

## ONLINE AUDIO GUIDE 5.3

### AFRO-URUGUAYAN CANDOMBE

**title:** Cordon: Candombe Lento

**performing forces:** percussion ensemble of repique (Juan José Quintana “Juancho”), chico (Daniel Abal “Chino”), and piano (Carlos Pintos “Bocha”)

**form:** improvised, although within the norms of the toque

**function:** street celebrations or other group performance, expression of Afro-Uruguayan identity

**source:** *Uruguay: Tambores del Candombe* (Musique du Monde, Buda Records 92745-2, 1999).

#### Listen for:

- pitches of drums
- ostinato
- calls of various drums
- wide range of performance techniques (stick on shell of drum, rim shot, slap with hand, strike with stick)

Timing	Structure	What happens
00:00	repique call	open tones and rim shots  repique strikes shell of the drum with stick  chico and piano establish toque:  chico alternates right and left hands, open tones with stick and open slaps with left hand  piano produces bass tones with left hand, open tones with stick, and closed tones with the stick, dampened by the left hand
00:28	piano call and repique variation	piano plays open tones with stick and strikes shell of drum with stick  repique combines rim shots with open tones and striking stick on shell of drum  chico maintains previously established pattern
00:41	piano call to repique and chico	piano plays open tones with stick  repique plays on side of drum

		<p>chico plays on side of drum</p> <p>piano returns to pattern previously established</p>
00:54	piano call for chico to play	<p>piano plays a series of open tones with stick</p> <p>chico strikes shell twice with stick and then resumes previously established pattern</p> <p>repique continues playing on the shell of the drum, piano joins with repique in this technique</p>
1:04	repique call to chico and piano to play a new pattern	<p>repique plays faster note values, rim shots, and open tones</p> <p>chico plays on shell of drum with stick before resuming pattern previously established</p> <p>piano plays on the shell with stick</p>
1:10	piano call to return to basic toque	<p>piano plays open tones with stick, then returns to previously established pattern</p> <p>chico plays previously established pattern</p> <p>repique plays previously established pattern with slight variations</p>
1:33	repique call to end	<p>repique plays quicker note values and rim shots</p> <p>chico ends with previously established pattern</p> <p>piano plays previously established pattern with some quicker note values to conclude</p>

The author thanks Brian Rice for extensive assistance with this guide.

**Consider:**

- What is the musical effect of an all-percussion ensemble?
- How easy or hard is it to hear the various calls?
- How do you suppose the players know when to end?
- Some contemporary candombe players have added instruments such as electric guitar and saxophone to the ensemble. Is this decision artistically valid? How would it affect candombe's status as an expression of cultural identity?