



# CUBAN MUSIC

**A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO**

*John Patitucci*  
The Song Study Series

**COURSE BOOK**

SCOTTSBASSLESSONS.COM

# CUBAN MUSIC

## ***A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO***

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THE SONG STUDY SERIES

### Introduction

In this course, John Patitucci provides an introduction to the Afro-Cuban music style, attempting to demystify classic and essential rhythms that you need to know, like the Clave, Tresillo, Cinquillo, and more. You'll learn about the bassist's role in this music, tumbao bass lines, how the bass locks in with the other instruments, plus a little bit of history behind the genre.

John and his world-class band will demonstrate these concepts by performing a song in the Cha-cha style called "Arpeggios with a Groove," where you'll get to listen to these rhythms played by master musicians. He'll then break down the song for you into its essential elements, giving you the tools you need to play it while teaching some additional technique and arpeggio tips along the way.

So, if you have an interest in Cuban music and are looking for a great introduction, don't miss this one.

## Song Performance

Check out this incredible band play John's song "Arpeggios with a Groove" with a Cha-cha inspired feel.

Listen out for the "two-three" clave rhythm (covered in Lesson 02) that is played or suggested throughout, and forms the backbone of the rhythmic style.

## The Band



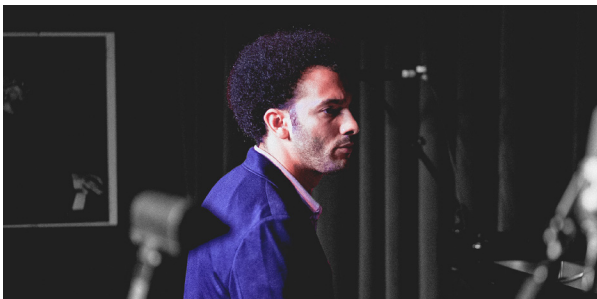
***John Patitucci***

BASS



***Adam Cruz***

DRUMS



***David Virelles***

PIANO



***Chris Potter***

TENOR SAX

# Lesson 01

## Inversions & fingerings

One of the challenges that bass players face is the development of effective fingerings to address the issue of multiple fretboard placements for the same note. This is somewhat of a unique feature of stringed instruments, in particular bass and guitar. It's important to familiarize yourself with a variety of fingerings for specific musical tools such as scales, arpeggios and chords; overlooking this will likely result in stumbling blocks that can impede the creative flow.

Let's take a look at some fingerings for arpeggios. This first example is a C major triad in root position with three different fretboard patterns and fingerings.

### Example 01 C major triad in root position

C

fingerings: 2 1 4 1 2      1 4 1 4 1      4 3 1 3 4

T/B 3 2 5 2 3      3 7 5 7 3      8 7 5 7 8

In this next example the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the C major triad, E, is moved to the lowest position creating what is known as *first inversion*. The chord symbol for this is C/E; a C major triad with the E in the bass.

### Example 02 C major triad in first inversion

C/E

fingerings: 1 4 4 4 1      \*3 1 1 1 \*3      2 1 4 1 2

T/B 2 5 5 5 2      7 5 5 5 7      7 5 10 5 7

\*Sometimes 4.

## LESSON 1 (continued)

When the 5<sup>th</sup> of the chord is moved to the lowest note it is called *second inversion*. For the C major triad the chord symbol is C/G.

### Example 03 C major triad in second inversion

C/G

fingering: 2 3 1 3 2      1 1 4 1 1      1 4 3 4 1

3 3 2 3 3      3 3 7 3 3      3 8 7 8 3

The last inversion type involves 7<sup>th</sup> chords. This type of inversion moves the 7<sup>th</sup> to the lowest position. For a Cmaj7, the 7<sup>th</sup> is the note B and the chord symbol is Cmaj7/B or C/B.

### Example 04 Cmaj7 chord in third inversion

C/B

fingering: 1 2 1 4 1 2 1      4 1 4 2 4 1 4      3 4 3 1 3 4 3

2 3 2 5 2 3 2      7 3 7 5 7 3 7      7 8 7 5 7 8 7

In the performance of “Arpeggios with a Groove” John uses a variety of inversions, skillfully connecting each chord with effective fingerings. In the following examples the first two measures illustrate the technique perfectly. John starts on a root position G major arpeggio using 2-1-4 fingering, where the 3<sup>rd</sup>, B, and the 5<sup>th</sup>, D, act as upper and lower neighbor tones that surround the targeted root of the next chord, C. Notice the rhythm of the clave remains intact as the Cmaj7 is played on the accented ‘and-of-two’ beat.

