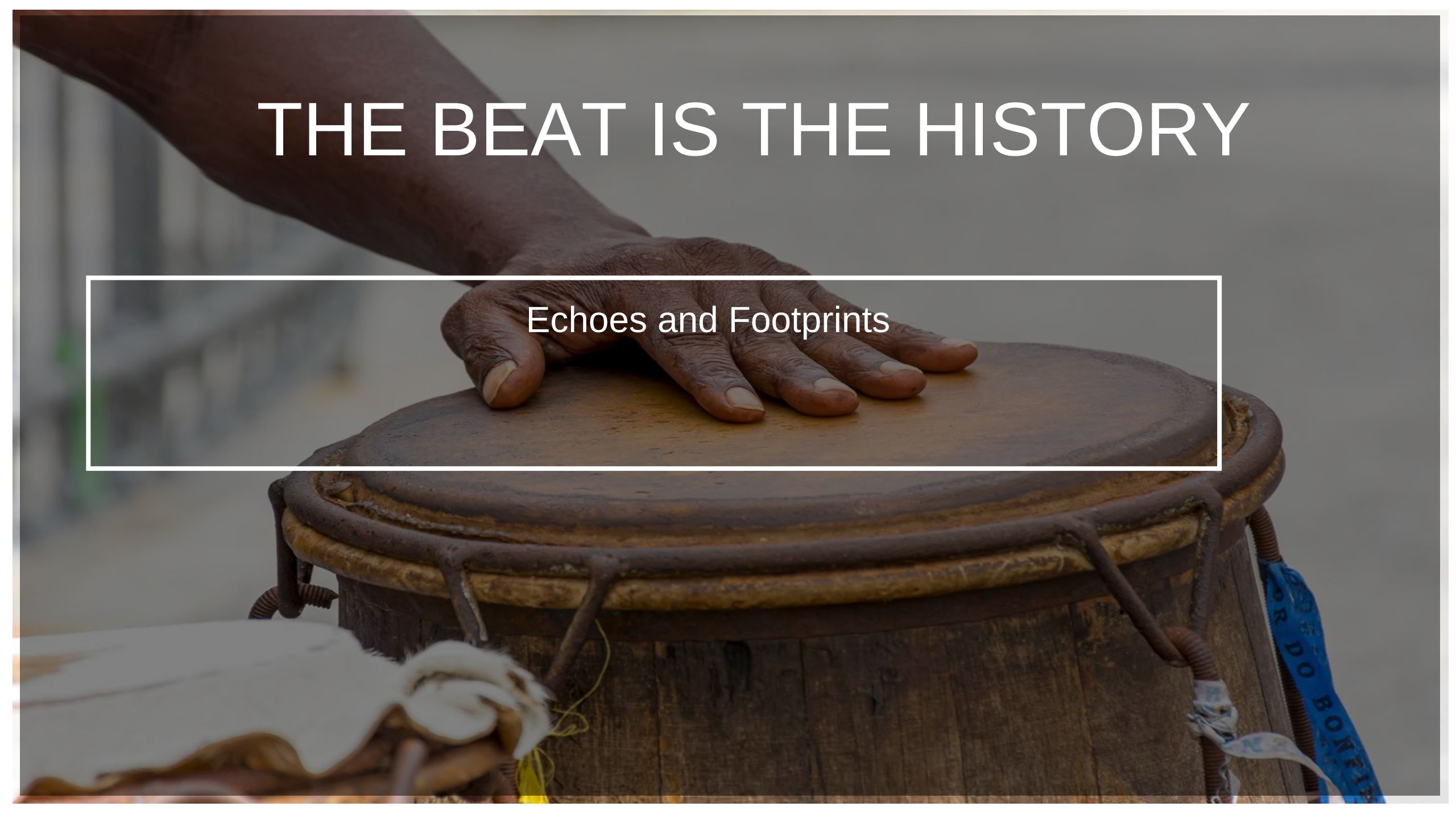


THE BEAT IS THE HISTORY



Echoes and Footprints

Program Outline

Session 1: Introduction to The Beat

Session 2: Music of the Americas

Session 3: The American Experience

ABOUT US

We are a Delaware-based nonprofit organization devoted to amplifying the story of the African polyrhythmic beat and its significance in the development, influence, and evolution of 500 years of music of the Americas .



Part 1

Introduction to the Beat

Introduction

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- Why is this important?

What you already know about the Beat

- Lessons from 'Dancing with the Stars'
- The African Diaspora
- History, geography, and expression
- Interactive Google Earth Map

The Polyrhythmic Beat defined

- Rhythms
- Syncopation
- Harmony

Key themes: ancestral identity

- Spirituality
- Celebrations
- Empowerment

Immersive exercise

- Rhythm-1 (1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4)
- Rhythm-2 (1 2 1 2 3)
- Rhythm-3 (1 2 3 12)
- Rhythm-1 + Rhythm-2

5 W'S

Examine the who, what, when, where, and why of music evolution and HOW the sounds were developed.

