



**NOT ENOUGH STUDENTS FOR A JAZZ BAND?
WHY NOT START A SALSA ENSEMBLE!**

PRESENTERS:

RICHARD DE LA RIVA

RAUL LIENDO

**HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH
HARLINGEN, TX.**

ENSEMBLE:

**HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH
*RITMO GAVILAN***

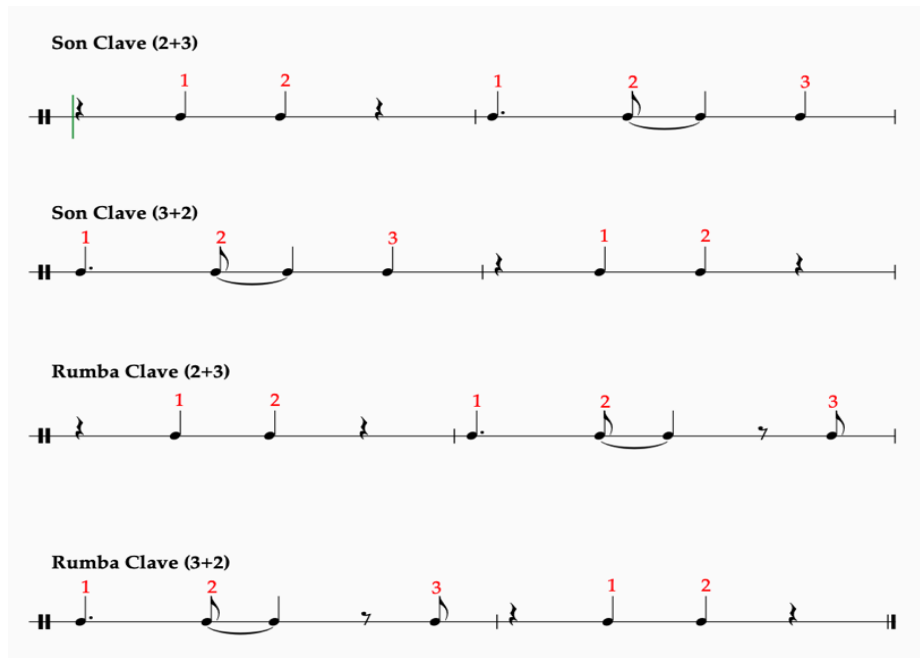
Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

What is Salsa? - A mixture of different Afro-Cuban rhythms/styles combined. The name of “Salsa” is credited to *The Fania All-Stars* back in the 60’s. The MC (Izzy Sanabria) would introduce the *Fania All-Stars* by saying “Con el sabor Latino, que tiene mas salsa que pescao” (“With the Latin flavor that has more Salsa than fish”). According to Fania Bassist Sal Cuevas, the people started shouting “Salsa!” at the concerts, and that’s how it caught on.

Starts with the **CLAVE**

What is Clave?

Clave is the “key” or heartbeat of Latin music. It is used to help organize dance styles in its music.



INSTRUMENTATION

Rhythm Section: Congas, Piano/Electric Keyboard, Bass Guitar, Acoustic Bass, Bongo Bell & beater (Hand bell)

Additional instruments: Timbales set with block, mambo bell, cha-cha bell and a set of Bongo, guiro, maracas

Winds: Any combination of Flute, Trumpet, Sax or Trombone can be used

Note: the more you have of a certain instrument, the broader the music selections will be.

Ex. 3-4 trombones, 2-3 trumpets, Trumpet, Sax (preferably Tenor Sax) Trombone.

Three flutes can be used but will not carry well with percussion unless they are amplified.

Vocals:

Male, Female or one of each. The ideal situation is one lead vocal and three backing vocals to be used for coro y pregones (chorus and improvisation)

LIKE ANYTHING, BUILD IT FROM THE GROUND UP

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

LET'S TEACH CLAVE AND TUMBAO:

Feel is everything. Try to listen to which side of the clave is being played. 2+3 clave will clash in a 3+2 timbale bell or paila/cascara pattern and vice versa.

The Claves and Timbales

♩ = 116
(2+3 clave) **CORRECT**

This musical notation shows a correct 2+3 clave pattern. The Claves part (top staff) consists of two measures: the first measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, and the second measure has a quarter note followed by a quarter rest. The Timbales part (bottom staff) consists of two measures of eighth notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a strike. The first measure has four strikes, and the second measure has four strikes.

