



The Flute & Brazil: Resources for exploring the integration of classical and popular compositions with the most prominent flute genre in Brazil, the Choro



On May 9th, 2023 Flutist Gabriela Gimenes did a presentation for the Greater Portland Flute Society on the topic of finding music and literature about the Choro genre of Brazil.

This genre has thousands of compositions and one of the main instruments is the flute.

She toured us around resources on the www to find content as well as video and audio references for understanding, learning and playing this exciting music.

Gabriela is Sopro Novo Yamaha Artist, born in Brazil and based in the Portland area. Learn more about Gabriela through the link above. Learn more about Gabriela at her website - www.gabrielagimenes.com

Brazil History Background

Princess Isabel Golden Law is the mark for a major change in Brazil's history and the beginning of a rapid integration of several races, in which defines the development of several music genres in Brazil, being Choro the basis of many genres.

- Portuguese Monarchy (1807-1822)
- Brazil's monarchy independence declared by Don Pedro I on September 7th, 1822.
- Don Peter I abdicates the throne and his 5 year-old son Don Peter II will reign from 1822-1889), officially ruling from 1831.
- Princess Isabel abolishes slavery May 13th, 1889
- 15 of November 1889, Deodoro da Fonseca proclaims Brazil as a Republic.

Flute and Brazil, Workshop Handout by flutist Gabriela Gimenes

Page 1 of 6

Classical Brazilian Composers

Composers like Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959), Francisco Mignone (1897-1986), Mozart Camargo Guarnieri (1907-1993), Luciano Gallet (1893-1931), Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez (1897-1948), Radamés Gnattali (1906 –1988), César Guerra-Peixe (1914- 1993), Osvaldo Lacerda (1927-2011) researched Brazilian folk genres to apply into classical music.

The following, as example, were performed as part of a workshop at the Greater Portland Flute Society's 39th Annual Flute Fair in May, 2023.

Gabriela Gimenes, flute
Claudia Nascimento, flute
Pam Beaty, seven string guitar
Esteban Diaz, percussion

Em Duas Flautas (1986)

César Guerra-Peixe (1914- 1993)

1. Prelude
2. Valsinha (Waltz)
3. Afro Sofisticado (Sophisticated Afro)
4. Cantiga (Song)
5. Frevo (Brazilian genre from Northeast Brazil that originated as a Carnival march explored in the early 20th century).

Example of Frevo Rhythm:

Traditional orchestration

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Pandeiro, Caixa, and Surdo. The Pandeiro part consists of four measures of rhythmic patterns, each starting with an accent (>) and a grace note. The Caixa part consists of four measures of rhythmic patterns, each starting with an accent (>) and a grace note. The Surdo part consists of four measures, each starting with an accent (>) and a grace note. The notation is written on a single staff for each instrument, with vertical bar lines separating the measures.

Baião Caraivana (2012).

Douglas Lora (b.1978)

Baiao is also a genre from the Northeast played by a base drum, accordion and a solo instrument or voice. It is played in the streets of Northeast Brazil, and it is also known to be the base rhythm for

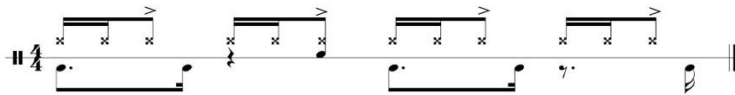
Repente (“sudden music”), an improvised song. A famous baião composer was Luiz Gonzaga who popularized the genre in the 1950s.

Example of Baião rhythm:

Example A

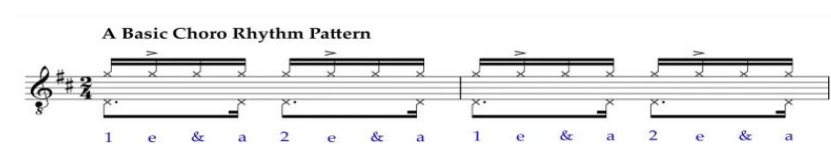


Example B



Choro is the combination of European music genres such as polka, waltz and mazurka with the African rhythms lundu and batuque. It was highly disseminated in the 19th century by flutist Joaquim Antonio da Silva Callado and globalized by Alfredo da Rocha Viana Filho, known as Pixinguinha (1897-1973).

