

# COLOMBIA & VENEZUELA

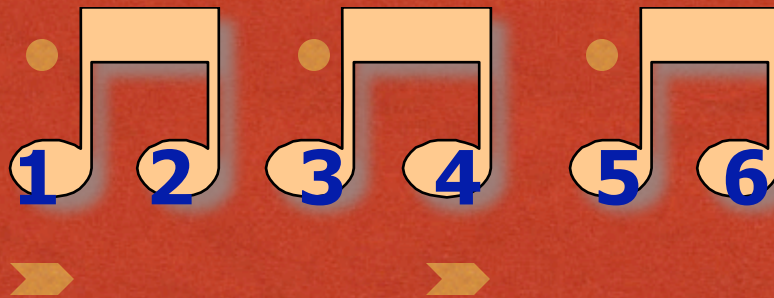


# THREE CULTURES

- Unlike the Caribbean and the virtual decimation of its native populations, South America retained a significant Indigenous population (as did Central America and Mexico)
- In addition to Creole culture, Mestizo culture flourishes in South America
- African religious influence limited due to the dominance of the Catholic Church; most African musical influences on the coastal regions

# “SESQUIÁLTERA”

- This musical term refers to many Spanish-derived and South American rhythms
- Many rhythms in South America are counted in 6/8 time, and sesquiáltera refers to the alternate accents within each phrase of 6 beats: 1 & 4 and 1, 3 & 5, as shown below:



# COLOMBIA

- Cartagena was principal port of entry of slaves into South America
- Colombian music divided into 5 “geo-cultural” regions:
  1. Amazon (over 100 tribes still exist) – Indig.
  2. Plains (shared with Venezuela) - Mestizo
  3. Pacific Coast – African, Creole
  4. Atlantic Coast – African-Indian “Zambos”
  5. Andes - Mestizo

# INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS

- Along the Amazon region, numerous Indigenous tribes have preserved their cultural traditions with virtual purity
- Instruments include drums, percussion and flutes, with fairly simple forms
- Music in these tribes retained its functionality in society, with little or no outside influence affecting it. Music tied to magic, ritual and healing

“HEALING SONG” ~ CHOCÓ INDIANS

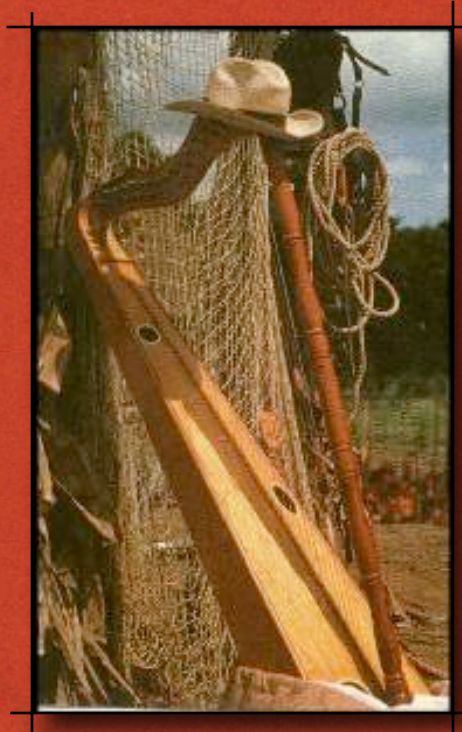
# VENEZUELA

- Colonized much later than Caribbean areas
- Venezuela became the first colony anywhere in the Spanish empire to attempt to break free
- While Africans were brought as slaves to Venezuela, there was not a significant neo-African presence (i.e., religious traditions)
- African musical influence is concentrated along the coast
- The plains region is populated by Mestizo peoples

# VENEZUELAN INSTRUMENTS



CUATRO



ARPA



BANDOLÍN



MARACAS



# LLANOS (PLAINS)

- Colombia & Venezuela share a border along the plains
- This region is home to several Mestizo styles including the bambuco and the joropo (Venezuela's national dance)
- The arpa (harp) is a principal instrument





# BAMBUCO & JOROPO



## JOROPO (VENEZUELA)



# VENEZUELAN QUITIPLÁS



# COLOMBIA'S PACIFIC COAST

- Colombia's Pacific coast is primarily African and Creole
- The African drumming traditions remain secular, but are associated with Catholic celebrations and processions
- The Marimba is a principal instrument, which is derived from the African balaphone (or balafon)
- Styles include the currulao and the patacoré