♩ = 116
(2+3 clave) **INCORRECT**

3

This musical notation shows an incorrect 2+3 clave pattern. The Claves part (top staff) consists of two measures: the first measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, and the second measure has a quarter note followed by a quarter rest. The Timbales part (bottom staff) consists of two measures of eighth notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a strike. The first measure has four strikes, and the second measure has four strikes. A blue '3' is written above the first measure of the Claves part, indicating a 3+2 pattern.

timbales is playing a 3+2 pattern

♩ = 116
(3+2 clave) **CORRECT**

5

This musical notation shows a correct 3+2 clave pattern. The Claves part (top staff) consists of two measures: the first measure has a quarter note followed by a quarter rest, and the second measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note. The Timbales part (bottom staff) consists of two measures of eighth notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a strike. The first measure has four strikes, and the second measure has four strikes. A blue '5' is written above the first measure of the Claves part, indicating a 3+2 pattern.

timbales is playing a 3+2 pattern

♩ = 116
(3+2 clave) **INCORRECT**

7

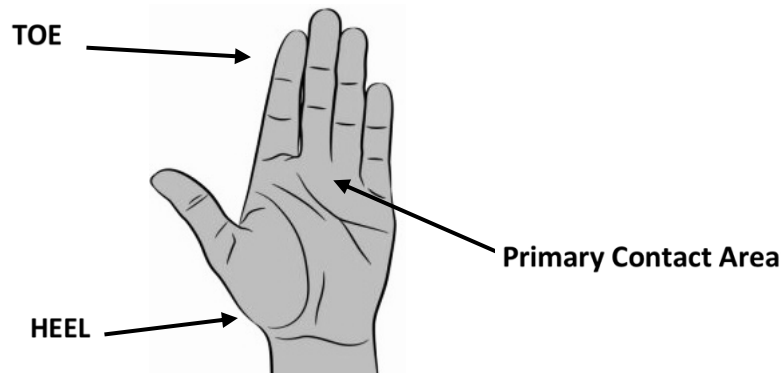
This musical notation shows an incorrect 3+2 clave pattern. The Claves part (top staff) consists of two measures: the first measure has a quarter note followed by a quarter rest, and the second measure has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note. The Timbales part (bottom staff) consists of two measures of eighth notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a strike. The first measure has four strikes, and the second measure has four strikes. A blue '7' is written above the first measure of the Claves part, indicating a 2+3 pattern.

timbales is playing a 2+3 pattern

The Percussion Section

The Congas:

“Anatomy of the Hand”

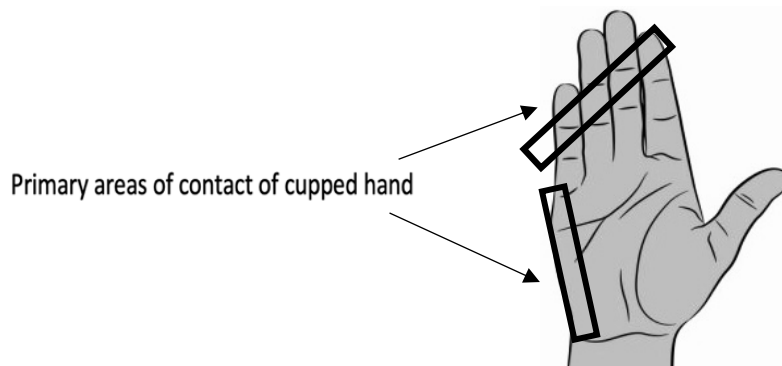


Tone production:

Open: Both hands over the drum. Raise left hand off the Conga while keeping the wrist on the rim (or close to). The striking hand (Right Hand in this case) should be held loosely with the fingers slightly spread. The part of the hand where the fingers join the hand (opposite side of knuckles) is the primary contact area and should strike near the rim.

Slap: The slap is a very important part of the conga sound. It will take time to develop. There are different types of slaps that a player would need to develop. The slap in the following examples is a “closed” slap. The slap is achieved by:

- Placing the non-striking hand on the drum (Left hand in this example).
- Striking the drum with right hand (slightly “cupped”), feeling the impact at the tips of the fingers and outside of the hand (see diagram below).



Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Heel – Toe Exercise: “H” = Heel “T” = Toe

**HEEL - TOE
Builder**

Congas

3

R L R L

Tumbao: The repeated pattern played by the congas, also referred to as *marcha*, emphasizing the fourth beat of the measure, as well as the “+” of four.

Part of hand used:

H T S T H T O O H T S O O T O O

1 drum Tumbao

Sticking: L L R L L L R R

Part of hand used:

H T S T H T O O H T S O O T O O

2 drum Tumbao

Sticking: L L R L L L R R L L R R R L R R

Examples of Playing Techniques

Conga

Open

HEEL

Keep them close together

Tumbadora

Slap

TOE

Tuning: (G, C)

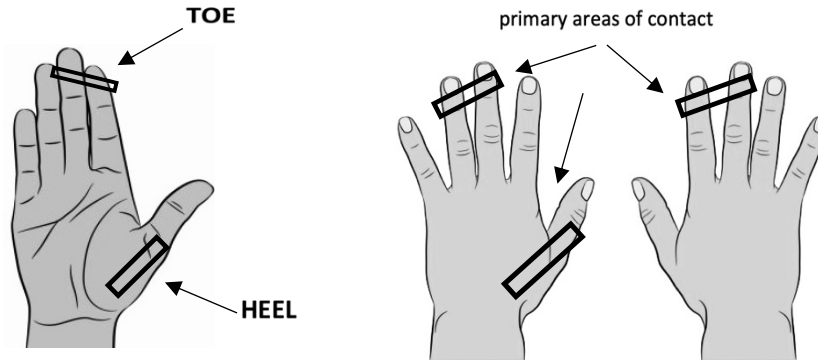
Perfect Fourth

The tuning is from Tumbadora to Conga (low to high). It is a good starting point on a pair of Congas, depending on the size of the group, you can tune higher (to cut through the mix)

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

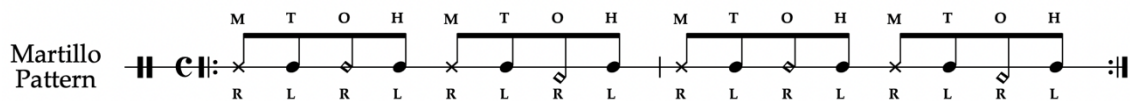
The Bongos

“Anatomy of the Hand”

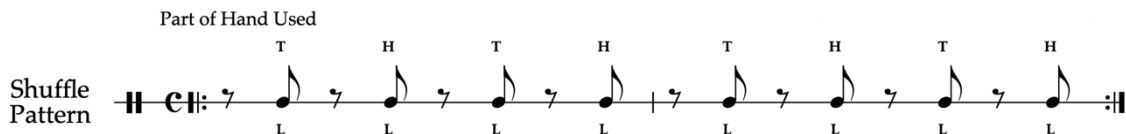


The Martillo Pattern: The repeated pattern of the bongos which is often “improvised”.

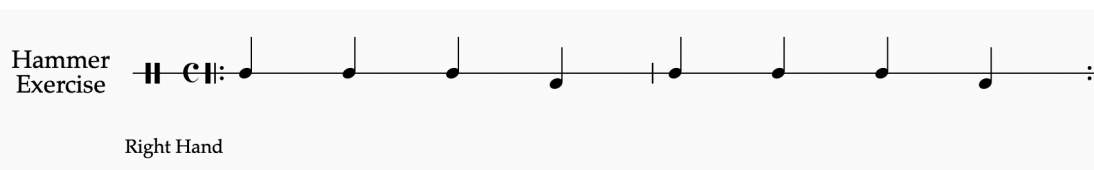
“M” = Muted tone, T= Toe, “O” = Open, “H” = Heel. The muted tone is achieved by having the left hand resting on the Macho (smaller drum) as the right-hand strikes.



Left Hand Shuffle: This exercise is used to develop the motion of the left hand with the aim to engage muscle memory early on.



Hammer exercise: “Peek, Pack, Peek, Poke”. Those are the sounds you want to hear from the right hand in the Martillo Pattern. Martillo translates to “Hammer” in English and that is what your right hand is doing. It is a steady “hammering” of the Macho and Hembra drums.



Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Examples of Playing Techniques



Bongo Tuning is like Conga tuning (perfect fourth interval).
A good start would be G (Hembra) and C (Macho).

The Hand Bell: Played by the Bongo player during Coro/Mambo sections of music.

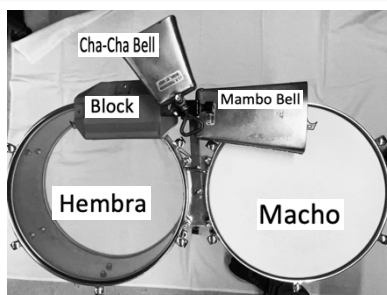
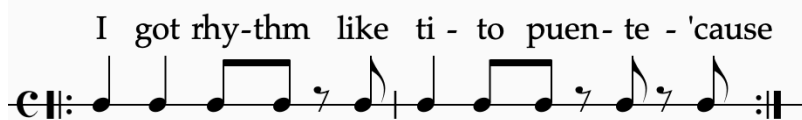


O = Mouth of Bell
+ = Back of Bell

Hand Bell

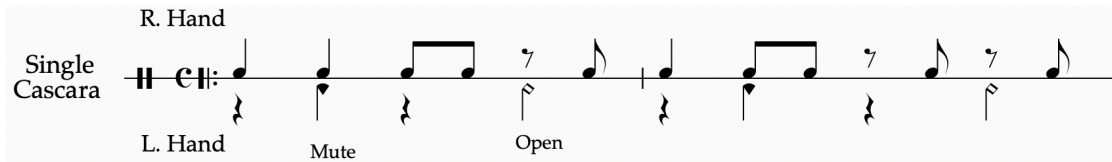
Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

The Timbales

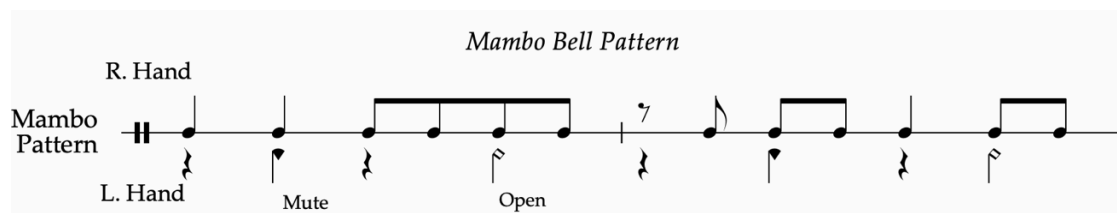


The tuning can vary, but a good start would be C, G (Hembra – Macho) this would depend on the size of the drums. A recommended size would be 14" & 15".

The Cascara Pattern: Played on the side or “shell” of the drum (R. Hand). Left Hand on the Hembra (low drum)

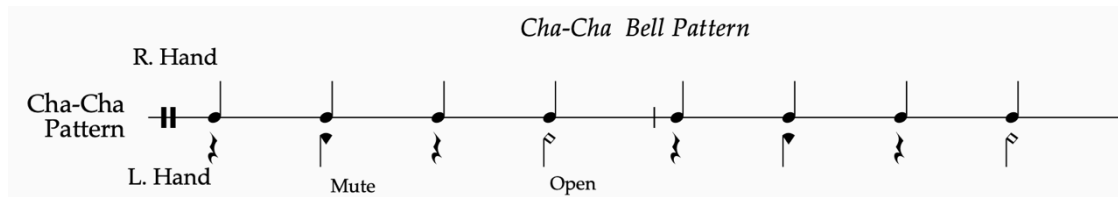


The Mambo Bell Pattern: Played on the Mambo Bell during *Coro* and *Mambo* sections.