John then continues with a similar root position pattern and fingering for the C major chord. In this case the 3<sup>rd</sup>, E, and the 5<sup>th</sup>, G, surround the note F sharp, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the next chord, D7. This is where John changes things up and switches to a first inversion D major triad with a 1-4-4 fingering. Finally, the return to G major is arrived at by using the 5<sup>th</sup> of the D7, A, and the octave, D, to surround the note B, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the G major chord.

## LESSON 1 (continued)

### Example 05 Connecting arpeggios and inversions

Gmaj7 Cmaj7 D7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7 D7 Cmaj7 G

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | X | 4 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| B |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

The next phrase uses the same patterns and techniques to work through the key of F major. The only difference is the use of open strings, which will alter the fingerings, most likely to 1-open-4 or 1-open-3.

### Example 06 Connecting arpeggios and inversions continued

Fmaj7 Bbmaj7 C7 Fmaj7 Bbmaj7 C7 Bbmaj7 F

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| A | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |  |  |
| B |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |

For the third phrase in the key of E major the same technique is used but John switches up the patterns of the first two chords, E and A, and uses an open-3-1 fingering to fit better in open position.

### Example 07 Connecting arpeggios and inversions continued

Emaj7 Amaj7 B7 Emaj7 Amaj7 B7 Amaj7 E

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| B |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

## LESSON 1 (continued)

For the final phrase, John moves to first position arpeggio patterns to address the descending chords. Here he keeps the pattern the same until the very last chord, G flat, where he changes to a different pattern to once again fit better in open position. While descending, he sometimes uses a 3-1-1 fingering and other times a 4-1-1 fingering. The choice is often dictated by the wider frets as he descends down the fretboard.

### Example 08 Connecting arpeggios and inversions continued

Example 08 shows two systems of musical notation for bass guitar. The first system consists of two measures. The first measure contains the chords G, F, E $\flat$ , and D $\flat$ . The second measure contains the chords B, A, A $\flat$ , and G $\flat$ . The notation includes a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The first system's tablature shows fingerings: 14, 12, 12, 10, 10 for the first measure and 10, 8, 8, 6, 6 for the second measure. The second system consists of two measures. The first measure contains the chords G, C, and D7. The second measure contains the chords C and G. The notation includes a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The second system's tablature shows fingerings: 3, 3, 5, 5 for the first measure and 3, 3, 3 for the second measure.

At the end of the piano breakdown, where David Virelles plays the hypnotic montuno, John plays a syncopated figure with the band that starts on the root of the D7 chord, D, before walking up the scale to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, E to F sharp.

### Example 09 Piano montuno ending

Example 09 shows a musical notation for a piano montuno ending. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the chords G, C, and D7. The second measure contains the chords G, C, and D7. The notation includes a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The first system's tablature shows fingerings: 5, 5, 5, 7, 4 for the first measure and 5, 5, 5, 7, 4 for the second measure.

## LESSON 1 (continued)

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For the ending, John uses a root position G major arpeggio with a 2-1-4-4 fingering followed by a D major triad that starts on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, F sharp, moves up to the 5<sup>th</sup>, A, and then to a lowered 9<sup>th</sup>, E flat, before arriving at the root, D. This implies a D7b9 chord that adds a touch of tension before resolving nicely to the accented tonic G chord.

### Example 10 Ending

The musical notation for Example 10 Ending is written in bass clef, 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The notation consists of two measures. The first measure is labeled with a 'G' chord above it. The second measure is labeled with a 'D7' chord above it, and the final two notes of the measure are labeled with a 'G' chord above them. The bass line is as follows: Measure 1: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), G2 (quarter). Measure 2: F#2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), D3 (quarter). The final two notes of the second measure, A2 and B2, are marked with a 'v' (accented) and are part of the G chord resolution.

The fingering for the bass line is shown below the staff:

| Measure | Fingering   |
|---------|-------------|
| 1       | 3 2 5 5     |
| 2       | 4 7 6 5 3 3 |

# Lesson 02

## Afro-Cuban Rhythm

Rhythm is a major aspect of Afro-Cuban music and one of the first steps in demystifying the rhythmic landscape is to get a handle on some basic terminology. This is often the case with new musical styles and Afro-Cuban is no exception. Let's start with a few basics to get started.

