

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAÏTI



LBM

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Quisqueya = Taíno name for the island; many Dominicans refer to themselves as “Quisqueyanos”
- Tumultuous political history
- Two primary musical forms: Merengue & Bachata

MERENGUE

- Developed in the 1800s from the European contredanse w/ African and Cuban influences
- Declared the national music during the mid 1930s by dictator Rafael Trujillo
- Characterized as a lively, 2-step dance
- Two basic genres: merengue típico and merengue de salón

MERENGUE



MERENGUE TÍPICO

- Developed in the rural areas of the Cibao valley
- Instrumentation included guitar (in early period), and later: accordion, tambora, güira, marímbula and sometimes saxophone
- Marímbula was eventually replaced by the electric bass
- Characterized as fast, busy and syncopated

MERENGUE INSTRUMENTS



TAMBORA

“EL CARABINÉ”



GÜIRA



ACCORDION



MARÍMBULA

THE DANCE

- Merengue is a fast two-step dance with the couples dancing closely
- It is humorously referred to as “brillando hebillas” – polishing belt buckles
- Merengue is one of the simplest of all Latin American dances, resulting in its popularity among dance aficionados



MERENGUE TÍPICO ARTISTS



FEFITA LA GRANDE

“LAS MUJERES DE AHORA”



FRANCISCO ULLOA



FRANCISCO ULLOA

MERENGUE DE SALÓN

- Also known as *orquesta merengue*, this modernized form appealed to larger, middle-class Dominicans
- Style often slowed down and became more simplified, emphasizing a downbeat bass pattern
- Instrumentation incorporated more “Cuban conjunto” format, with piano and saxes taking the role of the accordion
- Bands were generally large and flashy
- Most innovations lead by Johnny Ventura & Wilfrido Vargas

MERENGUEROS



JOHNNY VENTURA



WILFRIDO VARGAS

“EL AFRICANO”



JOHNNY VENTURA ~ “MERENGUERO
HASTA LA TAMBORA”

BACHATA: SONGS OF BITTERNESS

- Bachata is slow, romantic and sad, developed in the early 1950s by very poor Dominicans, and has Cuban bolero & son influences
- The term bachata refers to rowdy, low-class parties
- The guitar is the principal instrument
- Other instruments include Cuban bongos and claves, maracas, etc...
- The bachata was looked down upon, and was not considered a style until the 1960s

