

Brazil: Paulo Padilha and Group

About the Artists

Paulo Padilha and Group perform a popular form of music from Brazil called samba. Paulo is known for his clever lyrics that tell the story of daily life as an artist in the bustling Brazilian city of São Paulo. However, the lighthearted melodies and upbeat rhythms are captivating even to those who don't speak Portuguese, the official language of Brazil.

With twenty years of teaching experience, Paulo Padilha and Group love to share their passion for music and Brazilian culture with students of all ages.

Members

Paulo Padilha	Guitar and lead vocals
Samba Sam	Percussion and vocals
Léo Mendes	Guitar, electric bass, and vocals
André Magalhães	Sound engineer, percussion, and vocals

Samba

Samba is a style of music and dance that began with African slaves in the state of Bahia, Brazil. The music is primarily played with guitar and a variety of percussion instruments, and the distinctive rhythms are an essential part of samba.

Samba has remained a vital part of Brazilian culture in part because of the samba schools, or “escolas de samba,” throughout the country that teach this musical and dance tradition. Each school represents a neighborhood or region with its own unique style of samba, and the schools compete against each other as part of the annual Carnival celebration. The competitions are a point of pride for the whole community, and preparations often begin soon after the previous year's celebration. See the Country & Culture study guide for more information about Carnival.

Video

Watch Paulo explain the musical elements of samba in several educational YouTube videos that he calls “Samba Drops:”
<http://goo.gl/VaAcHR>

Watch music videos of Paulo Padilha on YouTube:
<http://youtu.be/3zp0pQh-MIQ>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WDct0L_L-g



Photo by Edu Marins.



Photo by Gal Oppido.



Photo by Gal Oppido.

Brazil: Paulo Padilha and Group

Surdo

Pronounced SOOR-doo. The *surdo*, or *surdo de primeiro*, is an upright barrel drum that provides the distinctive low boom sound in samba music. This low boom is the primary beat and serves as the foundation for timing in samba. The *surdo* is often played with a mallet and the performer's hand, but in some styles it is played with two mallets.

Tamborim

Pronounced TAM-boor-eem. The *tamborim* is a high-pitched, single-headed drum that measures about six inches across, making it the smallest of the drums within a samba drum section. This small frame drum is usually played with a single stick or multi-pronged plastic beater, but in smaller samba settings it is played with the performer's fingers. The performer turns the drum while playing to create a distinctive sound and syncopated rhythm. In samba schools, the *tamborim* players are often placed at the front of the ensemble, and the musicians perform choreographed routines as they play.



Photo by Gal Oppido

Caixa

Pronounced KYE-sha. The *caixa* is a double-headed snare drum that is played with two sticks. Traditionally the *caixa* was held on the shoulder to play, but today it is usually worn with a strap so that the drum falls at stomach level. There is a great deal of variation in how the samba is played, and each samba school teaches a distinctive *caixa* rhythm that is the school's trademark.

Cavaquinho

Pronounced cah-vah-KEEN-you. The *cavaquinho* is a four-stringed instrument played with a pick. Though shaped like a guitar, the *cavaquinho* is tuned differently and is smaller in size. The instrument was originally from Portugal, but it has become associated with Brazil due to its significant role in samba music.