### Son

The word "son" is derived from *sonar*, which means to sound or to make sound. It is a centuries old word. In Cuban music it is a synthesis of Bantu (African) rhythms, percussion, and call and response singing melded with Spanish folk language and guitars. The beginnings of the Cuban son most likely date to the mid to late nineteenth century.

### Tresillo

One of the main featured rhythms found in the Cuban rhythm is the *tresillo*. Tresillo refers to a pattern of three that starts on the downbeat of one, followed by the 'and-of-two' and finally the downbeat of three, creating a syncopated and danceable 'groove'.

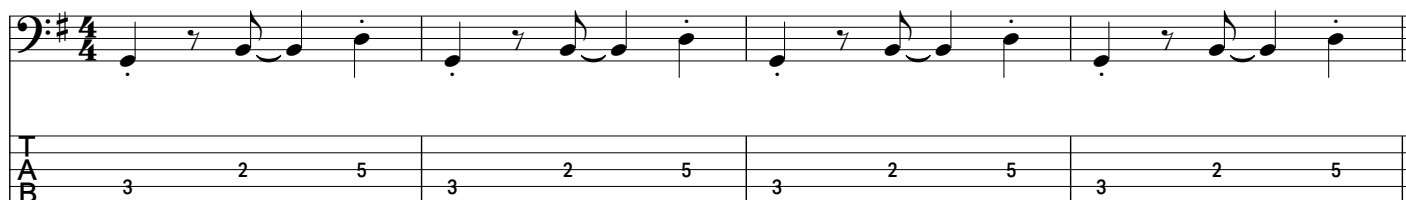
#### Example 01 Tresillo



## LESSON 2 (continued)

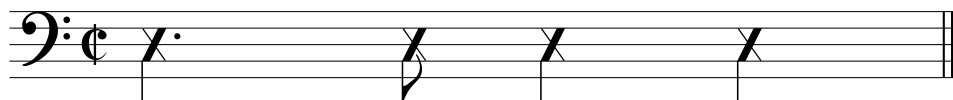
In this next example, John applies the tresillo to an arpeggiated bass line.

### Example 02 Tresillo bass line



The tresillo rhythm originated from the basic Tango, which was in a group of popular dances known as *contradanzas*. Contradanzas came from the French around 1690, who were influenced by the English *country dance*. This in turn was adopted by the Spanish and ultimately found its way to Cuba, where contradanzas evolved into the popular Afro-Cuban dance styles we know today.

### Example 03 Tango



The tango rhythm became very popular and travelled to different parts of the world, in particular Argentina. Later, to identify the rhythm as specifically Cuban, the term *habanero* was used. The tresillo became a variation by simply tying the accented 'and-of-two' over into beat three. Example 04 is the same as the tresillo.

### Example 04 Tango variation



## LESSON 2 (continued)

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### Cinquillo

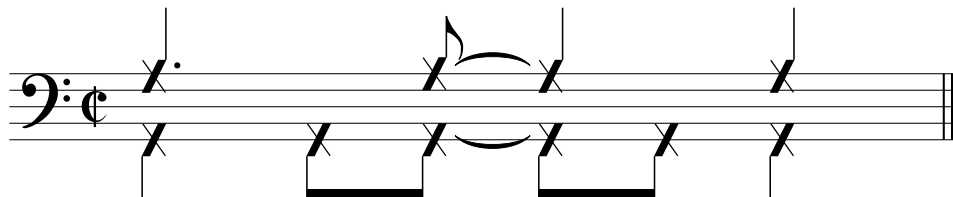
In the early nineteenth century the Haitians brought a variation of the contradanza with them called the *cocoyé*. The *cocoyé* featured a five beat rhythm that became known in Cuba as the *cinquillo*, which is an embellished *tresillo*.

#### Example 05 Cinquillo



These three rhythms, the tango (habanero), the *tresillo* and the *cinquillo*, are main rhythmic building blocks of Afro-Cuban music. Combining rhythms can be very effective and also reveal the connection between them. Try clapping one rhythm while singing the other, or use one hand to tap one and the other hand to tap another, like John demonstrates in the video.

