

Latin Style for String Orchestra

Clinicians:

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Featuring:

District 203 Junior High School String Ensemble

Naperville, Illinois

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The Rhythm Section

Save Rehearsal Time and Frustration

- Rehearse the tune with the rhythm section **first**
- Do a little research on the proper rhythmic patterns
- Put the rhythmic “jigsaw puzzle” together in “**layers**”
- If any element causes instability, try changing the layering order and bring the troublesome element in only when other components are synchronized

For All Styles: General Rhythm Sectional Hints

- Players must avoid overfilling and know **their role** in this rhythmic “jigsaw puzzle”
- Be very conscious of how each rhythm section part fits into the whole
- Work to get all elements **tight**
- Fills should not interfere with one another; keep it **simple**
- Tutti fills (to setup major entrances, etc.) are very effective

Remember the Clave!

- Decide 2/3 or 3/2 right away (Son, Rumba, etc.). It does not change.
- Look for hints in the music (drum parts) if you cannot tell right away
- Look for hints in the melodic line or comping patterns. The Clave remains fixed, and the phrases revolve around it. An even number of measures constitutes no change in the direction of the clave, whereas, an odd number of measures creates a change in direction.
- Have an auxiliary percussion player either clap or play clave on a wood block
- If the tune is written in 6/8, decide between either the 2/3 or 3/2 Afro-Cuban 6/8 clave
- Remember that using the wrong clave pattern will make the whole tune “feel” wrong!

The String Section

Technique

- Energize the bow: faster bows for melodic lines, careful bow choreography
- Short notes are light: subtle short note rather than classical staccato
- Expressive vibrato: often subdued, speed up for emphasis

Musical Issues

- Written and unwritten accents: listen to clave
- Rhythmic factors: forward drive, importance of right hand
- Quick dynamic changes

Orchestral Setting

- Flexible arrangements
- Listen to recordings and even learn the dances
- Move while playing: learn to internalize rhythms
- Use community and student experts to increase authenticity

Suggested Rhythm Section Patterns

Samba

- Usually played at a faster tempo
- Should have the feeling of a 2/4 pulsation
- The syncopation does not alter the basic two-measure phraseology
- If there is a clave-like rhythmic pattern, it is usually played on the snare drum by the left stick

Señor Samba

Victor López and Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

A **Bright Samba** ♩ = 180
Agogo bell (Opt. Cowbell)

Hand Percussion 1
Percusión de Mano 1

Hand Percussion 2
Percusión de Mano 2

Guitar
Guitarra

Piano

Pizz. Bass
Pizz. Bajo

Optional Drumset
Batería Opcional

mf Chocallo (opt. shaker)
Tambour (opt. Conga)
R L R L
mf muffled open
Surdu w/soft mallet (opt. Floor tom)
Em7 Am7 D7 Gmaj7
mf Em7 Am7 D7 Gmaj7
pizz.
mf H.H.
Rim click*
B.D. *mf*

*The stick is held between the forefinger and thumb, the palm turned downward. Strike the center of the head with the palm of the hand and the stick. The stick, extended forward over the rim, strikes the rim at the same time. This should produce a muffled sound. Do not let the head ring.

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Bolero

- A slow, lyrical ballad – not to be confused with the Maurice Ravel composition of the same name
- Usually placed at a slow tempo
- Different than the Cha-cha-cha but rhythmically incorporates the same parts, especially in an open vamp section
- Typical Bass line rhythmic pattern is a half note followed by two quarter notes

Danza Boléro

Victor López and Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

Bolero (♩ = 92)

Cascara (side of Timbale Opt. S. Drum shell)

Intro R L R L sim.

Hand Percussion 1
Percusión de Mano 1

Hand Percussion 2
Percusión de Mano 2

Conga Drums
+ - muted
o - open
s - slap

Maracas
R L R L

Guitar
Guitarra

Piano

Pizz. Bass
Pizz. Bajo

Optional Drumset
Batería Opcional

B.D. light

Various cymbals

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Bolero (cont.)

Danza Boléro

- 2 -

Repeat 4 times
Play 1st & 4th time only

A

Hand Perc. 1
Perc. de Mano 1

Claves (2-3)

Hand Perc. 2
Perc. de Mano 2

Gtr.
Guit.

