Bahia Street Beat

(Samba-Reggae from Salvador da Bahia, Brazil)

Julie Hill

Performance Notes

Bahia Street Beat is in the Brazilian samba-reggae (pronounced "heggae") style from the northeast state of Bahia. It has an inherent swing feel that should not be too obvious or forced. Teach your students a step-touch dance pattern so they can really feel the rhythm in their feet. Instrument substitutions may be made for steel pans with C percussion instruments. Additional membrane instruments may be added to those indicated in the score. The power of the samba-reggae style comes from the number of drummers playing, so don't be afraid to add more instruments. Just make sure the drummers don't overpower the melodic parts on the verse. Surdo parts may be doubled with floor toms, concert toms, or other low drums. Performers playing the high surdo part should use two mallets so they can alternate hands on the four eighth-note patterns. The drumset part may be embellished as long as the style remains consistent. All steel drum parts are in treble clef. This was a conscious choice based on my experience in teaching beginning steel drummers. Bahia Street Beat was written after my first trip to Salvador da Bahia in 2000. I heard the infectious sounds of the samba-reggae style on the streets of the Pelourinho, and was forever changed.

Instrumentation (Number of Players: 7-8)

- 1 Conductor Score
- 2 Lead
- 1 Seconds (Double Tenors)
- 1 Cello (Guitar)
- 1 Bass Pans (Bass Guitar)
- 1 High Surdo (Optional High Tom)
- 1 Low Surdo (Optional Low Tom)
- 1 Drumset





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