#### Example 06 Tresillo combined with cinquillo



## LESSON 2 (continued)

### The Clave

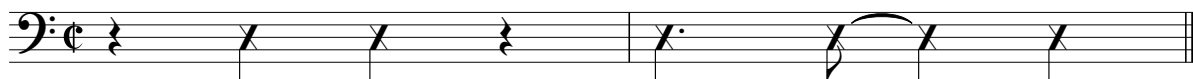
The clave, or son clave, is a rhythmic pattern consisting of two measures, one of which contains the tresillo and the other made up of two accents on the downbeat of beats two and three. If the tresillo is in the first measure it is referred to as a 3-2 *clave*. If the tresillo is in the second measure it is a 2-3 *clave* (sometimes referred to as the *reverse clave*). The rhythmic pattern known as the clave originates from the instrument known as *claves*.

Claves evolved from wooden pegs used to hold ships together. These wooden pegs were made of hard wood that would hold up in water without rotting. The shipyards of Havana, where slaves and prisoners worked, were littered with these wooden pegs known as *clavijas*, and it didn't take long before it was discovered that striking two of them together produced a nice percussive sound. These became the *claves*, which were perfect for keeping a constant pattern throughout the music, which became known as the *clave*.

#### Example 07 3-2 Clave



#### Example 08 2-3 Clave



In this next example, John plays the main two measure bass line for 'Arpeggios with a Groove', illustrating how to apply the bass to the clave rhythm. Notice the accented 'and-of-two' and the sustained note over the barline into beat one of the second measure.

#### Example 09 Clave with a bass line

# Lesson 03

## Afro-Cuban Rhythms Applied to Bass

If you're looking for some jaw-dropping inspiration for your bass playing, look no further than Israel López Valdéz, aka Cachao! Cachao was a Cuban double-bassist and composer during the twentieth century. Born in Havana in 1918 into a family of musicians and bassists, he was taught by his father and older brother as well as in a conservatory, and by his teens he was already performing with the Havana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Cachao was a major force in Cuban music and bass, especially with the development of jam sessions known as *descargas*. This brought improvisation to the forefront and greatly influenced Afro-Cuban music. Cachao's bass playing is a marvel to witness as he plays stylized bass lines, known as *tumbao*, and intersperses percussive elements in between by tapping and striking the bass, creating what sounds like a one-man-band type rhythm section. It is worth seeking out recordings and videos to study.

In 1958, during the Cuban Revolution, Cachao was exiled from Cuba and he relocated to the US, where he kept a much lower profile until 1989, when he participated in a documentary film that rekindled interest in his music and playing. Subsequently, his career was put back in the limelight, which included several Grammy awards.

Cachao died in 2008 at the age of 89 but his music and playing live on and his influence, in particular on bass, is profound.

## LESSON 3 (continued)

### Minor is not a major problem

As John explains, sometimes the chords might switch from major to minor. For the bass, John suggests arriving at the minor 3<sup>rd</sup> of the four-minor chord right as it changes on the accented 'and-of-two' in the running eight-note line. In the following example, this occurs in the first and third measures on the C minor chord where John plays the minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, E flat, instead of the root C.

#### Example 01 Minor bass line

Chords: Gm Cm D7 Cm Gm Cm D7 Cm Gm

Fingerings: 3 6 5 6 5 5 3 x 3 3 6 5 6 5 5 3 x 3 3

### Tumbao practice

In this next example, John demonstrates a *tumbao* (bass line) loop to use as a practice tool. Pay attention to arpeggio patterns and fingerings, as well as the accented 'and-of-two' and the sustained note over the barline into beat one of the ensuing measure. Also, watch for chord variations where Am is used in place of the C major chord. Listen for the 2-3 reverse clave, which you'll want internalized to use as a constant rhythmic pattern to help guide you through complex rhythms as there are little chord changes that occur on typical strong downbeats.

continued →

## LESSON 3 (continued)

### Example 02 Tumbao (bass line) practice loop

The practice loop consists of four measures of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chords and the corresponding fingered bass line (T, A, B) are as follows:

**Measure 1:** Chords: G, C, D7. Bass line: T (3), A (5), B (5) | T (2), A (5), B (5) | T (5), A (5), B (5) | T (3), A (X), B (3).