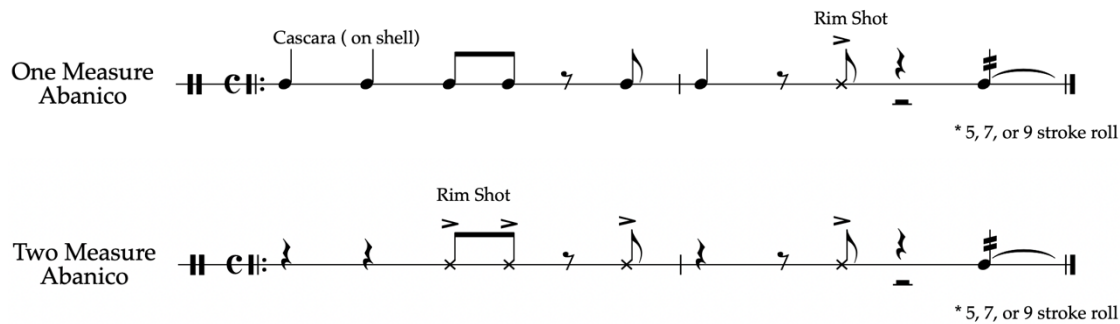


Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

The Cha-Cha Bell Pattern: Played during cha-cha music (usually at a slower tempo).



The Abanico: Transitional "fill" signaling the beginning of a new section of music.



Examples of Playing Techniques



Each of these patterns from the Congas, Timbales, and Bongó, directly correspond with the Clave Pattern. All the examples provided are in the 2-3 clave format. Concerning any tuning of these drums, personal preference, taste, and musical context will dictate over all. Reference recordings, other sources (cited in this packet), can be a good start.

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

The Guiro



↓ = Down Stroke ↑ = Up Stroke

Guiro $\text{H} \text{ C} \text{H} \text{:}$

On the “tied” notes, maintain contact between the scraper and the guiro. Outline the Nike “Swoosh” to assist with the travel path of the scraper.

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

THE BASS:

The bass patterns for basic montuno

2+3 Clave

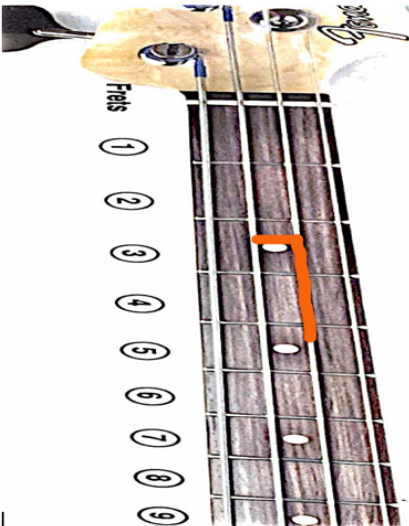
Montuno/Mambo Bass Line

lowest note is emphasized on count 3 of the clave

2+3 Clave

The "7-Pattern"

lowest note is emphasized on count 3 of the clave



C is played on the 3rd string, 3rd fret
F is played on the 2nd string, 3rd fret
G is played on the 2nd string, 5th fret

The pattern allows the basic montuno to travel in what I call a number 7 pattern (easier for kids to visualize)

This pattern works in ALL keys for a basic montuno pattern,
Which travels from I, IV,V then IV and finally back to I

2+3 Clave

lowest note is emphasized on count 3 of the clave

The modified bass pattern for the montuno bass line

References:

The Swing of the Latin Bass – Ray Ramirez
<https://youtu.be/ACuQXpcap20>

Salsa Tumbao Examples - Flavio Lira

<https://youtu.be/pLmmvIT3RQg>

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Lessonface Salsa Tutorial

Bass Lines

♩ = 194

Flavio Lira

Arrangement: Flavio Lira

Basic Salsa Tumbaos

1

C#m F#m A B

2

5 C#m F#m A B

3

9 C#m F#m A B

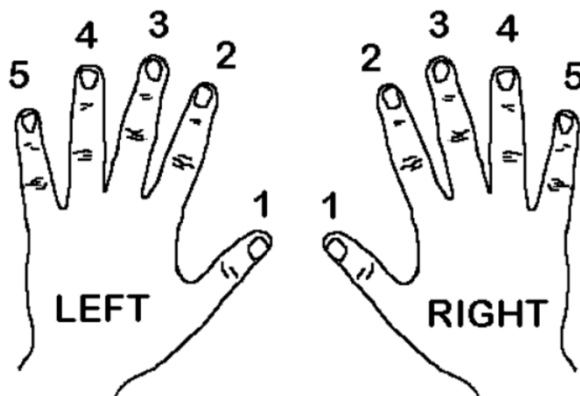
4

13 C#m F#m A B

THE PIANO: working the piano chops!

