BRAZILIAN MUSIC

Rob: Hello I'm Rob. Welcome to 6 Minute English. And today we're going to talk about… Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:

(Samba beat sounds)

Rob: …Brazilian music! Ah… the samba…! And I'm joined today by Grace, from Brazil. Hi Grace.

Grace: Hi Rob. Can you sing well? Or do you usually sing, let's say, out of tune like me?

Rob: Out of tune, so you mean singing or playing notes that are at the wrong pitch. Yes, I definitely sing out of tune.

Grace: Well, that was the (1) _____ of the Brazilian recording artist Monica Vasconcelos.

Rob: A recording artist – so that's a singer or musician who creates and (2)_____ music either through a record label or (3)_____. She does indeed have a very beautiful voice.

Grace: And she sings many types of music including samba, jazz and bossa nova. Talking about bossa nova, Rob, I have a question for you.

Rob: OK.

Grace: One of the most famous bossa nova tunes is 'The Girl from Ipanema'. It was (4)_____ by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes. Do you know the song, Rob?

Rob: I know it very well. Even Frank Sinatra recorded it, didn't he?

Grace: Yes. So when was the song 'The Girl from Ipanema' recorded (5) _____ for the first time? Was it…

a) in 1955

b) (6)_____

c) or in 1969

Rob: OK, well, I know it's quite old so I'm going to go for (7)_____. You know, I've always wanted to know more about the bossa nova. How (8)_____ is it from the famous Brazilian samba music?

Grace: Let's listen to the (9)_____ , Monica Vasconcelos. Which two words does she use to compare these musical styles?

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:

Samba is very (10)_____ and full of life… and bossa nova is… It's a little smoother; it's more understated. Bossa is a (11)_____ of complex harmonies, coming from… particularly (12)_____ and this very cool bossa groove that comes from samba. In addition to that, you have some particular themes: the sea, love… The bossa nova composers, they were into (13)_____.

Rob: So smoother – that means calmer – and understated, meaning more (14) _____, more discreet.

Grace: And it's easy to understand the themes of these songs… Rob: Yes, she says the composers – the (15)_____– of bossa nova were into beauty – to be into something means to be interested in something. They were interested in the beautiful things in life.

Grace: The (16)_____– the words of the songs – were about boats sailing away, a beautiful woman walking by the beach…

Rob: A beautiful view and beautiful lyrics. And bossa nova has a very special kind of groove, meaning the (17)_____ and style of the music – and the bossa nova groove is cool, funky and (18)_____! And what about rock and pop music – do Brazilians like these music styles?

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Grace: Yes, we do like rock and pop, but a common (19) _____ is that our radio stations play too many songs from Britain and (20) _____. Monica explains. What phrase does she use to describe the effect of globalisation on local music?

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:

You take a traditional rock (21)_____… and then take a samba groove… The first example is simpler, so what happens in the process of (22) _____where you have rock and pop coming into different markets all over the world… you have a flattening of the local grooves which may be a bit more complex, so the simpler ideas end up (23) _____.

Rob: Monica talks about a flattening of the local grooves – a simplifying of more complex (24) _____ that has happened as a result of rock and pop (25) _____ coming in through globalisation.

Grace: I know you like travelling a lot, Rob. Would you like to go abroad and find only the very same things you have here in Britain?

Rob: Absolutely not! No! (26) _____ is all about discovering, hearing local music, discovering local foods – things that are different from things that are back at home. Grace: Well, now let's see how much you know about bossa nova. I asked when the song 'The Girl from Ipanema' was recorded commercially for the first time? (27) _____ were: 1955, 1962 and 1969.

Rob: And I had a guess and said 1962.

Grace: Oh you got it right, Rob! Yeah, you got it right! The first commercial recording of 'The Girl from Ipanema' was by Brazilian singer Pery Ribeiro.

Rob: Well, I love talking about music and other (28) _____ but our time is running out.

Grace: So let's recall the words we heard today. Rob: Yes, we heard:

out of tune

recording artist

smoother

(29) _____

groove

(30) _____

lyrics

flattened

Grace: Thanks, Rob. And as we've been talking about music, shall we say goodbye in the rhythm of samba?

Rob: OK, let's give it a try. Please join us again soon for 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English.

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:

(Samba beat sounds)

Rob: You're doing it better than me! Both: Bye.

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