



# Year 8 Music: Samba

## Key Information

**Samba** originated in Brazil, from the culture and traditions of African slaves living and working in the Brazilian sugar plantations. Samba music is played using **percussion** instruments and includes layers of **syncopated rhythms**.

At St. Ivo we play Samba in an **ensemble**. It is very **loud** and dynamic and rhythmic changes are signalled by the leader using the **apito**. The main ostinato rhythm is called the **Groove**. Contrast is provided by different sections like **breaks** and **cut downs**.



Keyword	Meaning
Syncopation	Off beat rhythms that sound interesting and exciting
Unison	One single layer of music sounded together, 'as one'
Break	A short contrasting section in a piece of Samba
Groove	The main section of a piece of Samba
Son Clave	A rhythmic pattern used in Brazilian and Cuban music
Apito	The whistle. Used by the Sambista (leader).

## Analysis

[Samba Bahian Suite 2009 - HSU World Percussion Ensemble - YouTube](#)

Listen to the performance and try to identify the structure of the piece, using the sections **intro, groove, break, cut down**.

This is the **son clave** rhythm (I like fish and chips) written out in box notation.

Look at the **rumba clave** below—can you clap it?

M	A	D	T	S	H	I	R	T
<b>Melody</b>	<b>Articulation</b>	<b>Dynamics</b>	<b>Tempo</b>	<b>Structure</b>	<b>Harmony</b>	<b>Instruments</b>	<b>Rhythm</b>	<b>Texture</b>
The main tune	How the music is played	The volume of the music	The speed of the music	The sections of the music and their order	The chords used	What instruments are used and the sound produced	The patterns of sounds with the beat	Layers of music – how many and what each does