If the student or instructor does not have experience with piano. Having a set of tools to get you started is always helpful. I highly recommend owning a piano chord book such as “The Encyclopedia of Keyboard Color Picture Chords” – Felipe Orosco, or even more conveniently, “Chords and Scales App” on your device. Using these tools, you can now visually see the chord you will play in different inversions.

FINGERINGS:



Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Now, let's create a simple Montuno pattern:



C Major Chord



F Major Chord 2nd Inversion



G Major Chord 2nd Inversion

Building the Montuno for Piano

Montuno ♩ = 98
(2+3 clave)

Note: Tempo marking is only for learning purposes

Midwest Clinic 2022
Not Enough Student's for a Jazz Band?
Why not start a Salsa Ensemble

C F G F C

Preferred way of writing for young students to show subdivision

Sample Bass Line

Advanced way of writing for students with piano experience

Sample Bass Line

Use when the orchestration is heavier. Adds body to the tumbao
DO NOT use this when there's a solo or vocal is singing a verse

↑ Leave middle octave (C4) open

Similar to Jazz, avoid the lower end (Bass Clef/C1/C2) of the piano.
It will take away clarity from the bassist.

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

2

Advanced rhythmic montuno Var. 1 (pinky and thumb lead)



Advanced rhythmic montuno Var. 2



Advanced rhythmic montuno Var. 3 (you can also do the other patterns on 1st inversion)



Octave Exercise

speed up as needed

♩ = 116



Use this exercise to train the hands to play the octaves comfortably. Experienced pianist should try the inversion patterns and/or add the left hand octave.

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Simple Cha-Cha-Cha Pattern

3

♩=98

Dm⁷ G⁷(sus4) Dm⁷ G⁷(sus4) Cmaj⁷ C⁶ Cmaj⁷ C⁶

sample bass line

Better Pattern

Dm⁷ G⁷(sus4) Dm⁷ G⁷(sus4) Cmaj⁷ C⁶ Cmaj⁷ C⁶

sample bass line

Dm⁷ G⁷(sus4) Dm⁷ G⁷(sus4) Cmaj⁷ C⁶ Cmaj⁷ C⁶

sample bass line

Keep in mind that there are many ways to create a tumbao. These are simple ways to incorporate the piano with the bass and percussion.

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

THE WIND SECTION:

If transcribing, try to pick charts with unison horn lines or parts that are in thirds. This will develop confidence and help establish a groove within the horn line. Depending on your instrumentation, is what you can play. You might have two trumpets, a flute, and a sax, three trombones, one trumpet, one sax, one trombone, etc. Assign parts depending on the ability and availability of your players.

Ex. Trumpet, Sax, Trombone, and three parts

Trumpet 1 st		Alto Sax 1 st
Tenor Sax 2 nd .	Or	Trumpet 2 nd
Trombone 3 rd		Trombone 3 rd

Flute, Alto, Tenor

Flute 1st

Alto 2nd

Tenor 3rd

If only trumpet parts are available and only trombonists available. Transpose the parts and bring down an octave.

Rule of thumb: just because it sounds good on the recording or in your head, it might sound empty or bland once you put it to work.

PUT THE CHART TOGETHER:

- Put a Chart Together – Salsa Ensemble Demonstration (selection TBD)
 - Start with the rhythm section
 - Understanding which clave you are using (2+3 or 3+2)
 - Make sure everything is grooving and lining up and not rushing
 - Add the Winds
 - Using a lead sheet, transcription or purchased music
 - Add vocals if any are required
 - *“No American Idol required” – sing for fun!*
 - *Not because someone’s watching*
 - *Students will be very shy to sing at first. Have the entire ensemble sing the **Coro** to help the lead vocals gain their confidence*
 - Pregon can be changed. After all, it **IS** the vocal improvisation
 - You **DON’T** have to sing it JUST like the recording. Feel free to make it your own.

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

IMPROVISATION:

- Soloing needed? – Have a go at it!
- Understand that this is a lifelong journey! But the initial “Leap” is the first step to getting better.
 - There are tons of information on the internet about how to solo (This takes time)
 - Chad LB
 - <https://youtu.be/V2hWZs0PG8Q>
 - <https://youtu.be/8XxnTSkYecQ>
 - Chase Sandborn
 - <https://youtu.be/uCUO8v27gp8>
 - Victor Wooten
 - <https://youtu.be/UBNT5K2sEFQ>
 - <https://youtu.be/UBNT5K2sEFQ>

WHERE CAN I GET MUSIC?