**Measure 2:** Chords: Am, D7, G, C, D, G. Bass line: T (2), A (5), B (5) | T (3), A (5), B (5) | T (5), A (5), B (5) | T (3), A (3), B (5).

**Measure 3:** Chords: Am, D, G, Am, D7, G. Bass line: T (5), A (4), B (7) | T (5), A (7), B (5) | T (7), A (5), B (5) | T (0), A (3), B (4).

**Measure 4:** Chords: Am, D7, G, Am, D7, G. Bass line: T (7), A (5), B (5) | T (3), A (5), B (5) | T (7), A (5), B (5) | T (5), A (5), B (5).

continued →

17

C D G C D G

T  
A  
B

(5) 5 5 7 7 | 5 (5) 3 | 3 5 5 | 5 5 3

21

Am D7 G C D G

T  
A  
B

5 5 5 | X X 5 | 7 7 5 | 5 5 7 5 | 7 7 5

25

Am D G Am D7 G

T  
A  
B

4 7 7 5 7 | 5 5 3 | 7 5 5 X X 5 | 5 5 5

29

C D7 G C D C G

T  
A  
B

(5) 3 5 | 5 3 | 3 5 | 3 X X 3

33

Am D7 G C D7 G

T  
A  
B

(3) X 5 5 | 7 7 5 5 | 7 7 7 | 5 X 3 3

continued →

## LESSON 3 (continued)

37

Am D7 G C D7 C G

T  
A  
B

(3) 7 5 5 3 5 5 7 7 7 5 3 5 3 X 3 3

41

C D7 G C D7 G

T  
A  
B

(3) 3 X 5 5 7 7 5 3 7 5 7 7 5 3

### Assignment

Now it's time for you to play a tumbao bass line! Download the practice track that's included with this course and pick either of the following to work on:

- **Example 09 from Lesson 2**
- **Example 01 from Lesson 3**

First, try the bass line without the play-along track just to get the notes under your fingers. Then, once you're ready, work it out with the percussion loop.

If it feels like too much of a challenge at this point to perform the bass lines, a great exercise to get familiar with the feeling is to simply clap along with the clave rhythm.

See **Example 08 of Lesson 2** to see the clave written out.

**Side note about the practice track:** You will hear a tiny bit of John's bass line in the recording because we were not able to mute it completely. Don't let this distract you; just work out the written examples listed above and turn your bass up!

## LESSON 3 (continued)

### Running eighth-note lines

You'll want a good handle on running eighth-note lines that are made up of connected arpeggios and chord tones and hit the proper rhythmic accents and chord changes. Earlier, John demonstrated a version for a minor chord progression and as a review the following demonstrates the major chord progression.

Keep in mind the clave pattern and accent the 'and-of-two' as well as beat four, which might be an accented 'four-and' or just a single note on the downbeat but regardless hold over the barline into the next measure.

#### Example 03 Running eighth-note lines - accenting "4-and"

The example is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music.

**System 1:**

- Chords:** G, Am, D7, G, Am, D7
- Bass Line:** Eighth-note runs. The first measure (G) has notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The second measure (Am) has notes F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1. The third measure (D7) has notes D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1. The fourth measure (G) has notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The fifth measure (Am) has notes F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1. The sixth measure (D7) has notes D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1.
- Guitar Line:** Fret numbers: 3 2 5 5 | 3 5 5 || 5 4 7 7 | 5 7 7

**System 2:**

- Chords:** G, Am, D7, C, G, Am, D7, G
- Bass Line:** Eighth-note runs. The first measure (G) has notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The second measure (Am) has notes F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1. The third measure (D7) has notes D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1. The fourth measure (C) has notes C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1, C1. The fifth measure (G) has notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The sixth measure (Am) has notes F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1. The seventh measure (D7) has notes D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1. The eighth measure (G) has notes G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3.
- Guitar Line:** Fret numbers: 5 4 7 7 | 5 7 7 | 3 5 | 4 7 7 | 5 7 7 | X 5 5 3

## LESSON 3 (continued)

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Lastly, a little more terminology may help keep things in focus.

