

# MUSICAL IQ RESIDENCY

## Curricula 2022 - 2023



A Journey from **Africa** all the way to **NYC- My Classroom**.  
(We'll be stopping in: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Brazil, New Orleans and More...)

# THE MUSICAL JOURNEY

1

## THE SYSTEM:

Africa



The "Us"



The "You"



The "I"



Djembe



Shekere



Kalimba



Balaphone

West Africa

East Africa

South Africa

2

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS:

Cuba, PR & Brazil



The Tools



Self Integration



Agogo Bells



Claves



Maracas



Tambourine



Cowbell

3

## MAKING IT OUR OWN:

My Classroom - USA



Expression



Demonstration



# MUSICAL IQ RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## Course Overview

Music is the universal language and has been part of the cultural and artistic expression of mankind since our early origins. Music is a powerful art form which is able to express and articulate parts of the human experience which cannot be said in pictures or with words. Music has evolved throughout the world and gives us a profound window into human culture and history. Like all art forms, music has and continues to evolve as people from different places and cultures interact with each other, offering a palate of perspectives which themselves are reinterpreted as new meaning is created. Despite our differences, music is a common ground which enables us to relate to each other.

This course traces the fascinating path of some of the 21st-century's western music to its origins in Africa. Whether on radio, television or through your favourite music app, much of the music we listen to today is made up of elements which can be traced back to the music of Africa. Over the centuries, Africa's music has inspired and influenced many musical genres and modes of expression. (Blues, Jazz, hip-hop and rap...etc)

Beginning in Africa, this course will immerse us in some of the fundamentals of music. We will come to understand music as a system made up of many parts working together. From Africa, our course will continue to the Caribbean Islands (Cuba & Puerto Rico) where we explore the building blocks of music in order to begin making music of our own. From here, we will continue to the Americas (Brazil & New Orleans, USA) where we will explore self-expression and putting the tools to use. Finally, we reach New York City - our own classroom, the culmination of this course, where we will use all of the insights we have learned on our musical journey to prepare for and present a recital or performance.

## Overall Course Structure

The Musical IQ Residency Program is made up of 9 core modules including the option for a recital. The course is made up of 4 sections which span all of the modules.

**Section 1) Modules 1 - 3:** The System of Music

**Section 2) Modules 4 - 5:** The Medium - (The Building Blocks or Tools of Music)

**Section 3) Modules 6 - 7:** The Message - (Putting Ourselves Into The Music)

**Section 4) Modules 8:** Self Expression - (Integration, Preparation and Recital)

## Course Design: Flexible & Modular Curriculum

Each of the modules in this course can be presented in a single class or can be expanded with greater depth into an additional 1 or 2 classes (3 classes per module in total), depending on the objectives and schedule requirements of the host school. In preparing for a program we will consult with the school to make sure that the course is tailored to meet their needs (number of students, age and level, schedule...etc.)

This curriculum can be adapted for all ages, from preschool through high school.

## Core Course Objectives

Each module in this course will address our 3 main objectives:

- 1) Musical Culture and Theory:** A specific culture we will be exploring in each module, an indigenous musical instrument from that culture, and the theory of music.
- 2) Life Skills:** In each module, we will highlight important life skills necessary to succeed in music making and in life generally. These include: teamwork and collaboration, leadership, communication, active listening, finding my own voice and more.
- 3) STEAM:** In each module, we explore how music can be viewed through the lens of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

## The Modules: Module Structure

Each class session runs for a 45 minute period. This time period is broken down into 3 sections which are **1) The Introduction, 2) The Journey, and 3) The Class.**

### The Introduction:

Each module begins with an introduction. The introduction includes setting intentions, getting buy-in, explaining what we will be doing in that class, reiterating protocols (symbol for silence, raising hands for questions, working together, having fun), and a brief review from previous weeks when applicable.

### The Journey:

The Journey is the part of the program which takes us on a guided journey from the classroom to the module setting. The journey will introduce each of the respective places and cultures we will be exploring.

### The Class:

This part of the program is where the main learning happens. Here we elaborate on the module theme, musical theory and rhythmic exercises.

## Course Materials

Musical IQ provides all of the materials and teaching resources we need for our classes. These include:

**Djembe Drums:** For use week to week.

**Instruments from around the world:** Each module showcases a different musical culture and a musical instrument indigenous to that culture, which the students get to play and explore.

