

Samba Course Overview

Welcome to Brazil!

Samba is probably the best known music style to come out of Brazil but it is actually an umbrella term encompassing a number of styles. Those included in this course are Batucuda – a form of Samba influenced by Africa and Brazil known for its fast pace and high energy and Afoxé – a style which originated from Pernambuco to provide further contrast. You will be taken on a journey of rhythmic exploration, develop ensemble, composition and performance skills and learn about Samba instruments and Brazilian culture.

Ideal for ages 7–14 the 12-week course works well in 45 minute sessions but can easily be adapted to suit your lesson length and students' ability.

An overview, lesson outlines and short videos are provided. In each step you will watch and join in with the videos following the aural learn-as-you-go approach which is true to the Samba tradition. The three-stage process uses rhythmic phrases linked to the instrument name or something Brazilian which is spoken at the same time as playing the rhythm pattern, firstly on body percussion before transferring to the specific instrument.

Body percussion is used at the start of the first seven steps to simplify learning before the activities are repeated on the Samba instruments. The activities for body percussion are denoted in *italics* on the lesson outlines.

Rotate the instruments, allowing everyone to try all of them for the first five steps before everyone specialises on a single instrument, as is traditional with Samba players, from Step 6.

If you don't have enough Samba instruments for each student, supplement with other percussion instruments. There may also be times when you might want to mix body percussion and instruments.

Repeat and revisit videos as often as you like to consolidate learning and to get 'in the groove'.

Initially, for the activities titled 'Try It Yourself' take the role of the Director or Mestre yourself but as soon as possible encourage your students to take the lead. To allow for this, the latter steps have fewer activities to give more time for students to take the lead.

Everyone will quickly become familiar with the hand and whistle signals demonstrated on the videos, so use these rather than spoken words, to communicate. This will encourage careful watching and quick responses.

The Samba Course requires no previous Samba experience – just enthusiasm and a willingness to join in!

Step	Content	Instrumentation
1	Introducing Samba!	Body percussion and rotating Samba instruments
2	Building the Groove	Body percussion and rotating Samba instruments
3	Adding More Instruments	Body percussion and rotating Samba instruments
4	Samba Break	Body percussion and rotating Samba instruments
5	The Groove with Samba Break	Body percussion and rotating Samba instruments
6	Moving, Mestring and Arranging	Body percussion and specialised Samba instrument
7	B Section	Body percussion and specialised Samba instrument
8	Composing Break 1	Specialised Samba instrument
9	Composing Break 2	Specialised Samba instrument
10	Class Break	Specialised Samba instrument
11	Final Rehearsal	Specialised Samba instrument
12	The Carnival is in Town!	Specialised Samba instrument