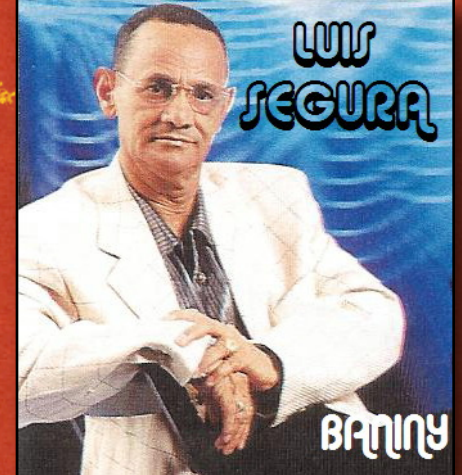
BACHATEROS



LUIS VARGAS



**JOSE MANUEL
CALDERÓN**



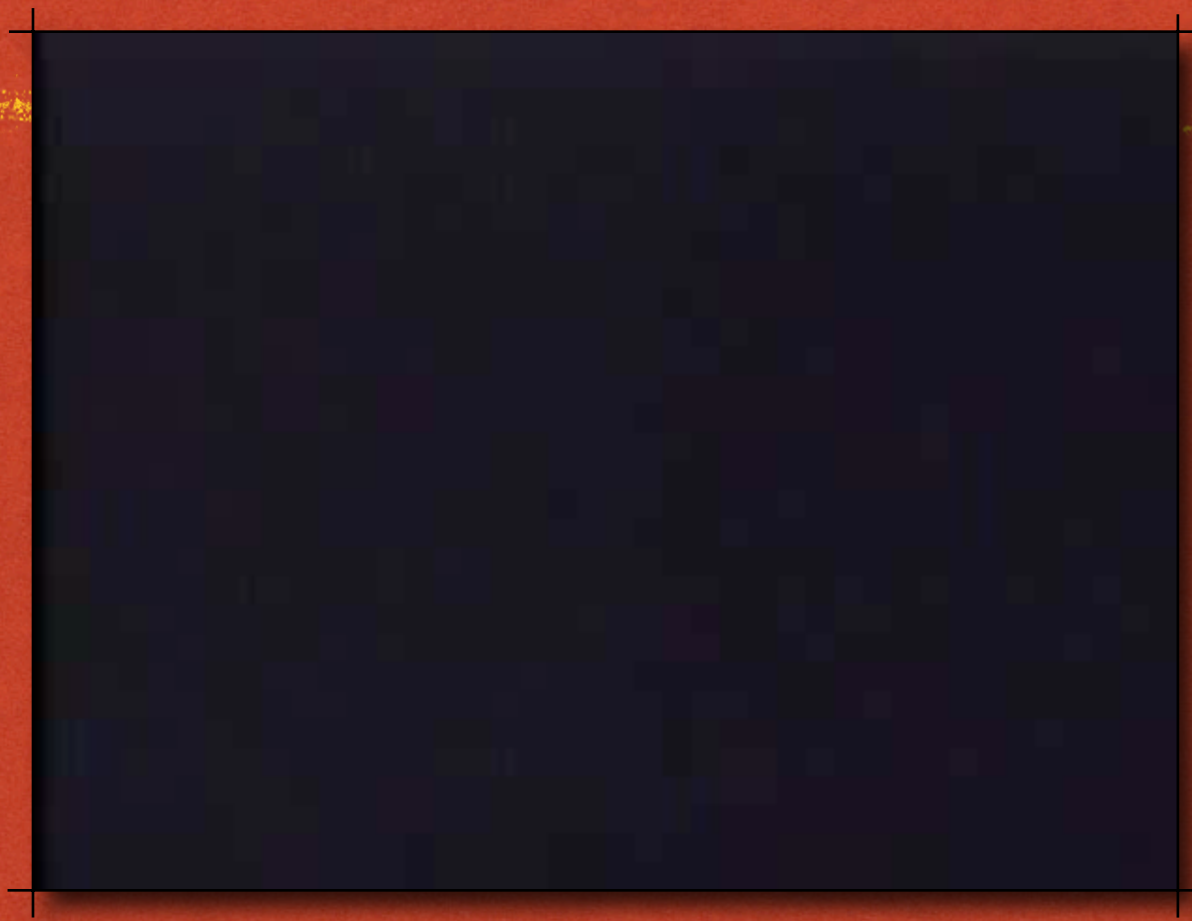
LUIS SEGURA



EDILIO PAREDES (L)



**ARÍDIA
VENTURA**



LUIS SEGURA

JUAN LUIS GUERRA: MODERN MERENGUE & BACHATA

- By the late 1980s, Juan Luis Guerra brought social and political themes with sophisticated lyrics to modern merengue, and re-introduced bachata

“BURBUJAS DE AMOR”





“OJALÁ QUE LLUEVA CAFÉ” ~ JUAN LUIS GUERRA



PABLO CROCE
presenta

AVENTURA ~ "SU VENENO"

MODERN MERENGUE

- Merengue has become commercialized since the 1980s
- Many artists incorporated flashy styles, costumes and choreography, as well as modern instruments such as synthesizers and drum machines
- Much of the production (and many artists) emerged from Puerto Rico, where merengue had been the dominant form until reggaetón

MERENGUEROS Y MERENGUERAS



“CUMANDE”



OLGA TAÑÓN



“ES MENTIROSO” (OLGA TAÑÓN)

HAÏTI

- Eastern half of Quisqueya is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere
- Slave rebellion and revolution from 1791 to 1804
- Krèyol is the national, yet unofficial, language
- Vodou is the national religion



VODOU

- Syncretic religion blending West African polytheistic traditions with Catholicism
- Two nations: Rada & Petwo
- Instruments include: tanbou (single-headed drum), tcha-tcha (“inverted” maracas), lanbi (conch shell) and ogan (iron bell)
- Yanvalou is one of the most common spiritual rhythms played in ceremonies



VODOU INSTRUMENTS

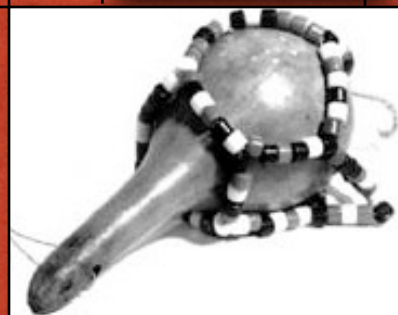


TANBOU

“BADE”



LANBI (CONCH SHELL)



TCHA-TCHA



OGAN

DANCE



A DANCE FOR
DAMBALLA

“DAMBALLAH”



EMELINE MICHEL



VODOU IN MONTREAL



MERENG (OR MERINGUE)

- The Haitian equivalent to merengue
- Also a 2-step dance, although generally slower than its Dominican counterpart
- Traditional instrumentation by groups called “ti bands,” consisting of: guitar or banjo, tanbou and tcha-tcha (both from vodou), beer bottle (playing the Cuban clave beat) and marímbula
- The genre is also referred to as *misik twoubadou* (troubadour music)

MERENG INSTRUMENTS



HOMEMADE BANJO

"HAITI CHERIE"