# THE COLOMBIAN MARIMBA



**AFRICAN  
BALAFONES**



**MARIMBA**

**“YA ME VA COGÉ” (PATACORÉ  
RHYTHM) BY CLAUDIA GÓMEZ**

# THE ATLANTIC COAST

- Largely populated by Zambos (African-Indians), the Atlantic Coast is home to one of Latin America's most popular forms: the cumbia
- Most Afro-Colombian forms include drumming and call-and-response singing

# CUMBIA



**“DOS DE FEBRERO”  
~ TOTÓ LA  
MOMPOSINA**



# CUMBIA

- Cumbia originated as a courtship dance which celebrated the union of African and Indigenous people
- The original instrumentation included two types:
  1. Conjunto de cumbia (drums, perc., vocals)
  2. Conjunto de gaita (gaitas, plus the above)
- The gaita is a cactus wood flute of Indigenous origin; there are always two gaitas in an ensemble

# CUMBIA DE GAITA





# CUMBIA

“AY CURURA” (CUMBIA  
DE GAITA)



TOTÓ LA  
MOMPOSINA



GAITAS



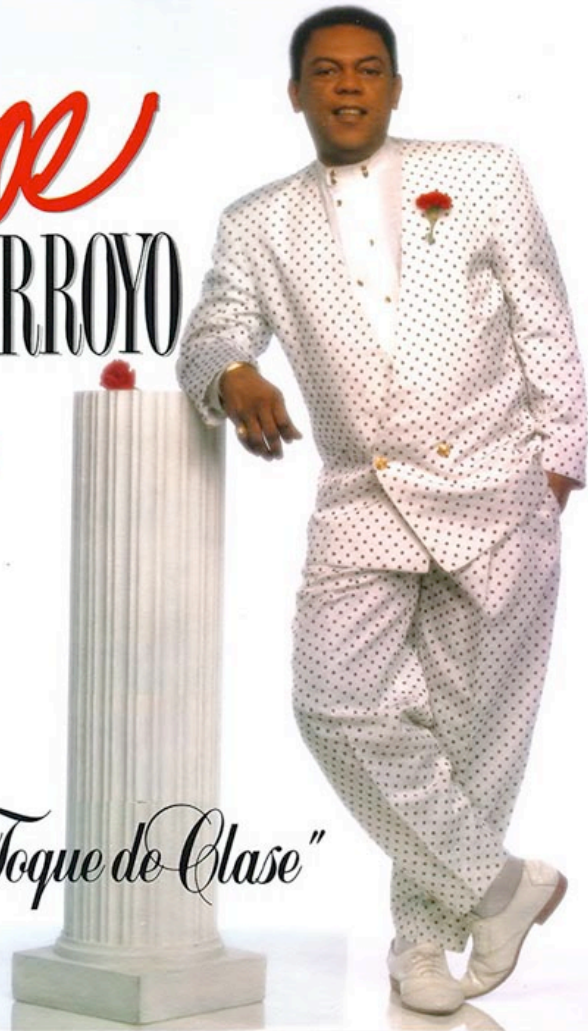
CUMBIA  
INSTRUMENTS

# MODERN CUMBIA

- While traditional cumbia may be considered more folkloric, modern cumbia expanded beyond the traditional instrumentation to incorporate large band formats, often imitating the Cuban conjunto or salsa formats
- Modern cumbia is characterized by a simplified rhythm, which emphasizes the syncopated drum and maraca part; the electric bass will often play a simple on-the-beat pattern

Joe  
ARROYO

*"Toque de Clase"*



“SUAVE BRUTA” BY JOE ARROYO

# VALLENATO

- Developed during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, Vallenato is an accordion-based music genre from the region of Valle de Upar
- Vallenato consists of four styles:
  1. Son
  2. Paseo
  3. Puya
  4. Merengue
- Looked down-upon at first, vallenato re-emerged within the last ten years as one of the most popular Colombian regional forms, due mainly to popular artist Carlos Vives

# VALLENATO



**CARLOS  
VIVES**

“LA GOTA FRIA”



**ACCORDION, GUACHARACA AND  
CAJA**



**BINOMIO DE  
ORO**



“FRUTA FRESCA” (CARLOS VIVES)



FONSECA ~ "TE MANDO FLORES"

# LOOKING AHEAD

- Brazil: Many Regions,  
Many Traditions



CARMEN  
MIRANDA