Example of Choro Rhythm:



Segura Ele (1948) -

Pixinguinha (1897-1973) and Benedito Lacerda (1903-1958)

Noites Cariocas (1957)

Jacob do Bandolim (1918-1969)

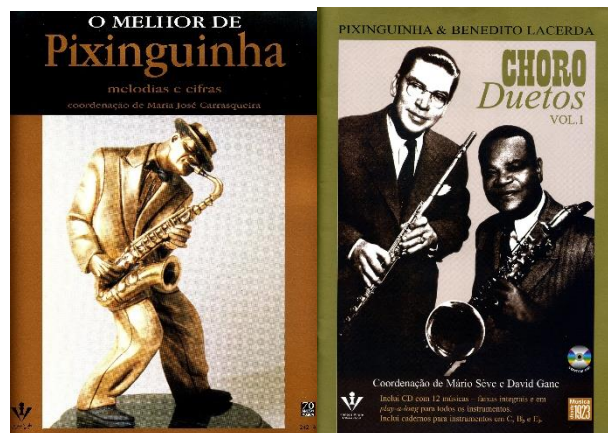
Carinhoso (1917)

Pixinguinha (1897-1973)

Suggested Sheet Music, Video and Bibliographic References to Learn More

Sheet Music Resources

- **Musica Brasilis:** Collection of 4,000+ free sheet music – [Sheet Music Access](#)
- **Choro Music:** “Worldwide reference in professional play along audios and books of the Brazilian Instrumental Music.” – [Sheet music catalog.](#)
- **Casa do Choro:** [Sheet music catalog.](#)
- **Academia Brasileira de Musica:** This is a bank of sheet music curated and preserved by the Academy. In addition to this page, the organization has a very interesting history to read about – [Sheet Music at the Academy.](#)
- **Sesc Partituras:** “This is a virtual music library comprised of digital scores, pieces transcribed by music editing software. The website offers access to the scores, free of charge, through a search engine compatible with the needs of students, teachers, musicians and researchers and that includes, besides the ability of browsing the catalogue and all of its information, the preview and possibility of downloading each musical work.”– [Sesc Partituras Library.](#)
- **Sheet Music Plus:** A search for “choro” and then the application of the filters of woodwinds/flute yields – [Choro Browsing at Sheet Music Plus.](#)
- **Choro Shop/Choro Camp New England:** Gabriella points us to a specific collection of 72 pieces of solo music scored for C instruments, “The Best of Pixinguinha,” still seen as one the greatest Brazilian composers of all time – [Sheet Music Pixinguinha](#)
- **Choro Shop/Choro Camp New England:** A sheet music/CD collection of duets (volume 1) recommended by Gabriella which includes scores for C instruments – [Duet Collection.](#)
- **Antonio Carlos Jobin:** This is THE master web source for the famous Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobin. This site is not in English, but can still be appreciated – [Composer Website.](#) You can find a [Wikipedia entry for this composer here.](#)



Video References

Enjoy these recommended YouTube channels and performances with most featuring a flutist in some way.

“You really have to listen to it to learn it. We all do.”

