

Capoeira Music

Batizado 2010 presentation: Professora Rachael Lewsley





Berimbau



The Berimbau (the musical bow) is the main instrument of Capoeira.

In this picture all the separate parts that make up the whole instrument are labelled.



Pandeiro Agogô & Atabaque

These instruments are common to all styles of Capoeira





Reco-reco & Xequere





Instruments and their origins







Home of the Berimbau

Map showing the areas in Africa where the musical bow (Berimbau) is played







Caxixi

The caxixi was joined with the Berimbau in Brazil.



Atabaque

Is a tall wooden drum typically made from jacaranda wood with a leather head. The ropes attached to the head of the drum and allows the tension, and therefore the pitch of the note to be changed.

When skin is tighter, the drum has a higher brighter pitch, and it is lower and duller when the ropes are looser. There is a lower metal ring held in place by wooden wedges which work together to maintain the tension in the drum. The atabaque also needs a stand.





Pandeiro

The tension of the head on the pandeiro unlike the more basic tambourine, can be tuned, allowing the player a choice of high and low notes. Also, the metal jingles (*platinelas*) are cupped, creating a crisper, and (crucially) less sustained sounds which allows for greater clarity for fast complicated





Pandeiro Origins

The pandeiro originates in North Africa and Arabia and was taken to Portugal and Northern Spain when those areas were conquered by the Moors in the middle ages. From there it was taken to Brazil by the Portuguese and in Brazil it was adopted by the African people





Agogô

The African agogô bell is made of metal with each bell a different size. This allows a differently pitched note to be produced depending on which bell has been hit.



A Long Journey to get to you!

- **Pandeiro miles**

Miles Morocco Casablanca - Lisbon Portugal -
Rio de Janeiro Brazil – London UK = 11,032

- **Berimbau miles**

Luanda, Angola – Salvador Brazil – Sao Paolo
Brazil – London UK = 10,317

(www.timeanddate.com)



Instruments in the Roda

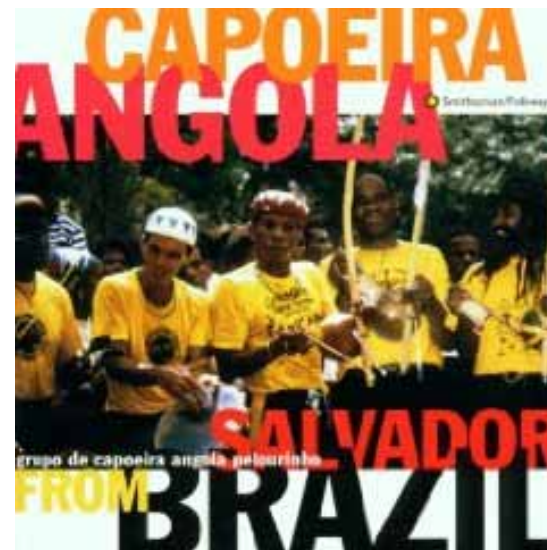
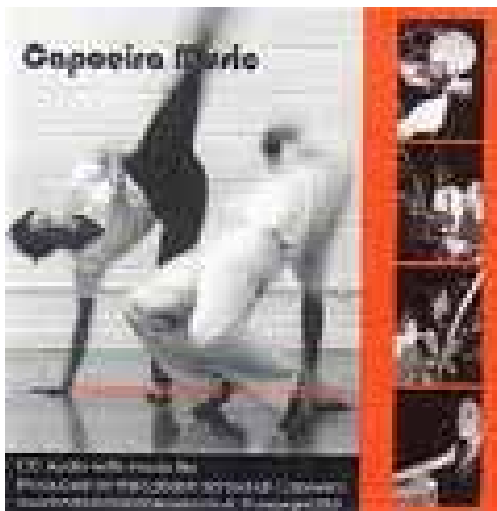


Order of the Instruments at the start of the roda:

- Gunga (largest) berimbau playing rhythm 'Angola'
- Medio (medium) berimbau playing rhythm Sao Bento Pequeno
- Viola (smallest) berimbau playing rhythm Sao Bento Pequeno
- #1 Pandeiro (left side of berimbau) playing simple 3 beat rhythm
- #2 Pandeiro (right side of berimbau) playing 4 beat rhythm
- Agogo
- reco-reco (and other minor instruments if used)
- Ladainha – solo song by master of the roda
- Saudacoes – salutations – sung by Master and chorus
- Atabaque drum joins in.
- The song changes and the Master gives the signal to the players to start.



Capoeira Songs





Capoeira Songs





What are the songs about?