WHO

Who were the ethnic peoples forced into slavery?

WHEN

When was the polyrhythmic beat introduced to the Americas?

WHERE

Where were most enslaved people transported?

WHAT

What impact music had on displaced ethnic people?

WHY

Why is the African polyrhythmic beat so important in music?

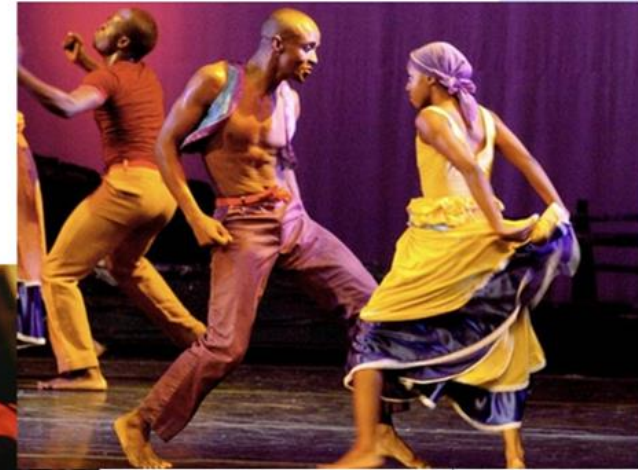
HOW

How was the African polyrhythmic beat developed and how does it influence music, dance and culture today?



The Beat Presents 'Dancing with the Stars'

- Charleston
- Tango
- Rumba
- Quickstep
- Hip Hop
- Jazz
- Cha Cha
- Foxtrot
- Jazz
- Samba
- Disco
- Jive
- Jitterbug
- Salsa



What do you feel: Energy, Drive. Movement. Dance. Passion.

[Gloria Estefan - Conga](#) | [Salsa Dancing](#) | [Daniel Rosas & Jasmin Benfreha \(youtube.com\)](#)



WHO

MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS

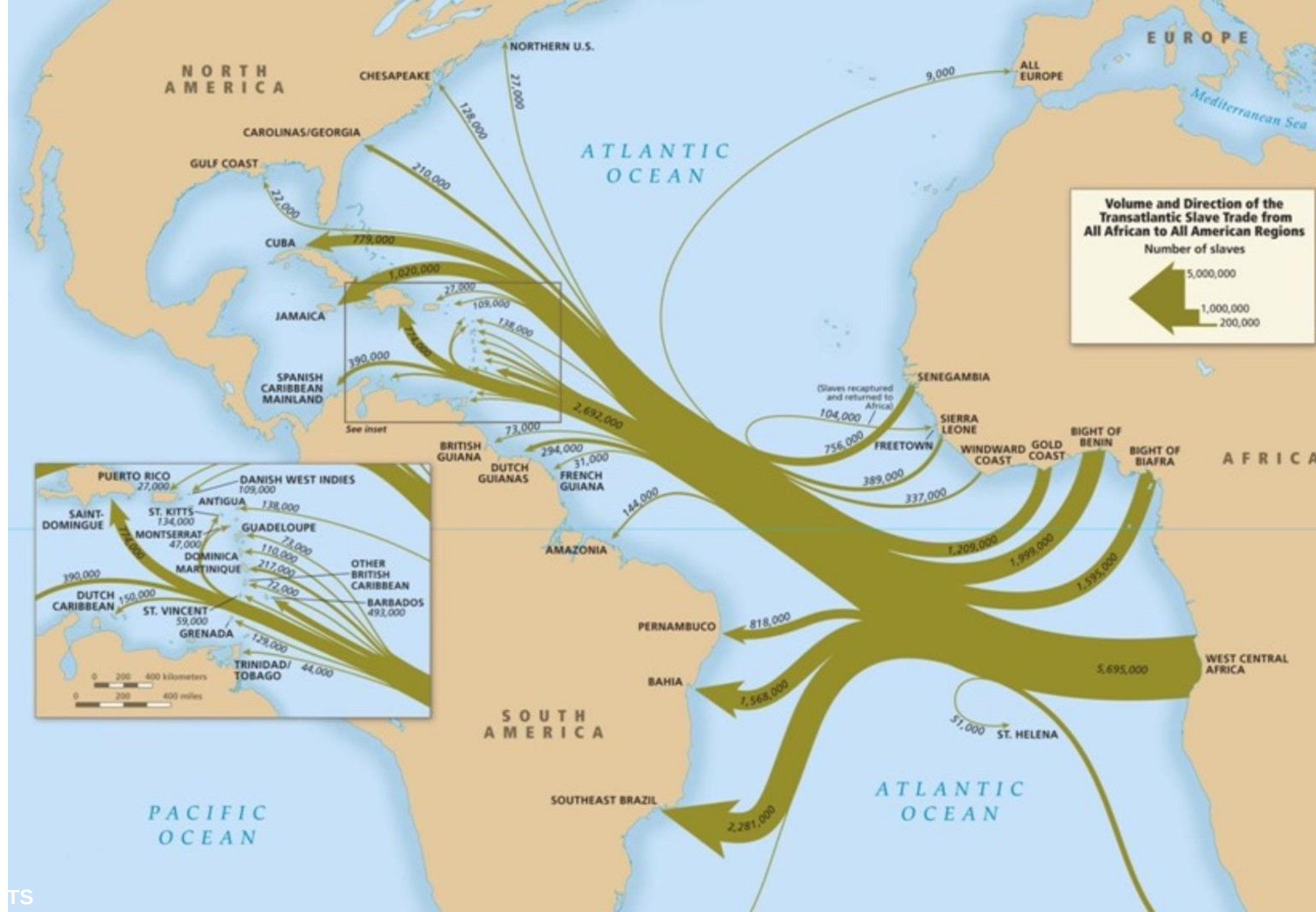
The music of the Americas is rooted in the deposited lives and influences of four distinct ethnic lines: the Bantu, Yoruba, Dahomey and Carabali.

