



CENTRE

The Birth of a Music Genre

Norton Center
Curriculum Connections
Luciana Souza Trio
Lesson Plans

This presentation created by the Norton Center.

For more information, contact:

Dustin Mosko

Engagement Coordinator

Norton Center for the Arts

E: dustin.mosko@centre.edu

P: 859.238.5422

NORTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS
2011-2012 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

Leading Questions

What is a music genre?

Why are new music genres created?

How are new music genres created?

What is a Music Genre?

- ❑ A **Music Genre** identifies musical sounds as belonging to a particular category and type of music that can be distinguished from other types of music.
- ❑ Music can be placed into **Genres** based upon many different categories such as sounds, rhythm patterns, the time period, and the location in which it was created.

Music Genres

- ❑ Some of the music genres that are popular today include jazz, hip-hop, rap, rock, rhythm and blues, and pop. Many people have eclectic tastes in music, and people still perform, view, purchase, and enjoy a wide range of music, including show tunes, folk music, classical music, opera, and ballet music.

Why are Music Genres Created?

- ❑ The world is ever changing over time and so is the music that is created in it.
- ❑ In fact, there are really no TRUE rules that all musicians and scholars agree upon when creating and classifying music.
- ❑ You can see how this would not only add to fuel debates, but also open up a world of music creation for all who wish to compose new music.

How are Music Genres Created?

- ❑ Genres can be made up by creating a new pattern of sounds unlike any others, but most are created because composers modify pre-existing genres.
- ❑ An example of this could be how Immigrants from Europe brought Folk music with them to the Appalachian mountains. Over time, the location, rhythm, sound and subject matter changed the Folk music into a new genre that we can now classify as Bluegrass music.

Lesson Example

SAMBA vs. BOSSA NOVA

Samba

- ❑ In 1917, samba became part of Rio Carnival (a huge festival similar but bigger than Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ❑ It was a genre of music that was widely popular among the working class and slums of Rio de Janeiro.
- ❑ The samba is also a dance that is known for its knee and hip movements, rhythmic walking, bouncing on the ball of the foot, and wide open arms.

Samba Video

- ❑ <http://dancejam.com/videos/1054585258-slavik-karina-sa>

The Birth of Bossa Nova

- ❑ Created in Brazil in the late 1950's during a period of political change and economic growth.
- ❑ Originated among wealthy neighborhoods among beaches of Rio de Janeiro. It is said to have been composed and marketed by upper-class musicians who looked to modify an old favorite—the samba. Basically, they added jazz to it.
- ❑ The term bossa nova was slang for “New Wave,” “New Thing,” or “New Feeling.”
- ❑ Bossa nova didn't catch on in Brazil right away because it emphasized a carefree way of living not shared by the working class.

Bossa Nova Success

- ❑ Joao Gilberto, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Luiz Bonfá are credited to write “A felicidade” for the 1958 (1959) film “Black Orpheus.”
- ❑ Sidney Frey brought the music to the United States.
- ❑ Elvis Presley and songs like the “The Girl From Ipanema” made it popular music worldwide.

Bossa Nova Dance?

- ❑ Record labels and professional dance studios collaborated. One label was quoted saying, "A new beat has to have an accompanying dance."
- ❑ In 1963, Vocalist Edie Gormé recorded the pop tune "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," a song in which the style is depicted as a dance.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYQBd9ordbE>
- ❑ In a Newspaper poll of Teenagers in 1963, they said they liked the music but hated the dance. They explained it was "to fast for slow dancing and to slow for fast dancing".
- ❑ The dance contains swaying movements and has some samba and rumba steps. A signature of the bossa nova is the stillness of the body except for the soft swaying of the hips while the knees are bent. http://www.ehow.com/video_6191340_bossa-nova-dance-steps.html

The Girl from Ipanema

- ❑ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TqLmDhOdEc&feature=related>
- ❑ “The Girl from Ipanema,” is a perfect example of bossa nova music.
- ❑ The song is the description of a woman walking down toward the beach, how she moves and how beautiful she is. The subjects of love, the beach, and beautiful women were common themes found in this new genre of music.
- ❑ The lyrics are accompanied by altered chords found in jazz music combined with the drum beat that can be found in samba music.

Back to Brazil

- ❑ In the 1960's Brazil found itself in a political unrest that resulted in a complete military coup in 1964.
- ❑ Bossa nova, although originally seen as carefree, was used by artists to voice their opinions (through lyrics) to the largely uneducated Brazilian population about their country's current social, political and economic status.
- ❑ Following the coup of 1964, a new generation of bossa nova musicians emerged. The music they composed was radically different from that created by the first generation and depicted the plight of the Brazilian population and denounced the country's newly installed military government. It had a national character that sang about the hardships of Brazilians.
- ❑ This "New Wave (or bossa nova)" of bossa nova made use of traditional Brazilian instruments and borrowed from other genres of Brazilian music like the type of samba heard in the urban slums.
- ❑ But in spite of the differences that distinguish them from one another, both styles of bossa nova were intrinsically linked to Brazil's history and reflected the historic period in which they were created, one born during a time of growth and the other created in a time of struggle.

Luciana Souza

- ❑ View the following clip for an interview with Luciana Souza and more information on the "new" bossa nova: <http://www..com/watch?v=ZB1HaRbyoutubeB93o&feature=youtu.be>
- ❑ Also find more information and music at: www.lucianasouza.com

Unit Assessment

- ❑ What is a music genre?
- ❑ What does the term “bossa nova” mean?
- ❑ From what genre of music did bossa-nova originate?
- ❑ Why did bossa nova not become popular in Rio de Janeiro as it did when it came to the United States?
- ❑ Describe the bossa nova dance. What was the general opinion of it in the U.S.?
- ❑ Compare and contrast the two bossa nova styles of music.

Credits

- ❑ <http://www.streetswing.com/histmain/z3bossa.htm>
- ❑ <http://www.essortment.com/bossa-nova-62073.html>