

## Paulo Padilha e Bando Brazil

### About the Artists

Paulo Padilha e Bando 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, cultural research, and rhythmic expertise, Paulo Padilha e Bando is a group of master musicians that love to share their passion for music and Brazilian culture with students of all ages.

### Members

Paulo Padilha	Guitar, vocals
Samba Sam	Percussion, vocals
André Magalhães	Sound engineer, percussion, vocals
Dani Zulu	Percussion, vocals, dance
Leo Mendes	Guitar, electric bass, vocals

### Samba

Samba is a style of music and dance that began with enslaved African people in the state of Bahia, Brazil. The music is primarily played with *cavaquinho*, a guitar-like instrument, and a variety of percussion instruments. 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](#).



Paulo Padilha e Bando. From left to right: Leo Mendes, Paulo Padilha, Samba Sam, André Magalhães, and Dani Zulu. Photo by Gal Oppido.



Paulo Padilha e Bando. Photo by Gal Oppido.



Paulo and his ensemble live in São Paulo, the largest city in Brazil. In his *Off the Stage* video, Paulo takes viewers on a tour around the city.

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**Tamborim**

Pronounced tam-boor-EEM. The tamborim is a high-pitched drum that measures about six inches across, making it the smallest of the drums within a samba drum section. 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 and perform choreographed routines as they play.

**Surdo**

Pronounced SOOR-doo. The surdo, or surdo de primeiro, is an upright barrel drum that provides the low boom sound in samba music. This is the heartbeat of samba. The surdo is often played with a mallet and the performer's hand, but in some styles it is played with two mallets.

**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.

**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.

**Pandeiro**

Pronounced pan-DEH-roh. The pandeiro is a frame drum that is played with both hands, one holding the drum while the other uses the thumb, fingertips, wrist, and palm to strike the drum. The pandeiro is popular in Brazil and is often described as the unofficial instrument of the nation.



**Video**

Click [here](#) to watch videos of Paulo and his ensemble performing and talking about their instruments. Do you see any of the instruments above in his videos?



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