**Musical IQ backdrop - Map of the Globe:** Musical IQ backdrop - Map of the Globe: Representing the continents, countries, and cultures we will be exploring.

## Module Instruments:

1. **West Africa:** Djembe and Shekere
2. **East Africa:** Djembe and Balaphone
3. **South Africa:** Djembe and Kalimba/mbira
4. **Cuba:** Claves
5. **Puerto Rico:** Maracas
6. **Brazil:** Agogo bells
7. **New Orleans:** Tambourine

---

1

## THE US

West Africa

**Ubuntu**



---

2

## THE YOU

East Africa

**African Honey Bees &  
A Million Roaming Wildebeasts**



---

3

## THE I

South Africa

**The Leopard & the Zulu Warrior**



# THE SYSTEM

## West Africa

1



THEME:

## THE US

### Ubuntu

- LIFE SKILLS: Collaboration & Teamwork

Building Community, Giving & Receiving,  
Every detail counts and every detail is  
indispensable, Recognizing the strength in  
diversity and exchange of energy...



INSTRUMENTS:



Djembe



Shekere

# THE SYSTEM OF MUSIC

## Module 1: It Takes A Village - Music As The Universal Language - West Africa

### Module Overview:

In this opening module, we will be exploring the fundamental question, what is music? This module is set in West Africa where we will explore some of the fundamentals of music through the lens of African musical culture'.

Based on the idea of Ubuntu, the African notion of our shared and common humanity, this module will demonstrate music from a systems perspective. We will explore the idea of music as a whole system which is made up of numerous parts interacting and working together. Each of these parts plays an essential role in maintaining the system. Absence of even one element will impact the system as a whole.

Echoing the message of the African proverb: "It Takes a Village", in this module we will experience music (the universal language) through teamwork and sharing creatively with each other. We will demonstrate the power inherent in collaborating as a team and how anyone can participate in making music happen. In this module, we will establish ourselves as an ensemble, a context which will carry us through the rest of this course.

### Module Highlights:

**Theme:** Music as a system. The Collective - The 'WE'. Breaking the system down into its parts

**Setting:** West Africa

**Instruments:** Djembe - African Drum

### Lessons:

**Musical Culture and Theory:** Ubuntu, The Djembe, Sounds of the Drum. Rhythm.

**Life Skills:** Collaboration and Teamwork

**STEAM:** Systems Theory, Instrument Design and Construction, Music vs. Noise



# THE SYSTEM

## East Africa

2



THEME:

## THE YOU

### African Honey Bees & A Million Roaming Wildebeasts

**LIFE SKILLS:** Active listening & making space for others

Active Listening, Holding space for others, Acknowledging others, exercising humility, Awareness of my surroundings and the context in which I am in...



**INSTRUMENTS:**



Djembe



Balafone

# THE SYSTEM OF MUSIC

## Module 2: African Honey Bees & A Million Roaming Wildebeests - East Africa

### Module Overview:

Throughout nature, we see examples of how communities and groups form around a common need or a shared goal. There is strength in numbers and intuitively we know that what we can achieve together is greater than the sum of our parts. In the previous module, we focused on the system as a whole, the 'WE'. In this module, we will zoom in to the specific parts beginning with an emphasis on holding space for others, the 'YOU/OTHER' in the system.

This module is named for African honey bees as well as the annual wildebeest herd migrations of East Africa, both powerful examples of humility and the power we attain when working with others to achieve a common purpose. The integrated hive-mind of the colony and herd gives it incredible strength to protect itself from danger and to mobilize its resources in search of food and other needs.

Module 2 will explore music with an emphasis on active listening and the role of humility and tolerance in making space for others in the creative process. In learning to work with others and to honour their contributions, as an ensemble, creativity will begin to flow as we begin to create music and rhythm of our own.

### Module Highlights:

**Theme:** The System: Focus is on 'The YOU - The Other'. Making space for others. Active listening.

**Setting:** East Africa

**Instruments:** Djembe Drum & Balaphone (Marimba)

### Lessons:

**Musical Culture and Theory:** Maasai tribe - Kenya and Tanzania. Bass & Tone. Getting the right sound. 'Rhythm & Melody'.

**Life Skills:** Active listening, acknowledging and making space for others, humility.

**STEAM:** 'The gains of trade (sharing)' - More than the sum of our parts. Instrument Design and Construction. Sounds of the instruments.

