



**Why are we learning this?** Samba is an important style of world music. Pieces with Samba links are studied on the Edexcel GCSE course.

## What is Samba?

- \* **Samba** originated in Brazil in the 1800s. It is happy, upbeat music that is most commonly heard at carnivals.
- \* It is important to know that a big part of Brazil's history was the Slave Trade and that Samba originated from the culture and traditions of the African slaves living and working in the Brazilian sugar plantations at the time. As such there are many links to African music that can be heard.
- \* The Samba style includes many layered, often syncopated, rhythms played on many percussion instruments
- \* The music follows a series of signals on a whistle (apito) from a lead player.
- \* Samba music is very loud as it needs to be heard outside by thousands of people.
- \* **Bossa Nova** is a calmer, slightly slower type of Brazilian music. It uses less percussion and more vocals/guitar. It can be minor. The texture is much less busy, but syncopation is still key.

## Musical Features - what are the key instruments and musical ideas in Samba?

**Percussion instruments mainly - some singing, whistles and others.**

**Lively fast tempo to dance to**

**Loud (forte) and exciting**

**Major, happy and upbeat**

**Busy textures (layers)**

**Rhythms can be syncopated and dotted and complex**

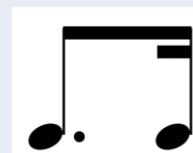


### Syncopation



When a rhythm stresses the **off beat** (e.g the 'ands' of 1+2+3+4+).

### Dotted Rhythm



A rhythmic pattern which uses a long note followed by a shorter note. The 'dotted' part comes from the fact that the first note is usually extended by a dot, and the second note shortened by the value that dot has.

### Call & Response



A musical texture in which one part makes a 'rhythmic' or 'melodic' call, and the remainder of the ensemble reply. This is either by copying the same idea back, or replying with an answering phrase.

### Improvisation

Making music up on the spot (improvising), usually as part of a solo.

### Polyrhythm / Polyhythmic

Multiple different rhythms played at the same time creating a complex busy texture. (Polyphonic is when there are many melodies).

### Triplet



Triplets are three notes played in the time of two (e.g three triplet quavers squeezed into a beat where there would normally be two)