From these tribes, drums and other percussive elements convey the rhythms, syncopation, scale, and vocal expression associated to religious ceremonies, life events and celebrations.

WHERE

Spanning 5000 miles and encapsulating 500 years of Africans in the Americas, this arc delivered the new music forms and cultural expressions across the Americas.

[Google earth link Here](#)



Perspective

THE AMERICAS

The cultural imprints of **the African diaspora in the Americas spans an Atlantic arc from Virginia’s James River (United States) to the Rio de la Plato Uruguay. Spanning 5000 miles** and encapsulating 500 years of Africans in the Americas, this arc delivered the new music forms and cultural expressions across the Americas.

The confluence of Africa’s polyrhythmic beats and European harmonies and melodies--including indigenous music-- reverberate into the varied sounds and rhythms across the Americas.

THE BEAT IS THE HISTORY.

Not imitations of European nor transplanted African cultures, the new cultures heralded the music of the Americas.



Locations (sample set)	Current day Afro-descendants %
Uruguay	10%
Peru	8%
Bolivia	2%
Columbia	30%
Venezuela	4%
Argentina	4%
Chile	5%
Paraguay	1%
Ecuador	10%
Brazil	50%
Guyana	29%
Surinam	37%
Trinidad & Tobago	34%
Aruba	15%
Curacao	15%
Mexico	2%
Costa Rica	7%
Panama	15%
Belize	7%
Cuba	50%
Puerto Rico	18%



How Did This Happen?

History

*Polyrhythmic
Beat*

Echoes and
Footprints of the
human experience

Geography

Expression

The Beat carries the history across time and geography of the African diaspora and its descendants.

The African slave trade cast a long cultural shadow on the Americas-- producing new forms of music, dance, expressions, spirituality and literature that are visible and yet not widely known throughout the Americas and the world.

The Polyrhythmic Beat: Definitions



Polyrhythms

a rhythm which makes use of two or more different [rhythms](#) simultaneously.

"traditional African music is celebrated for its complex polyrhythms. rhythm played against another to create a **polyrhythm**"



Harmony

harmony is the concept of combining different sound, voices together in order to create new, distinct rendering.



Syncopation

syncopation is "a disturbance or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm": a "placement of rhythmic stresses or accents where they wouldn't normally occur"

Is Janet Jackson's 'That's the way love goes' polyrhythmic?

[that's the way love goes - Google Search](#)



in 1993

- ✓ Two or more conflicting rhythm
- ✓ Different rhythm patterns
- ✓ Layered percussions
- ✓ Complex interplay
- ✓ Driving energy
- ✓ Syncopation
- ✓ Movement and dance groove

Immersive References

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C43GawnLA_0/?igsh=MTc4MmM1Yml2Ng==

[Triple hip movement in the original step. Shift the twist and hand movement. Finally, move the hips in the back rhythm. #dance #dancereels... | Instagram](#)

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C4QjvaTNP0d/?igsh=MTc4MmM1Yml2Ng==>

[Here's to the last week of January 2024. How's it going so far? 🙌 One step at a time 🙌 Victory belongs to us 🙌 Keep going #purpose... | Instagram](#)

[that's the way love goes - Google Search](#)



Immersive Exercise

➤ Clap these Beats

➤ Play these Beats
Tools provided

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C43GawnLA_0/?igsh=MTc4MmM1Yml2Ng==