# THE SYSTEM

## South Africa



THEME:

## THE I

### The Leopard & the Zulu Warrior

- **LIFE SKILLS:** Leadership & self confidence

Who am I? What do I have to say?, Being fully expressed, Finding my own voice, Exploring my own creativity, Finding my own contribution, My place in the group...



INSTRUMENTS:



Djembe



Kalimba

# THE SYSTEM OF MUSIC

## Module 3: The Leopard and The Zulu Warrior - Southern Africa

### Module Overview:

African Leopards are some of the most successful predators in the wild. What makes their success even more remarkable is that they are solitary animals. Leopards function with incredible skill, stealth and focus. They are self-assured, independent and fully expressed. In contrast to the focus of the previous module (module 2) which emphasized strength and efficiency in community, underscoring 'THE OTHER' in the musical system, the leopard is a great metaphor for individuality and self-expression, The 'I / ME', which is the core of module 3.

The premise for module 3 is that even though we are working together, it does not mean we have to be the same. In fact, every one of us is unique and has a unique perspective and contribution to make. It is these individual voices which make up the parts of the system. Can you express yourself fully, while also making space for others to do the same? Who are you? Can you find your place in the group? And, what do you have to say?

This module is set in Southern Africa, renowned for its abundant wildlife, exquisite landscapes and friendly people. As our course progresses, we will explore some exquisite landmarks in Southern Africa, the homeland of the Zulu warrior and more.

### Module Highlights:

**Theme:** The System: Focus is on 'The I'. Finding my own voice. What do I have to say?

**Setting:** Southern Africa

**Instruments:** Djembe Drum & Kalimba (Mbira)

### Lessons:

**Musical Culture and Theory:** South African Traditional Music, Zulu Tribe, My Unique Contribution, Musical solos. Components of a rhythm.

**Life Skills:** Leadership and communication.

**STEAM:** Instrument Design and Construction. Math: Fractions - Whole Notes and Half Notes.

---

4

**CUBAN FUSION- THE  
TEMPO OF CHANGE**

Cuba

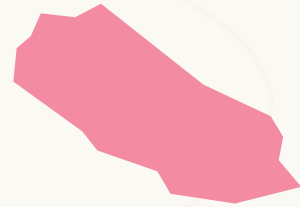


---

5

**A DYNAMIC  
CONVERSATION**

Puerto Rico



---

6

**A PARADE OF  
SELF EXPRESSION**

Rio de Janerio - Brazil

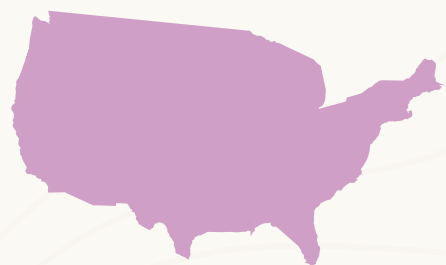


---

7

**WHERE IS ALL  
COMES TOGETHER**

New Orleans

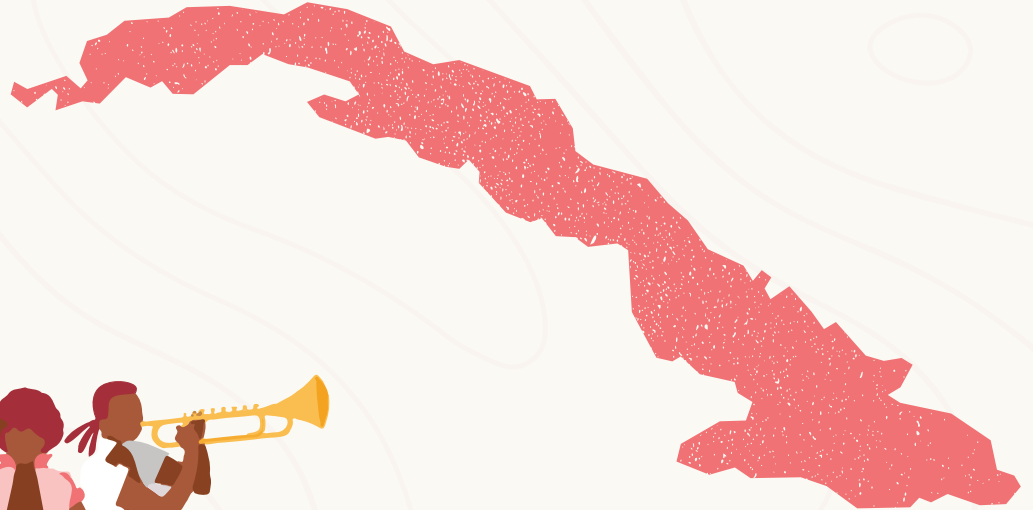


# The Medium

## The Building Blocks or Tools of Music - Part 1

### Cuban Fusion- The Tempo of Change

4



THEME:

