

Brazilian Bateria Percussion

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Practical benefits of a school Bateria ensemble

- Ensemble is mobile and can play while moving. Can play in parades, marching band shows, etc.
- Relative low cost of instruments. Many other percussion instruments can be substituted (marching bass drums, snare drums, shakers, bells, etc.)
- Flexible instrumentation and size of ensemble
- Flexible repertoire; can play for short or long time periods.
- Can play for athletic events.
- Well suited for outdoor performances.
- High energy music!

Musical benefits of a school Bateria ensemble

- All music can be taught by ear and can be memorized.
- Different instruments are easily accessible for all levels of percussionists and non-percussionists
- Develop rhythm and ensemble listening and playing skills.
- Develop rhythmic “swing”

Terms

Escola de samba (samba school) – Community organization dedicated to samba music and dance. Samba schools compete every in during Carnival.

Desfile (parade) – Competitive parade during Carnival. Each samba school parade is comprised of many different elements: floats, many people in costume, dancers, singers, and *bateria*.

Bateria – Ensemble of drums. Up to 400 percussionists in the largest samba schools.

Samba enredo – New song composed by each samba school every year for parade.

Paradinha (break) – Bateria stops main samba groove to play a special phrase, call and response phrase, or different rhythm before returning to main samba groove.

Brazilian Samba Rhythms for vc Bateria

The musical score is organized into staves for the following instruments:

- Tamborim:** Standard pattern ("virado," "carreteiro")
- Agogo:** Partito Alto
- Caixa:** Basic, Samba Clave (Mocidade), Mangueira/Portela, "Em Cima"
- Repique/Repinique:** Rhythmic patterns with muffled and open markings
- Surdos:** Rhythmic patterns with muffled and open markings
- One Surdo:** Bass drum pattern with muffled and open markings

At the bottom of the score, there are markings for "Muffled" and "Open" for the Surdos and One Surdo parts.

Instruments of the Bateria

Surdo - bass drum (16-24" in diameter) played with mallet. Usually 3 sizes. Two lowest surdo keep primary pulse. High surdo plays more syncopated rhythms and phrases.

Caixa – snare drum (12-14" in diameter) played with sticks. Plays all subdivisions and provides the "swing" of samba.

Repique/Repinique – tenor drum tuned very high (12" in diameter), played with one stick and one hand (Rio style). Reinforces the main pulse, plays all subdivisions, and provides swing. Lead repique plays calls to start bateria and for call-and-response breaks.

Tamborim – small, high pitched drum (6" in diameter) played with wooden or plastic stick. Plays syncopated samba rhythms, special "designs" (elaborate phrases), and all subdivisions.

Chocalho/Ganza – shaker. Provides swing feel.

Agogo – double metal bell. Plays syncopated rhythms.