- Rhythm-1 (standard 4 beat)
(1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4)
- Rhythm-2
(1 2 3 1 2)
- Rhythm-3
(1 2 1 2 3)
- **R2 + R3 (together)**

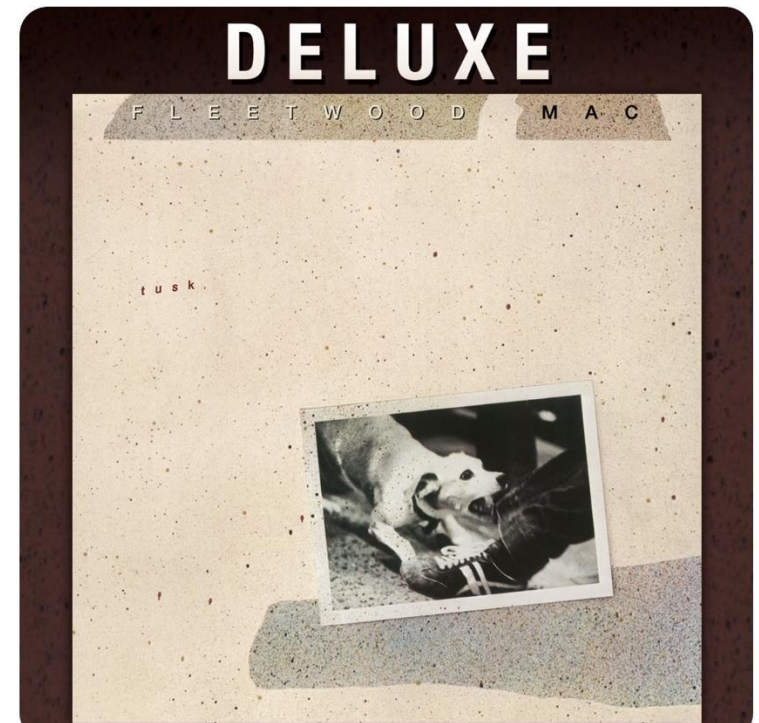
Fleetwood Mac Tusk (demo)

[Tusk \(1/15/79 Demo\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Fleetwood Mac - Tusk \(Official Music Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

Tusk (1/15/79 Demo)

YouTube · Fleetwood Mac - Topic · Feb 19, 2017



Part 2 Music of the Americas

Evolution of the Music of the Americas

- Invisibility and erasure
- Representation
- Call to action: tools and technology
- Awareness and identity (UY)

This is something different

- European harmony
- African polyrhythms
- Indigenous sounds
- Harmony

Timeline: 500 years, 5000 miles

- People
- Technology
- Transportation
- Borrowed and blended
- 'Race Music'

Interactive Engagement: FADR exercise

Homework:

Bring a piece of music or song to deconstruct next time. How to use FADR?

Candombe

In Montevideo, Uruguay, **Candombe** is the embodiment of the beats, rhythms, spirituality, rituals, empowerment and ancestral identities of its African descendants. The ancestral memories manifests through the rituals and dances, communications in the halls, sounds in the streets, and pride of communities in Montevideo.



Uruguayan Carnival... 40 days of the longest Carnival Festival in the world

WHAT

COMMUNITY AND ANCESTRAL HERITAGE

Improvising, modifying, adapting, and using available local materials, enslaved Africans maintained and integrated their customs and traditions in the New World.



INSTRUMENTS

Drums, Shakes,



CELEBRATIONS

Carnival



SPIRITUALITY

Syncretism

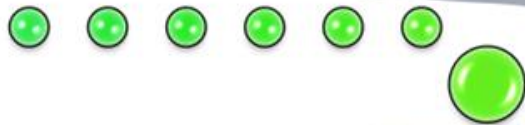


SELF-AWARENESS

Music, Art, Culture

This is something different

Africa: Polyrhythmic Beat and Syncopation



Indigenous and Natives Influences



Europe: Harmony and Melody

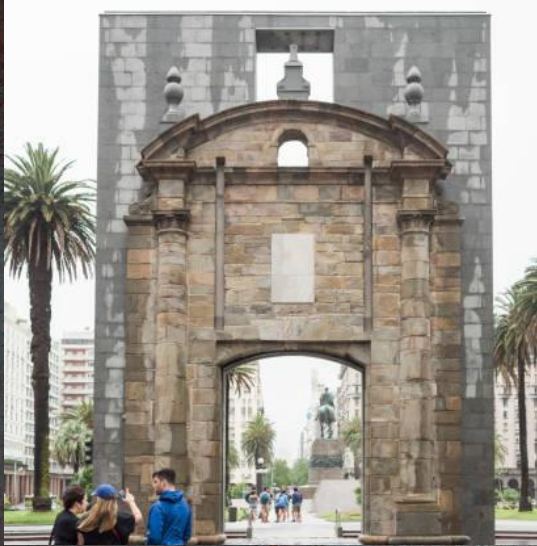


**Music of the
Americas**



Not an imitation that conforms to European structure and form nor a direct transplant of African modals (pitch and scale), the *new sound* heralded the expansive, ever-changing music of the Americas.