## MUSICAL TOOLBOX

- LIFE SKILLS: Effective Communication & Relationship Building

The Medium 'I' - The building blocks of music. What is sound? Using sound to communicate and relate to each other. Sounds of the drum - Bass and Tone. Tempo & Dynamics. Cultural Integration - Africa, Taino, Europe

INSTRUMENTS:



Djembe



Clave



Cowbell

# The Building Blocks of Music - Part 1

## Module 4: Cuban Fusion- The Tempo of Change - Cuba

### Module Overview:

Having left the African mainland, we will now continue our journey toward the Caribbean Islands. Cuba is the biggest of the Caribbean Islands and is a bright and colourful land which will leave you dazzled. It's a place where old and new, native and modern, mesh into a colourful cultural tapestry including amazing food, art, and music. The music of Cuba reflects the idea of mixing, with influences from native Taino culture, Europe (Spain), and Africa. One of the dominant types of music in Cuba is Salsa, which means 'sauce'. Enhanced by its diverse musical 'ingredients', salsa music adds a lot of flavour to the life and culture of the Caribbean people.

Building on the foundations we set in the first 3 African modules we can begin to recognize the profound influence which African music has had around the world. Africa's music, rhythm and message can be clearly heard in Cuba and the Caribbean.

In module 4 our focus will begin to shift from the system of music (discussed in the first 3 modules). Our journey will take us on a deeper exploration of the 'Medium' or 'building blocks' of music. This includes understanding what sound is, how sound is made, and how we can use music to communicate and relate to one another.. We'll explore the sounds of the drum, tempo, pitch, dynamics, and rhythmic punctuation. Enjoy all of this over fruit batidas, coffee, sweets, and the sounds of Cuban Rumba music in the city square.

['Bienvenido a Cuba' - Welcome to Cuba.](#)

### Module Highlights:

**Theme:** The Medium - The Building Blocks: Melody, Harmony, Rhythm (Tempo, Dynamics, Pitch)

**Setting:** Caribbean - Cuba

**Instruments:** Djembe Drum & Claves

### Lessons:

**Musical Culture and Theory:** Tempo, Cuban Son music.

**Life Skills:** Leadership and communication.

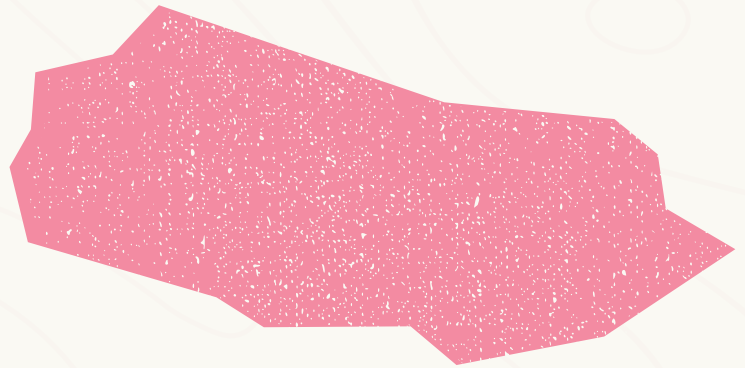
**STEAM:** Instrument Design and Construction. Math: Fractions - Whole Notes and Half Notes

# THE MEDIUM

## The Building Blocks or Tools of Music - Part 2

### Puerto Rico - A Dynamic Conversation

5



THEME:

## MUSICAL TOOLBOX

- **LIFE SKILLS:** Appreciating Diversity & Cooperation

The Medium 'II' - The building blocks of music. Using music to communicate and relate to each other. Sounds of the drum - Bass and Tone. Tempo, Dynamics, Musical Punctuation, Cultural Integration - Africa, Taino, Europe. **Featuring Coquí The Frog**