Gabriela Gimenes

- **Brasil Toca Performance Feature:** A recommended, very fun performance from this Brazilian TV show that celebrates the culture and music of Brazil and demonstrates the level of excellence at which this music is often played - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ted5gZ3uOKM>
- **Brasil Toca YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/@brasiltoca8032>
- **Another Brasil Toca Performance Feature:** Lovely flute and more - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXKqlokiFzs>
- **YouTube Channel for Choro Na Rua:** Another great listening recommendation <https://www.youtube.com/@choronarua4850>
- **Up close and personal, taking us to the party:** This one was shared by Gabriella at the start of the session. She notes it serves as a perfect example of how this music exists in the culture of Brazil to this day. Saturday gatherings of food, companionship, drink and music – [What it Looks Like Most Traditionally in Brazil.](#)
- A performance from the [Hamilton de Holanda](#) YouTube Channel
- A performance from the [Estúdio Monteverdi](#) YouTube Channel
- [Trio Brasileiro](#) YouTube Channel
- [Instrumental Sesc Brasil](#) YouTube Channel
- [Brasil Jazz Sinfônica](#) YouTube Channel
- A specific listening suggestion from the [Brasil Jazz Sinfônica](#) channel – [Featured Selection.](#)
- A specific listening suggestion from the [Choro das 3](#) YouTube Channel – Jazzy, bluesy, a bit of rock flair, and crazy fun to listen to. The Flutist of the ensemble is Corina Meyer Ferreira. They are on streaming ITunes as well. Their website lists [their discography.](#) YouTube Channel – [Choro das 3.](#)
- **Flute and Guitar** – This is another listening suggestion from the [Choro de Rua](#) channel featuring flute and guitar, a common and well fitted instrumentation for this style of music – [Feature Selection.](#)
- **Another suggestion from Instrumental Sesc Brazil, very flute forward with flutist Rafael Beck** - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkvi_KHCdZ4. Rafael Beck also has a CD on streaming services like ITunes – Rafael Beck on flute and Rafael Schmidt on guitar which features interpretations of Altamiro Carrilho.

- **This is the YouTube channel for Flautista Antonio Rocha -**
https://www.youtube.com/@flautista_antonio_rocha/videos
- **The YouTube channel for Estacao do Choro** with this selection that features flutist Sérgio Morais (flauta) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJr7JnMMKd0>

Bibliography

- Adolfo, Antonio. *Brazilian Music Workshop: Book and CD*. N.p.: Alfred Publishing Company, Incorporated, 2016. [Amazon](#) as one option.
- Castro, Ruy. *Bossa Nova: The Story of the Brazilian Music That Seduced the World*. Chicago Review Press, 2012. [Amazon](#) as one option. Could check your library for inter-library loan.
- Crook, Larry. *Brazilian music: Northeastern traditions and the heartbeat of a modern nation*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2005. [Amazon](#) as one option.
- Fryer, Peter. *Rhythms of resistance: African musical heritage in Brazil*. Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 2000. [Amazon](#) as one option.
- Guerra-Peixe, César. *Estudos de folclore e música popular urbana*. Organização, introdução e notas de Samuel Araújo. UFMG, Belo Horizonte: 2007. Not in English.
- Ganc, David., Lacerda, Benedicto., Sève, Mário. *Choro duetos: Aguenta seu Fulgêncio ; André de sapato novo ; Atraente ; Cheguei ; Cochinchando ; Displiciente ; Ele e eu ; Língua de preto ; Matuto ; O gato e o canário ; Só para moer ; Urubatã*. Brazil: Irmãos Vitale, 2011.
- Higino, Elizete. *Oswaldo Lacerda: catálogo de obras*. Rio de Janeiro: Academia Brasileira de Música, 2006.
- *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*. United States: Taylor & Francis, 2013. [Amazon](#) as one option. This is a more “academic” read.
- Livingston-Isenhour, T.E. and Thomas George Caracas Garcia. *Choro: A social history of a Brazilian popular music*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005. [AbeBooks](#) as one option. This title is more difficult to find.
- Pessanha, Ricardo and Chris McGowan. *The Brazilian sound: Samba, bossa nova, and the popular music of Brazil*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998. [Amazon](#) as one option.
- Vassberg, David E. African Influences on the Music of Brazil. *Luso-Brazilian Review* 13 (Summer, 1976): 35-54.
- Sève, Mário. *Choro vocabulary: studies & compositions*. Brazil: Lumiar Editora, 1999. Not in English.
- Google Search on “choro” yield - <https://www.google.com/search?tbm=bks&q=choro>