

Year 7 – Latin Music

Knowledge Organiser

Latin Music plays a huge part in the music of the last century. It covers traditional South American music, Latin dance music and has a great influence on pop music.

Latin Countries

Latin music comes from South America.

Key countries relating to Latin music: Brazil, Cuba, Argentina

Languages used in Latin music: Spanish, Portuguese, English

Latin music is also influenced by the music of Spain, Portugal and Africa.

Styles - Latin Dance

Much Latin music is related to dance. Some important Latin styles:

- salsa
- samba
- bossa nova
- tango

Instruments - Latin Percussion

Percussion is a very important part of Latin music. Some key instruments:

- claves
- maracas
- cabasa
- guiro
- congas
- bongos
- cowbell
- agogo

Traditional Latin instruments

Apart from the percussion instruments, there are also some Latin instruments that help give it a sense of style:

Panpipes – this woodwind instrument is made from different lengths of bamboo

Charanga – this is a stringed instrument similar to a guitar but was traditionally made from the shell of an armadillo (ant-eater)



panpipes



claves



maracas



guiro



agogo



congas



bongos



cowbell

Rhythm

Two important rhythmic features of Latin music:

- syncopation **Syncopation** is when weaker parts of beats in the music are emphasized. Syncopation adds energy to the rhythm
- clave This is pronounced 'clar-vay'. The **clave rhythm** is a special rhythmic pattern that occurs in a lot of Latin music. Learn to spot this when you hear it!

Harmony and melody:

One feature of Latin music is that it is often **chromatic**. This means that it uses notes outside of the **key**. You can hear chromatic chords and parts of chromatic scales. Also, music latin music (but not all) is created in a **minor** key.

Latin-pop

In recent years, some Latin-pop songs that have become famous are:

- Hips Don't Lie by Shakira
- Despacito by Luis Fonsi featuring Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber