

Afro-Brazilian (Samba) Music

MUSIC IN YR 6

SPRING TERM



**Key Composer: Sérgio Mendes (11th Feb 1941
– 5th Sept 2024)**

Who was Sérgio Mendes?

The Brazilian composer Sérgio Mendes was a Grammy Award winner who began performing in the jazz clubs of Rio de Janeiro. He is noted for bringing bossa nova to global audiences, and for having collaborated with a wide range of musicians spanning multiple genres over the years. In 2011, Mendes acted as Executive Music Producer for the animated film Rio – set in his native Brazil – earning an Oscar nomination for the song 'Real in Rio'.

Style:

- Bossa nova - a style of samba music with jazz influences

Musical collaborations:

- Stevie Wonder
- will.i.am
- John Legend

Famous pieces:

- Fanfarra (Cabua-Le-Le)
- The Look of Love (1968)
- Never Gonna Let You Go (1983)
- Olympia (1984)
- Real in Rio (2011)
- In the Key of Joy (2020)



Fanfarra (Cabua-Le-Le)

Fanfarra is the first track from Sérgio Mendes's Brasileiro album which was released in June 1992. The piece begins with a drum solo, before moving into call and response sections.

Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena

Through participating in the concert, we will:

- sing as part of an ensemble confidently and with precision
- sing a broad range of songs
- perform to a wider audience
- experience live music from other artists



VOCABULARY

CALL AND RESPONSE: a technique in which a phrase (the call) is answered by another phrase (the response). The two parts can either be sung or played on an instrument

ENSEMBLE: refers to a group of performers who play or sing together



HISTORY OF MUSIC TIMELINE



Pachelbel's Canon in D

Baroque Period (approx. 1600–1750)

c. 1680–1690: Pachelbel's Canon in D is composed by Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706). It is written for three violins and basso continuo, often paired with a gigue.

Context: A time of the development of major/minor tonality. Pachelbel's Canon was largely forgotten until the 20th century.

1750: Death of Johann Sebastian Bach; end of the Baroque era.

We will:

- plan a 4-bar phrase
- use instruments to play Pachelbel's Canon in D
- compose our own 8-beat phrase, notate using music technology and play our melodies on tuned percussion instruments.

Beethoven's 5th Symphony

Classical Period (approx. 1750–1820)

A time when the focus was on balance, structure and melody (Haydn, Mozart, early Beethoven).

1770: Ludwig van Beethoven is born.

1804–1808: Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor is composed.

December 22, 1808: Premiere of Beethoven's 5th Symphony in Vienna.

Context: Beethoven bridges the Classical and Romantic eras, bringing new emotional depth and structural innovation.

We will:

- listen attentively and recognise the dimensions of this piece
- create a graphic score
- play its motif
- create our own motifs

VOCABULARY

COMPOSITION: a piece of music that has been created

4 BAR PHRASE: a musical phrase lasting four consecutive measures (bars), usually in 4/4 time, where each bar contains four beats

DIMENSIONS: interrelated building blocks that create a piece of music. These include: pitch (high/low), rhythm (time/duration), dynamics (loud/soft), timbre (tone quality), texture (layers) and structure (form)

GRAPHIC SCORE: A way of writing down music using symbols and images rather than traditional stave notation



IMPROVISE: to make up music as it is played or performed

MOTIFS: a short, recurring musical idea - a musical fragment, or succession of notes, that has some special importance in or is characteristic of a composition.

NOTATE: to write symbols representing notes or sounds