Piano

Opt. Drumset
Bat. Opc.

mf

The musical score is for a Bolero piece, specifically the 'Danza Boléro' section. It is a multi-staff arrangement. At the top, it indicates 'Repeat 4 times' and 'Play 1st & 4th time only'. The first staff is for 'Hand Perc. 1' and 'Perc. de Mano 1', featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked with a box 'A'. The second staff is for 'Hand Perc. 2' and 'Perc. de Mano 2', featuring a similar pattern with a 'Claves (2-3)' instruction. The third staff is for 'Gtr. Guit.', showing a series of chords: Am, Am/G#, Am7/G, Am6/F#, Dm, Dm/C#, Dm7/C, and Dm6/Bb. The fourth staff is for 'Piano', showing a melody in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The fifth staff is for 'Opt. Drumset Bat. Opc.', featuring a pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked with a box 'A'. The score is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

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Merengue

- Popular dance rhythm native to the Dominican Republic
- If there is no güira (metal scraper) or güiro, the drummer plays this crucial part on the Hi-Hat
- Along with Salsa, it is the most commercialized Latin song style
- The primary Bass pattern has been and continues to play the root and fifth on down beats

Merengue Dance

Victor López and Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

Merengue style (♩ = 132)

Hand Percussion 1
Percusión de Mano 1

Hand Percussion 2
Percusión de Mano 2

Guitarra

Piano

Bass
Bajo

Optional Drumset
Batería Opcional

Tambora (opt. Timbales or Snare Drum)

R R L R L R RR L L *sim.*

f Claves (3-2)
Cowbell muffled

f Guiro

Am G

f Am G

pizz.

f

High Tom Light rim shots (near edge of rim) Med. Tom

Bass Drum

Hi-Hat foot

f

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Additional Common Latin Styles

Son/Son Montuno, Mambo, Salsa, Cha-Cha-Cha, Bossa Nova, Afro-Cuban, Rhumba, Tango

Suggested Resources

Bardfeld, Sam. *Latin Violin: How to Play Charanga, Salsa and Latin Jazz Violin*. New York, Music Sales Corporation, 2002.

Berroa, Ignacio. *Mastering the Art of Afro-Cuban Drumming* – VH0215 (Instruction on Important Afro-Cuban rhythms, traditional Latin instruments, and Drum Set), Alfred Publishing Company, 2000.

Gerard, Charley, and Marty Sheller. *Salsa, The Rhythm of Latin Music*. Crown Point, White Cliffs Media Company, 1989.

Hernandez, Horacio “El Negro”. Festival: Horacio “El Negro” Hernandez – VH0357 (Performance and insights into playing Drum Set in this style), Alfred Publishing Company, 2011.

Roberts, John Storm. *The Latin Tinge, The Impact of Latin American Music on the United States*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1979.

Uribe, Ed. *The Essence of Afro-Cuban Percussion & Drum Set*. Van Nuys, Alfred Publishing Company, 1996.

Uribe, Ed. *The Essence of Brazilian Percussion & Drum Set*. Van Nuys, Alfred Publishing Company, 1996.

Recommended Listening

<u>Irakere</u> Irakere en Vivo Bailando Asi Irakere	<u>Oscar de Leon</u> La Salsa Yo Soy Con Bajo y Todo
<u>Eddie Palmieri</u> Azucar Pa Ti Sentido	<u>Los Van Van</u> Songo
<u>Paquito de Rivera</u> 40 years of Cuban Jam Session Manhattan Burn	<u>Arturo Sandoval</u> El Tren Latino
<u>Tito Puente</u> El Rey Para Los Rumberos	<u>Arsenio Rodriguez</u> Sabroso y Caliente
<u>Celia Cruz</u> Exitos Canta Celia Cruz	<u>Israel “Cachao” Lopez</u> Maestro de Maestros Descargas con el Ritmo de Cachao
<u>Ray Barretto</u> Que Viva la Musica Ritmo de la Vida	<u>String Artists:</u> Alfredo de la Fe, Violin Federico Britos, Violin Jesús Florido, Violin Ali Bello, Violin James Sanders, Violin Anthony Blea, Violin Carlitos del Puerto, Bass
<u>Stan Getz</u> Girl from Ipanema	