INSTRUMENTS:



Djembe



Maracas



## The Building Blocks of Music - part 2

### Module 5: A Dynamic Conversation - Puerto Rico

#### Module Overview:

As the sun sets in Puerto Rico ("Rich Port"), the volume rises as the tiny coquí frog begins its evening chorale, and locals and visitors are serenaded by the "Koh Kee" sound of its melody. The island was once filled with millions of these frogs from a number of different species, but today only 17 species remain, and a few of them are endangered as a result of deforestation. But just like the Puerto Rican people, they are resilient and their voices are loud, and they will be heard. This is why the coquí is the perfect national symbol for Puerto Rico: small island, small frog, BIG VOICE.

Like Cuba, Puerto Rico's culture is a lively mix of African, Taíno, and Spanish influences. This fusion extends to almost every aspect of Puerto Rican life. You'll experience this diversity everywhere on the Island. The music, architecture, and arts bring together instruments, rhythms and sounds from eras and places as distant from each other as 18th century West Africa and medieval Spain.

This module is a continuation of the previous module set in Cuba. We will continue our journey onward to explore 'The Medium', the building blocks of music through the lens of musical Puerto Rico.

#### Module Highlights:

**Theme:** The Medium - The Building Blocks: Communication and Dynamics

**Setting:** Caribbean - Puerto Rico

**Instruments:** Djembe Drum & Maracas

#### Lessons:

**Musical Culture and Theory:** Puerto Rican Bomba music

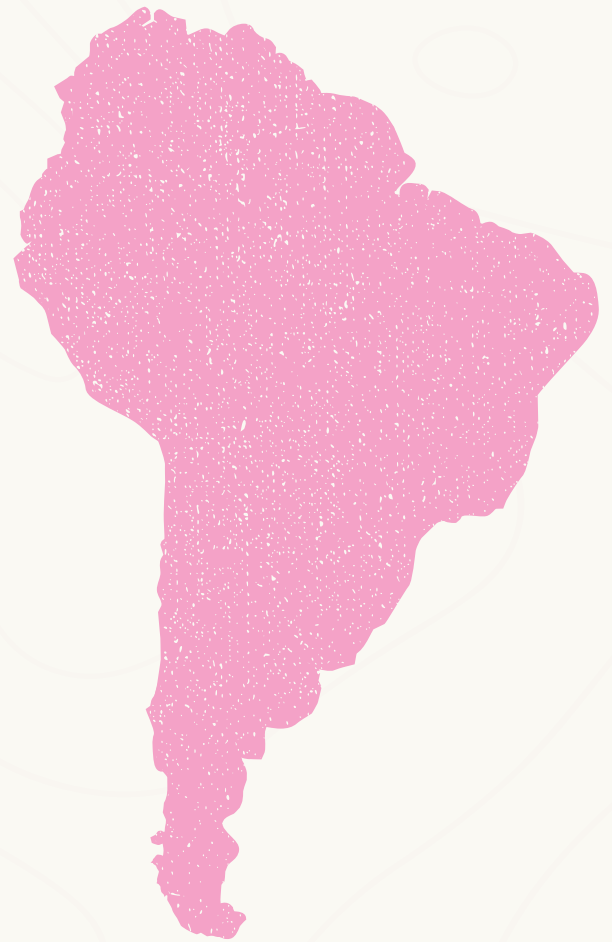
**Life Skills:** Leadership and communication.

**STEAM:** Instrument Design and Construction. Math: Fractions - Whole Notes and Half Notes

# The Message

## Putting Ourselves Into The Music

### Ria De Janeiro - A Parade of Self Expression



THEME:

## PUTTING OURSELVES INTO THE MUSIC

- **LIFE SKILLS:** Teamwork, Exploring my own creativity

The Message 'I': Music as art. What moves or inspires us creatively? Putting ourselves into the music. A medium through which I can express myself, conveying feeling and meaning.

INSTRUMENTS:



Djembe



Agogo Bells

# The Message-Putting Ourselves Into The Music - part 1

## **Module 6: Brazilian Carnaval - a Parade of Self Expression - Brazil, South America**

### **Module Overview:**

Like Cuba and Puerto Rico, Brazil is also a land with a rich diversity of cultures, the fruit of the exchanges between Portuguese colonizers, former African slaves and Amerindians. This mixing of cultures brought different traditions to the Brazilian people which are celebrated with fervor. In this module, we will continue our journey from the Caribbean to Brazil in South America.