### Repeated melodic/ rhythmic patterns

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Guajeo</b>  | A repeated ostinato arpeggiated type melody, often times played on the tres.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Montuno</b> | "From the mountain", this is a type of counterpoint in Cuban music, similar to the guajeo. It is a repeated syncopated ostinato accompaniment figure made up of arpeggios and chords that often times features chromatic passing notes in the lower voice. |
| <b>Tumbao</b>  | The part played by the bass, often times a repetitive ostinato type pattern                                                                                                                                                                                |

### Common Afro-Cuban instruments

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Claves</b>    | Short wooden sticks that produce a bright percussive sound for the clave pattern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Batá drum</b> | A double-headed, hourglass shaped drum with different sizes on each end. Originating in Southwestern Nigeria approximately 500 years ago, these drums were ritual African instruments that became part of Cuban music around 1820.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Bongo</b>     | Small drums with an open bottom, played by hand in a constant eighth-note with various accents. It likely originated in Cuba in the late 1800s.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Conga</b>     | A tall single-headed barrel type drum that was originally used in the musical form called Conga, from where it got its name. Conga music was performed as large groups of singers, musicians and dancers. They are also common in Rumba.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Tres</b>      | A guitar type instrument that has six strings, but differs from traditional guitar in that the strings are arranged in three sets of two where three strings are tuned as a major triad in second inversion, typically A-D-F# or G-C-E and then each string is double (like a mandolin or 12-string guitar) with either a unison or an octave higher. The strings are tuned tightly and the melodic patterns, such as the guajeo and montuno that give Afro-Cuban music so much of its identifiable qualities, are played. Sometimes the strings may be deliberately slightly out of tune to add to overall authentic Afro-Cuban sound. |

continued →

## LESSON 3 (continued)

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### Song forms

There are a number of song forms, which are typically based on rhythms and dances. The following gives a brief description of some of the main forms mentioned throughout the lessons.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bolero</b>      | José "Pepe" Sánchez refined this romantic song style in the late 1800s (which is not related to the Spanish Bolero). It originated from traveling musicians who played guitars and sang their own poetry. Characterized by its 2/4 time signature, the <i>cinquillo</i> rhythm, melodies sung harmonized in thirds and sixths and romantic lyrics. Bolero is one of the most important Cuban song forms.                                                      |
| <b>Cha-cha-ch</b>  | This song form is based on the dance of the same name. This dance and song form became popular in the early 1950s, developed from the <i>Danzón-mambo</i> , and soon replaced the mambo as the popular dance of the day. It is characterized by an unharmonized vocal and an accented '4-and' rhythm, often times played by the conga drum, properly placing the "cha-cha-cha" on beat four, where the dance steps begin, and over the barline into beat one. |
| <b>Contradanza</b> | Derived from the English <i>country dance</i> , which influenced French and Spanish music and ultimately found its way to Cuba where it mixed with African rhythms and became one of Cuba's most important musical genres.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Danzón</b>      | The official Cuban national dance and song form. It is a formal, slow dance type in 2/4 time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Guajira</b>     | Cuban song style derived from <i>punto cubano</i> (poetic art music). It evolved as melding of Andalusian and African elements and is associated with Flamenco music. It is commonly performed with guitars and percussion as well as singing and may be characterized by use of the hemiola, which is an alternating of a measure with two groups of three eighth notes and a measure of three groups of two eighth notes.                                   |
| <b>Mambo</b>       | An up-tempo, syncopated, horn driven style that began in the 1930s as repeated instrumental montunos but evolved into a big band dance craze of the 1940s and 50s. Characterized by repetitive montunos and guajeos, single lines played by horn sections and an independent sax section. <i>Danzón-mambo</i> refers to the genre of music that transitioned from the more formal <i>danzón</i> to the mambo.                                                 |

continued →

## LESSON 3 (continued)

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**Rumba** Usually found in a 2/4 time signature, the Rumba uses a 3-2 type clave where the tresillo is altered to move the downbeat accent on beat four to the 'and-of-four'. Rumba is a percussion-driven dance music developed in the late 1800s.

**Tango  
(Habanero)** A song form based on the dramatic dance of the same name. Characterized by a rhythmic cell pattern similar to the tresillo but without the tie from the 'and-of-two', adding a rhythm on the downbeat of three; 1 - '& of 2' - 3 - 4. The tango rhythmic cell later evolved into the tresillo. This musical style developed in the mid to late 1800s and into the early 1900s, where it became immensely popular and spread throughout the world, in particular Argentina, who would in turn bring it to Paris around 1910 where it gained further popularity in Europe and the US.

