

**CUMBIA:** The best known music and dance from Colombia. Its roots are African with a great deal of Spanish and indigenous influence. Its pace makes this music one of the most danceable of South America. The style of Cumbia in this recording is the “Paseo” which is played mainly with acoustic guitars together with other instruments.

**LAMBADA:** In the late 1980s the high energy and eroticism of this couple dance performed in a fast, syncopated rhythm caught the attention of the Western public.

The music is a fusion between an electrified version of the “Carimbó”, a local Afro-Brazilian style, Merengue from the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean musical ingredients. The instrumentation is partly modern, the electric guitar featuring prominently along with drums and percussions, while the lyrics are usually of a sexually suggestive nature.

**MERENGUE:** This is a quick binary-pulsed dance music (2/2, 2/4) that has developed since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Dominican Republic. Although its African influences are obvious, it is believed that the pulse of the music as well as the meter are strongly related to the French Contredanse. Merengue is played with two characteristic percussion instruments: the tambora which is a double-headed drum played with stick and bare hand; and the guira which is a metal scraper.

**MAMBO:** This is an Afro-Cuban style of music which originated in its best-known form during the Jazz “Big Band” era (1930s to late 50s). Mambo was the first African influenced rhythm of Cuba to enter into the high society ballrooms and dance clubs. It was the time of glamour, night life, and large brass and woodwind orchestras with full percussion sections which made the dance halls shake with fiery Afro-Caribbean rhythms.

**SALSA:** The word “salsa” itself literally means “sauce”. Its origins lie in the Spanish influenced “Guajira” and the Afro-Cuban “Son”. Salsa is an ever-changing sound which fluctuates with, but also creates, new fashionable styles. Elements of Jazz, Funk, Rap, as well as further Caribbean influences such as Soca and Merengue, have recently been included to form a distinctive salsa style whose strength lies in its great adaptability.

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