Spotlight: Candombe



Montevideo, Uruguay

- Under-represented Communities
- Invisibility
- Erasures Challenges
- Self-awareness
- Participation and Representation
- Call to Action



Resistance

Candombe is an expression of music, history, culture, spirituality, dance, and resistance tied to the slaves and African descendants brought to Uruguay during colonial times. The end of slavery in Uruguay trapped the African descendants in then undesirable Montevideo communities. These neighborhoods forged Candombe.



Inclusion

Born of an expression of self-awareness, empowerment, inclusion and visibility, the first La Melaza comparsa (group) was organized to recognize International Women's Day (2005).

(lamelaza.com)

Comparsa 🏳️‍🌈 🏳️‍⚧️ ♀️ 🖤 🔥 Transfeminista 🔥 Antirracista



Celebration

Carnival in Montevideo is anchored in the mid-18th century--originating as day for the slaves to celebrate cultural heritage. After freedom, the celebrations continued, incorporating African and European traditions.

Carnival in Uruguay is an extended (40 days) celebration focusing on family and community gatherings.

Americas

Pre-Colombian, Indigenous, First Nation traditions

First Slaves in America

First Slaves in America (US) Virginia. Musically blend of religious, European, Indigenous American, and some African musical traditions,

Expansion of Slave Trade in the Americas.
Music: European classic. Hymns and religious music.
Folk music (banjo). African field songs.

Slavery Ends in the Americas.
Major symphony orchestras and opera.
Recognition of heritage/local music forms.

Phonogram and phonograph invented. The recording, capture, and distribution of music increased access.

>1400s

1500s

1600s

1700s

1800s

1900s

Europe

Polyphonic Sound: Two or more lines (voices)

The Renaissance
Progression of polyphony structure

The Baroque Period
Elaborate musical styles i.e., Bach, Handel

Classical Period
Harmonic clarity and simplicity i.e., Mozart, Beethoven

Romantic Period
Complex arrangements, more expressive harmonic language
i.e., Schubert, Mahler

Greater experimentation
Challenge to traditional structure. i.e., Stravinsky, Schoenberg

Technology Happened.

Phonogram and phonograph were invented. The ability to record, capture, and distribute music increased access via the Victrola (1906), radio/transistor radio, television, LPs, cassette tape and the compact disc.

Other noted inventions included the automobile, personal computer and the electric guitar(1936).

Within the 20th Century new music genres are invented; Ragtime, Jazz, Samba (1917), Festejo, The Charleston, Tango, Cumbia, Mambo, Blues, Calypso, Rhumba, Rock-N-Roll, Rap, Hip-Hop, Disco, Reggae.

