







A photograph of a mariachi band. In the foreground, a man in a white mariachi suit with a large white bow tie is singing with his mouth open. Behind him, another man in a similar suit is visible. To the right, a hand holds a silver mariachi guitar. The background is a wall with horizontal wooden slats.

A mariachi band is sometimes hired to send messages from an admirer.



# INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICA MUSIC



The music of Latin America is the product of three major influences – **Indigenous**, **Spanish-Portuguese**, and **African**. Sometimes called **Latin music**; it includes the countries that have a **colonial history** from **Spain** and **Portugal**, divided into the following areas of **Andean Region**, **Central America**, **Caribbean** and **Brazil**.

# LIST OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

## Central America and the Carribean

1. Belize
2. Costa Rica
3. Cuba
4. Dominican Republic
5. El Salvador
6. Guatemala
7. Haiti
8. Honduras
9. Jamaica
10. Mexico
11. Nicaragua
12. Panama

## South America

1. Argentina
2. Bolivia
3. Brazil
4. Chile
5. Colombia
6. Ecuador
7. Paraguay
8. Peru
9. Uruguay
10. Venezuela

# INFLUENCES ON LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC



Indigenous Latin American Music



Afro-Latin American Music



Mixed American Music



Native American/ Indian Music



Euro-Latin American Music

# INDIGENOUS LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC



The **natives** were found to be using **local drum** and **percussion instruments**. The **indigenous music** of Latin America was largely functional in **nature**, being used for **religious worships** and **ceremonies**.





# NATIVE AMERICAN/ INDIAN MUSIC



The **ethnic** and **cultural** groups of the **principal** Native Americans share many **similar** yet **distinctive** music elements. Songs had a wide range of volume levels. Songs celebrate themes like **harvest**, **planting** season or other **important** events or **occasions** of the year.



# AFRO-LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC



The African influence on Latin American music is most pronounced in its rich and varied rhythmic patterns produced by drums and various percussion instruments. Vocal music was often deep-chested while instrumental music greatly relied on drums and buzzer to produce rich sounds and occasional loud volume levels for added intensity.





# EURO-LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC



The **different regions of Latin America** adopted various characteristics from their **European colonizers**. **Melodies of the Renaissance period** (polyphonic - more than one simultaneous melody) were used in **Southern Chile** and the **Colombian Pacific coasts** while **step-wise melodies** (conjunct motion) were preferred in the heavily Hispanic (**Latino**) and Moorish (**Moor**) influenced areas of **Venezuela** and **Colombia**. One good example of influence of European immigrants is the fusion of the **European music** to the music of **tango of Argentinian**.