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, whose population is descended from immigrants from over 50 countries, and where indigenous tribal people still roam the Amazon jungles untouched by modern society. Indeed, Brazil is a broad and complex place. With such a rich history comes a rich tapestry of folk traditions, music, dance, art, and literature. Brazilians are renowned for their love of dance and music and for the annual festivals that give them a good reason to enjoy both. In this module, we will get to experience the most famous of them, the Carnaval of Brazil.

In continuation of the last 2 modules which focused on 'The Medium; - The building blocks of music', this module will shift focus to 'The Message'. We will explore the beauty in music and art and the things which move us creatively. We will experiment with putting ourselves, our thoughts and feelings into our music. We will also discuss the musical genre and finding our own unique sound. We can now begin to design and create something beautiful to express. People are listening! What do you have to say!?

### **Module Highlights:**

**Theme:** The Message - (Putting Ourselves Into The Music)

**Setting:** South America - Brazil

**Instruments:** Djembe Drum, Agogo Bells & Caxixi

### **Lessons:**

**Musical Culture and Theory:** Musical Solos, Samba Music

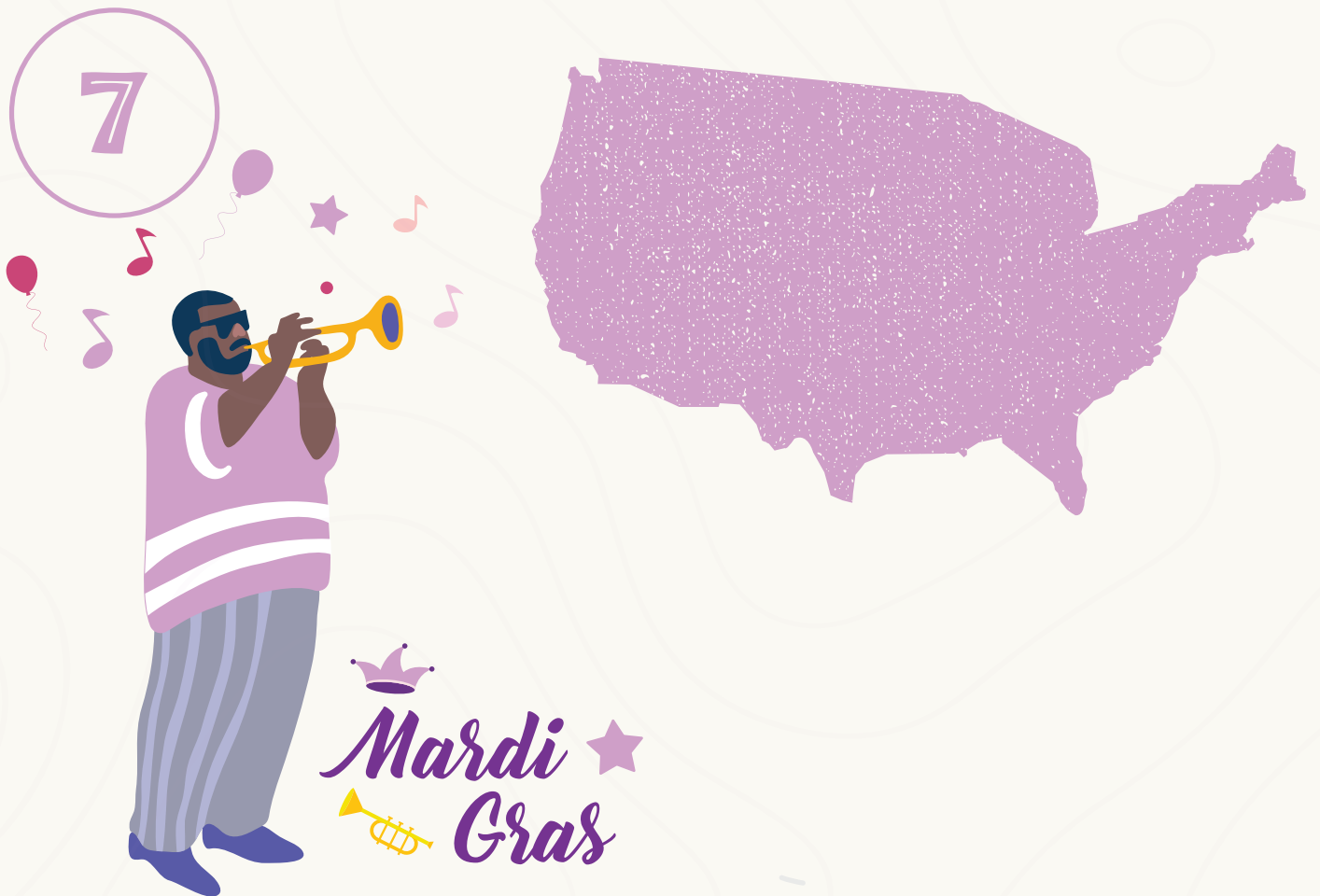
**Life Skills:** Leadership and communication.