2000s

Further Technology Advancement

iPod, music streaming services, iPhone

The Politics of Music



Rejection



Diminished Value



Limited Acceptance



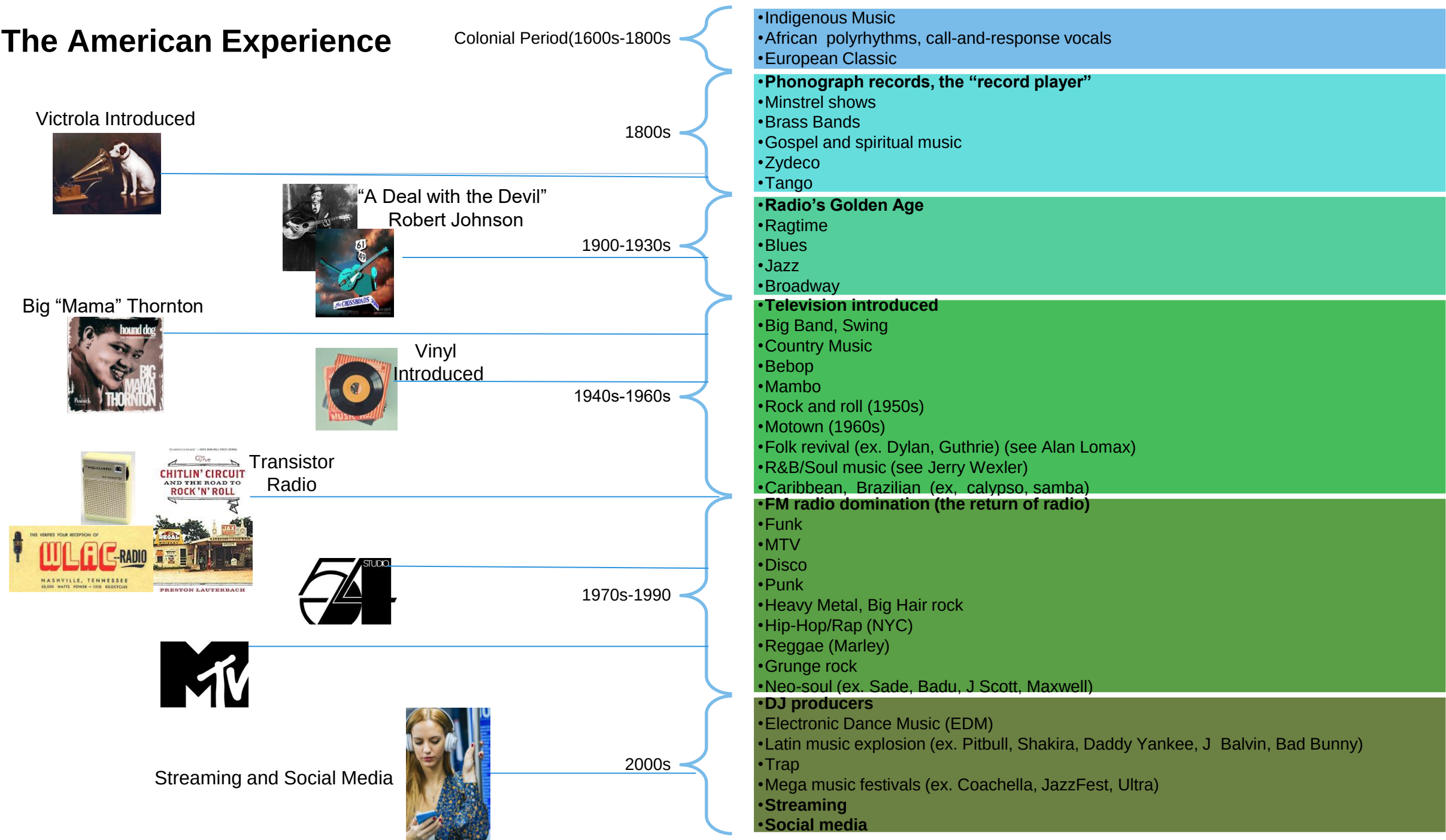
Mass Appeal



Global Acceptance



The American Experience



The Beat is the History: 500 years. 5000 miles.



Part 3 The Beat: The American Experience

Echoes in words

Interactive FADR deconstruction of “Turn the Beat Around”

- Name check: rhythms, instruments, beats
- The Beat: Energy, movement, drive, propulsion,
- Syncopation

The Instruments: Music of the Americas. Please touch.

- Caribbean
- South America
- North America

The American Experience

Library Connect

- Local history resources and place
- Partner with community gardens: “Grow your own music”
 - Grow a guiro
 - Make a Shekere
- Partner with community music group
 - Music in the garden (play your gourds)
 - Community arts group (paint your gourds)
 - Using common items to practice the polyrhythmic beat

Digital Engagement

- Online resources relating to polyrhythmic beat
- Using FADR to deconstruct your favorite music
- Using AI, ChatGPT (how to use)

The music of the Americas is rooted in the deposited lives and influences of four distinct ethnic lines: the Bantu, Yoruba, Dahomey and the Carabali.

Their voices still echo in everyday Words...

- **Afrobeat** - Origin: Coined by Nigerian musician Fela Kuti.
- **Banjo** - Origin: Kimbundu language (Angola).
- **Boogie** - Origin: Possibly Hausa language (West Africa).
- **Claves** - Origin: Afro-Cuban and Afro-Latin cultures.
- **Gourd** - Origin: Bantu languages (Central Africa).
- **Griot** - Origin: Mandinka language (West Africa).
- **Gumbo** - Origin: Bantu languages (West Africa).
- **Highlife** - Origin: Akan language (Ghana).
- **Jazz** - Origin: Uncertain, likely African American communities.
- **Jive** - Origin: Uncertain, possibly African American Vernacular English.
- **Kalimba** - Origin: Bantu languages (Central and Southern Africa)..
- **Mambo** - Origin: Bantu languages (Central Africa).
- **Marimba** - Origin: Bantu languages (Central and Southern Africa).
- **Rumba** - Origin: Kikongo language (Central Africa).
- **Samba** - Origin: Kimbundu language (Angola).

Syncopation?

Immersive
Exercise

FADR

homework

RHYTHMS OF THE AMERICAS

The convergence of European measured harmonies and of African organic polyrhythmic established a new foundation for music, dance and expressions.