- 3-2 Music Publishing
- (Oscar Hernandez: Pianist Founder of Spanish Harlem Orchestra)
 - <https://3-2music.com/>
 - Sher Music
 - <https://www.shermusic.com/>
 - Latin sheet Music
 - <http://www.latinsheetmusic.com/>
 - Latin Horn Chart
 - <https://www.latinhorncharts.com/>

YOUR CLINICIANS:

From

***Harlingen High School South
Harlingen, Tx. 78552
(956) 427-3800***

Richard De La Riva – email: richard.delariva@hcisd.org

Raul Liendo – email: raul.liendo@hcisd.org

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Reference and Resources:

The Swing of the Latin Bass – Ray Ramirez

<https://youtu.be/ACuQXpcap20>

Salsa Tumbao with Flavio Lira

<https://youtu.be/pLmmvIT3RQg>

“The Encyclopedia of Keyboard Color Picture Chords” – Felipe Orosco \$29

<https://www.jwpepper.com/Encyclopedia-of-Keyboard-Color-Picture-Chords/10056064.item#.Yidy-RDMI-Q>

Salsa Guidebook for Piano & Ensemble, by Rebeca Mauleón

<https://www.shermusic.com/0961470194.php>

Tito Puente’s *Drumming with the Mambo King*, by Tito Puente and Jim Payne

<https://www.amazon.com/Tito-Puentes-Drumming-Mambo-King/dp/0991654978>

The Art of Playing Timbales by Victor Rendón

<https://www.jwpepper.com/Art-of-Playing-Timbales-No.-1-Book-and-CD/5977650.item#.Y0118OzMK3I>

YouTube Channels to follow:

Conga Chops

A Percussion Life with Eric Perez

Congahead (They have live artists play in their venue)

Spanish Harlem Orchestra

Useful Apps:

The Clave (free)

Conga Chops App (\$9.99 on App Store)

Afro Latin Drum Machine (Free/In-App Purchases)

Super Metronome (Free/In-App Purchases)

iReal Pro (Free/In-App Purchases)

Chordify (In-App Purchases)

Chords and Scales App (YOU NEED THIS ONE)

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

Whom should I listen to?

Disclaimer: These are just some recommendations to start your ensemble. There are wonderful artists out there that you will eventually like

Instrumental

Ray Barretto
Eddie Palmieri
Poncho Sanchez
Tito Puente

Soneros/Traditional

Oscar D' Leon
Celia Cruz
Johnny Pacheco
Buena Vista Social Club

Salsa/Fusion

Fania All-Stars
Irakere

Salsa/Salsa Dura

Ruben Blades
Willie Colon
Hector Lavoe
Willie Rosario
El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico
Ray Barretto

Modern Orchestras

Spanish Harlem Orchestra
La Maxima 79
Orquesta La-33
Cubanismo
Latin Giants of Jazz
Raices
Tony Succar

Not enough students for a Jazz Band? Why not start a Salsa Ensemble?

SPONSORSHIPS & THANK YOU:

Thank you to these sponsors for helping our students get to the Midwest Clinic Convention. We couldn't have done it without them!

DAVE LOEB
RONNIE RIOS
MICHAEL MCGRATH
VERONICA VILLEGAS
KAYCEE LIENDO
ETHOS ENGINEERING
MEGAMORPHOSIS
GMS ARCHITECTS
FAST SIGNS
DIAZ FLOORS & INTERIORS
SHADES UNLIMITED
HURRICANE FENCE
L & G CONSTRUCTION
JUDGE SALLIE GONZALEZ
THE LAW OFFICE OF RAY RODRIGUEZ, JR
RICHARD SILLER
CENTRAL READY MIX
NU RX PHARMACY
STEFANO RESTAURANT
MARTINEZ DRYWALL & PAINT INC.
WESLACO BORDER PATROL OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION
TEXAS INN
BILL JORDAN
PEACOCK CONTRACTORS
GINAC ARCHITECTS
CENTRAL AIR & HEATING SERVICES, LLC
GOLDEN KEY GENERAL CONTRACTOR
JESUS MORALES

Thank You!