**STEAM:** Instrument Design and Construction. Math: Fractions - Whole Notes and Half Notes

# The Message

## Putting Ourselves Into The Music

New Orleans - Where it All Comes Together



THEME:

## PUTTING OURSELVES INTO THE MUSIC

- **LIFE SKILLS:** Seeing the bigger picture, Recognizing the details

The Message 'II': People are listening! What are you going to say!? Recognizing our roots, while celebrating diversity. Congo Square,; paying homage to Africa and to our musical journey.

INSTRUMENTS:



Djembe



Tambourine

# THE MESSAGE - PUTTING OURSELVES INTO THE MUSIC - PART 2

## Module 7: Mardi Gras - New Orleans, USA

### Module Overview:

Today we will bring it all back home to the continent of North America where the final stop on our journey will be the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, right here in the United States of America! New Orleans is world-renowned for its distinct music, Creole cuisine, unique dialect, and its annual celebrations and festivals, most notably Mardi Gras. The historic heart of the city is the French Quarter, known for its French and Spanish Creole architecture and vibrant nightlife along Bourbon Street. The city has been described as the "most unique" in the United States, owing in large part to its cross-cultural and multilingual heritage. Being located at the mouth of the mighty Mississippi River, a major port for goods and commerce of all sorts, and the first port of entry for many foreigners for centuries has made this old, colorful, and wild city a true melting pot!

This course has taken us from Africa through the Caribbean, South America and finally, as our journey brings us closer to home in the USA, we will begin to appreciate how musical cultures develop and how the music we love to listen to originates in many other cultures and places. We will see how the African musical origins which resound in the music we listen to today can still be heard. The significance of this influence can trace its roots back to Congo Square in New Orleans where slaves would congregate to collaborate, play music and dance together.

In this module, we will continue to explore 'The Message' and the things which attract and move us creatively as individuals. We will experiment with putting ourselves, our thoughts and feelings into our music. We can now begin to design and create something beautiful to express? People are listening! What are you going to say!?

### Module Highlights:

**Theme:** The Message - (Putting Ourselves Into The Music)

**Setting:** New Orleans, USA

**Instruments:** Djembe Drum & tambourine

### Lessons:

**Musical Culture and Theory:** Second line music, self-expression & solo with accompaniment

**Life Skills:** Leadership and communication.

**STEAM:** Instrument Design and Construction. Math: Fractions - Whole Notes and Half Notes

# Preparing for recital & final recital



# PREPARING FOR RECITAL & FINAL RECITAL

My Classroom - USA



THEME:

## INSPIRATION, INTEGRATION & SELF EXPRESSION

A long musical journey from Africa finally arrives in New York City, in my classroom. From inspiration & integrating skills, to a recital. Sharing what we have learned. A musical celebration and a snapshot of our course.

# INSPIRATION, INTEGRATION & SELF EXPRESSION

**Modules 8 & 9:** Preparing for recital and final recital - New York City - My Classroom

## **Module Overview:**

This program culminates in a final performance or classroom recital. The recital will include rhythms and other musical elements from each of the places and musical cultures we have explored throughout this course. Each unique module gave us an insight into the culture and history of the places and peoples we focused on. We learned about music, what makes music unique and how we too can participate in making music of our own.

In line with the idea of music being able to break down barriers and bring people together when the recital is performed for others, it will encourage audience participation. The recital is designed to demonstrate what we have learned in this program as well as some of the musical ideas, lessons and experiences we have had along the way.