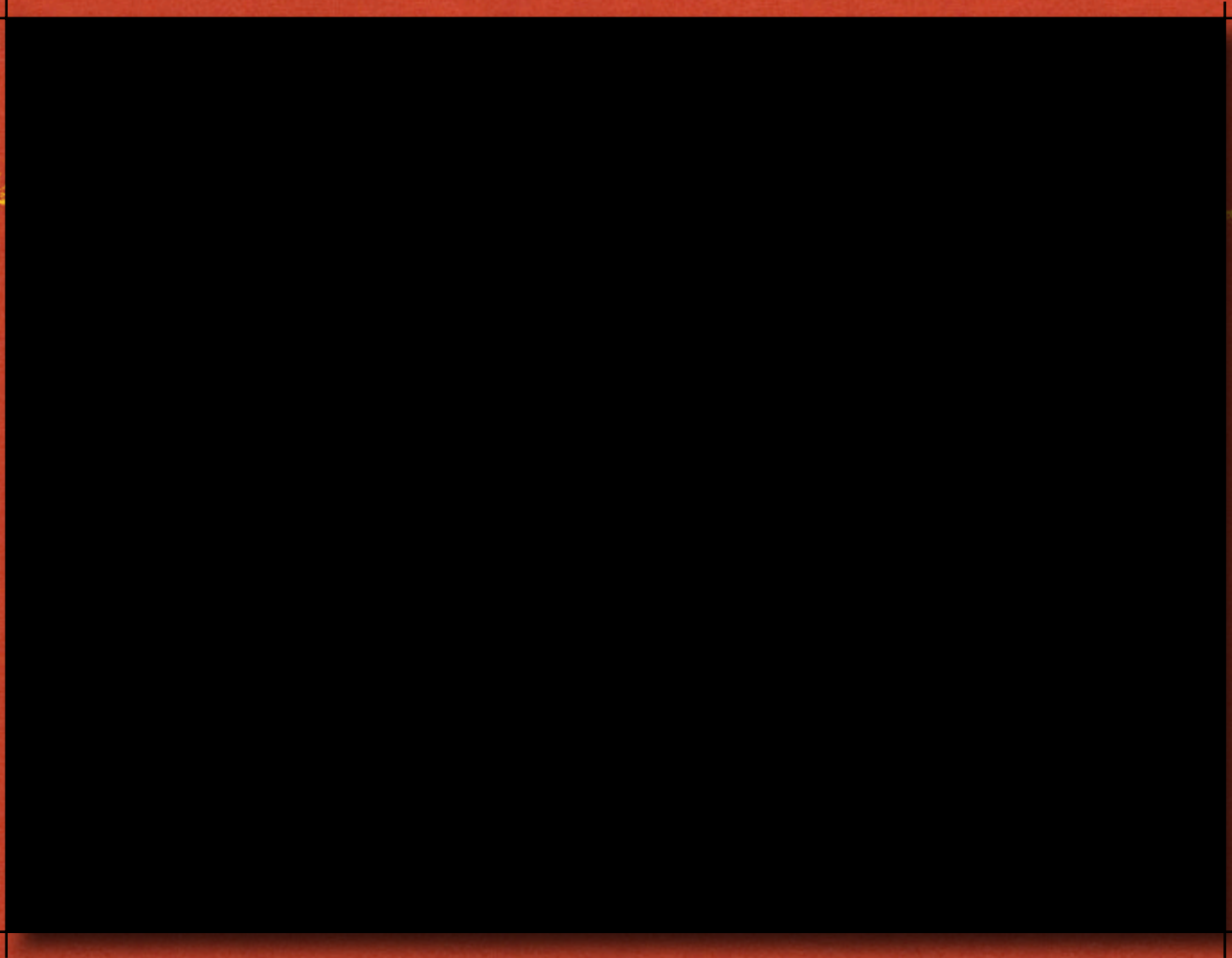
BOX GUITAR



MARÍMBULA



TANBOU (DRUM)



MERENG

KONPA DIRECT (OR COMPAS)

- Modernized popular dance music, with rock and jazz influences
- Instruments include electric guitar and bass, American drumset, tanbou, tcha-tcha and cowbell
- Primary beat emphasized is the tresillo, with a “long-long-short” pattern
- Generally “mellow” like mereng; danced similar to merengue



KONPA STAR
COUPE CLOUE

“MYAN MYAN”

A KONPA BAND IN NYC



“DEMOKRASY” BY PAPA JUBE

CARNIVAL & RARA

- In Haiti, African procession traditions are re-created through Carnival and the Rara celebration
- For days during Lent, thousands gather outdoors to re-enact stories from colonial times, and honor their slave ancestors



Photo HPN

Nedjine Eugène, la reine de reines

HAITIAN CARNIVAL
QUEEN

HAITIAN RARA



A RARA BAND



VAKSIN

“KANAVAL” IN HAÏTI





**“PARTY BY THE SEA” (WYCLEF
JEAN, BUJU BANTON & T-VICE)**

LOOKING AHEAD

- Jamaica: Small Island with a Big Sound



jimmy cliff
black magic