[Turn the Beat Around \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkiSueRobinson)

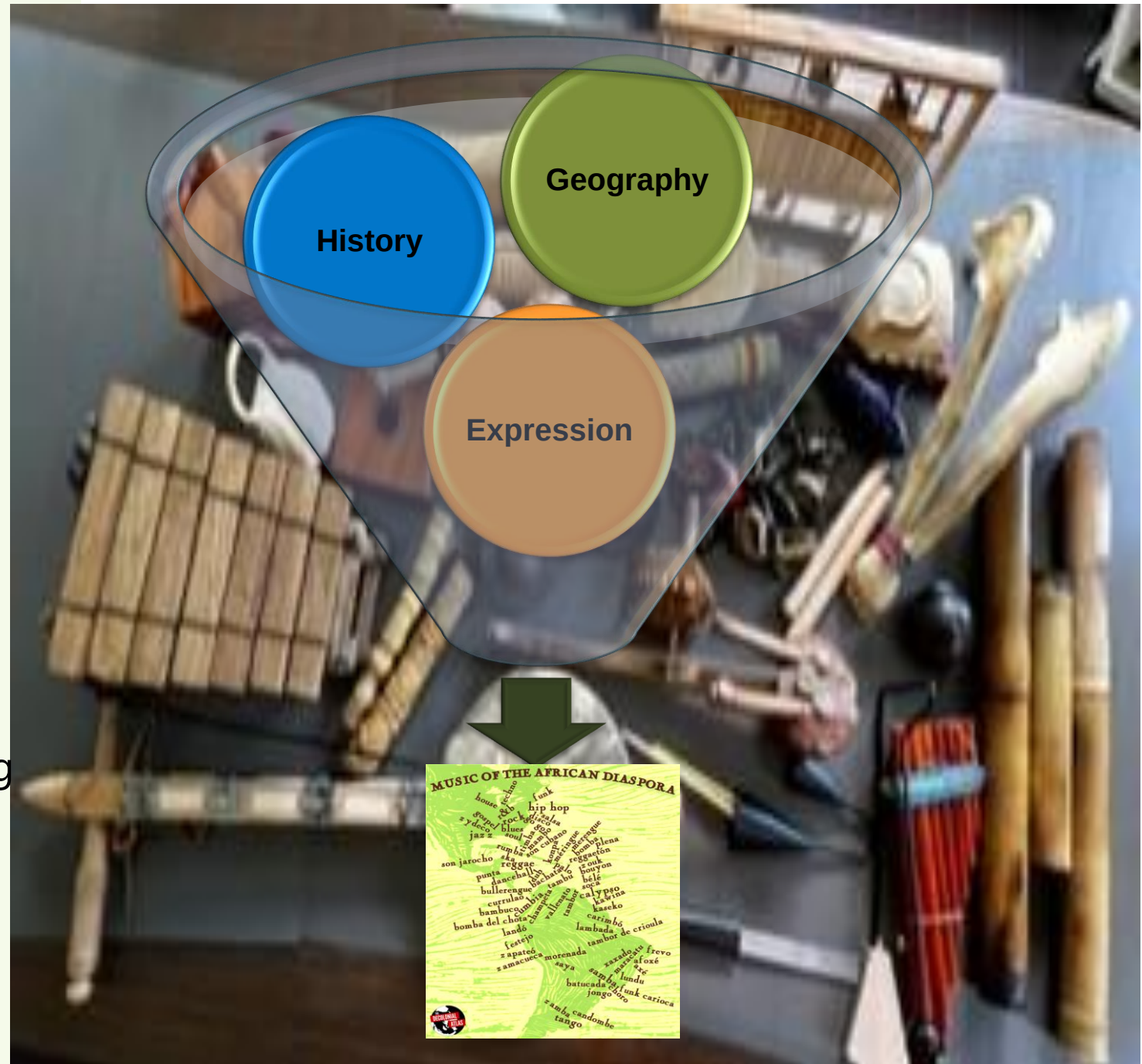
Musical Instruments Immersion

We have +/-50 instruments for you to explore. These instruments are derived from or related to the African slave trade.

Please touch, play, engage, and ask questions.

Consider the creativity, innovation, and adaption required.

These instruments carry the soul and fusion of African rhythms while embracing harmonies of Europe and the infusion of unique influences of the new environments.





Caribbean Beats

Like its northern and southern continental neighbors, Caribbean islands developed varied distinct music and dance styles.

Calypso, Steelpan, Reggae, Salsa, Afrobeats, Ska

Marimba - A large wooden xylophone with resonators beneath the bars, widely used in Guatemala and parts of Mexico.

Quijada de Burro - A percussion instrument made from a donkey's jawbone with loose teeth that rattle when struck, commonly used in Son Jarocho music in Mexico.

Bombo - A large drum used in folk music and traditional dances in Mexico and Central America, often with African origins.

