

# INTRODUCTION TO AFRO CARIBBEAN RHYTHMS

## Overview:

This is a two hours interactive master class for all instrumentalists at college level presented by composer, bandleader, and music educator Marlon Simon. It is essential that not only the rhythm section, but all instrumentalists understand the syncopation and feel of the basic Afro Caribbean rhythms. On this class students will be exposed to the main instrument laying the groove in Latin music, “the Tumbadora,” also known as the conga drum, it’s origin and sounds, followed by a detailed explanation through music notation of the authentic basic structure of Latin rhythms starting with the origins of the clave and its relation to the Afrocuban Bembé 6/8 as performed in folkloric settings with possible adaptation of the Bembé to jazz standards and its relation to jazz in 4/4.

## Objectives:

Students should finish this master class with a clear understanding of the basic sequence of sounds on the conga drum to create different rhythms. The three conga parts and its relation to the clave, cowbells and shekere parts in the Bembé 6/8, in this way opening a new concept of rhythm comping and improvisation.

Materials needed: students should bring music notation paper to take their own notes and their instruments. Percussion Instruments needed: three or four conga drums, a set of timbales, drum set, a set of claves, cabasa or shekere, two shakers, and four different size cowbells.

Evaluation: all student will be evaluated on the basic conga parts of The Bembé rhythm, cowbell parts and shekere parts and its possible adaptation to jazz standards.

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