Tambora - A two-headed drum with a deep, resonant sound, used in cumbia music and other traditional genres in Central America

Steel Pan (Steel Drum): Originating in Trinidad and Tobago, the most iconic instrument associated with the Caribbean. It was invented by Afro-Trinidadians using repurposed oil drum.

Bambú - A type of flute made from bamboo, used in traditional music of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in Central America.

Guiro - Similar to the güira, the guiro is a percussion instrument made from a hollowed-out gourd or wooden cylinder with notches on its surface, used in various traditional and popular music styles across Mexico and Central America.

Tamborito Drums - Traditional drums used in tamborito music, a genre originating from Panama with Afro-Panamanian influences.

Marimbula: A large box-shaped instrument with metal tongues or keys that are plucked to produce musical notes. It is used in traditional Cuban music genres like son and changüí.

Congas - Tall, narrow, single-headed drums with Afro-Cuban origins, commonly used in various Latin American music styles, including salsa and mambo, in Central America.

Claves - Percussion instruments consisting of two cylindrical wooden sticks struck together, used in a variety of Afro-Latin and Caribbean musical genres across Mexico and Central America.



Rhythms of South America

The melding of Africa's polyrhythmic beats, European harmonies, and indigenous influences, further evolved iterations and syncopations in South America

Candombe, Rumba Cumbia, Samba Corralau, Marcatu, Tango, Reggaeton

Marimba - A large wooden xylophone with resonators beneath the bars, originating from Africa but widely developed and used in South America, particularly in countries like Colombia and Venezuela.

Cajón - A box-shaped percussion instrument of Afro-Peruvian origin, widely used in various musical genres across South America.

Cuica - A friction drum with a rod attached to the drumhead, producing a distinctive squeaky sound, used in samba music in Brazil and other parts of South America.

Cajita: The cajita, also known as the "little box," is a small wooden box or crate with a lid that is attached with a string. The cajita is often used in Afro-Peruvian music and dance, adding texture and percussive accents to the music.

Congas - Tall, narrow, single-headed drums with Afro-Cuban origins, commonly used in various Latin American music styles, including salsa and mambo, in South America.

Agogô - A set of two or more small, pitched bells mounted on a metal rod, used in samba and other Afro-Brazilian musical genres.

Berimbau - A single-string percussion instrument of African origin, commonly associated with capoeira music in Brazil.

Reco-reco - A metal scraper percussion instrument used in samba and other Afro-Brazilian musical genres.

Caxixi - A small percussion instrument made of a woven basket filled with seeds or beads, used in Afro-Brazilian music.

Maracas - Gourd shakers with handles, found in various Indigenous and Afro-Latin musical traditions throughout South America.

Andean Pan Flute - An Andean pan flute made of bamboo tubes of different lengths, used in Indigenous and mestizo music in the Andean region, with influences from African musical traditions.



American Music

The roots of modern day 'American' (U.S.) music is traced to the areas connected to the delta regions and rivers of the American deep south.

**Blues, Gospel, Rock,
Jazz, R&B, Soul**

Banjo - A stringed instrument with African origins, widely used in various genres of American folk and popular music.

Blues Harmonica - A harmonica often used in blues music, originating from African-American musical traditions.

Jazz Trumpet - A brass instrument commonly used in jazz music, with roots in African-American musical culture.

Slide Guitar - A guitar played by sliding a smooth object (usually a glass or metal tube) along the strings, with origins in blues and African-American musical traditions.

Rhythm and Blues Piano - A style of piano playing characterized by its rhythmic and bluesy elements, developed in African-American musical communities.

Hip Hop Turntables - Turntables used in hip hop music for scratching, sampling, and mixing, originating from African-American and Caribbean musical cultures.

Funk Bass Guitar - A bass guitar style characterized by its syncopated rhythms and groovy bass lines, developed in African-American musical contexts.

Soul Organ - An electric organ often used in soul music, with roots in African-American gospel and blues traditions.

Rock Drum Kit - A drum set used in rock music, with influences from African-American blues and R&B drumming styles.

Hip Hop Sampler - A device used in hip hop music production to sample and manipulate audio recordings, with origins in African-American musical cultures.

Library Connect

- Partner with community gardens: “Grow your own music”
 - Grow a guido
 - Make a Shekere
- Simple DIY make musical instruments project for young kids (YouTube)
- Partner with community music group
 - Music in the garden (play your gourds)
 - Community arts group (paint your gourds)
 - Using common items to practice the polyrhythmic beat
 - Build next step program to align with key activities

Digital Engagement

- EF as Online resources relating to polyrhythmic beat
- Using FADR to deconstruct your favorite music
- Using AI, ChatGPT (how to use)

echoesandfootprints.com



GOOGLE EARTH ESOUNDS AND INSTRUMENTS