

Take Me To The River New Orleans The Foundational Rhythms of New Orleans

The Bamboula, Tresillo, Habanera, and Cinquillo rhythms are prominent rhythms in New Orleans music. Derived from music performed in Congo Square beginning in the 1700s, these rhythms have shaped New Orleans music, utilized by a multitude of artists including Jelly Roll Morton, The Meters, Fats Domino, and Allen Toussaint. These rhythms continue to be utilized today by contemporary artists including Justin Bieber, Shawn Mendes, Luis Fonsi, and Shakira. While listening to the songs below, you'll map out where you hear these rhythmic patterns and how they're utilized in the music.

Dave Bartholomew's "Country Boy"

Listen to [Dave Bartholomew's "Country Boy"](#). While listening to this song, fill in the following questions.

What rhythmic pattern did you hear in this song? (Bamoula/Tresillo, Habanera, and/or Son Clave)?

Identify which instrument featured the rhythmic pattern. Did the instrument play the rhythmic pattern for the entire song?

Was the rhythm played fast or slow? How did that impact the overall feeling of the song?

Georges Bizet's "Carmen":

Listen to [Georges Bizet's "Carmen"](#). While listening to this song, fill in the following questions.

What rhythmic pattern did you hear in this song? (Bamoula/Tresillo, Habanera, and/or Son Clave)?

Identify which instrument featured the rhythmic pattern. Did the instrument play the rhythmic pattern for the entire song?

Was the rhythm played fast or slow? How did that impact the overall feeling of the song?

Scott Joplin's "Solace":

Listen to [Scott Joplin's "Solace"](#). While listening to this song, fill in the following questions.

What rhythmic pattern did you hear in this song? (Bamoula/Tresillo, Habanera, and/or Son Clave)?

Identify which instrument featured the rhythmic pattern. Did the instrument play the rhythmic pattern for the entire song?

Was the rhythm played fast or slow? How did that impact the overall feeling of the song?

The Meters's "Hey Pocky Way":

Listen to [The Meters's "Hey Pocky Way"](#). While listening to this song, fill in the following questions.

What rhythmic pattern did you hear in this song? (Bamoula/Tresillo, Habanera, and/or Son Clave)?

Identify which instrument featured the rhythmic pattern. Did the instrument play the rhythmic pattern for the entire song?

Was the rhythm played fast or slow? How did that impact the overall feeling of the song?

Luis Fonsi ft. Daddy Yankee's "Despacito":

Listen to [Luis Fonsi ft. Daddy Yankee's "Despacito"](#). While listening to this song, fill in the following questions.

What rhythmic pattern did you hear in this song? (Bamoula/Tresillo, Habanera, and/or Son Clave)?

Identify which instrument featured the rhythmic pattern. Did the instrument play the rhythmic pattern for the entire song?

Was the rhythm played fast or slow? How did that impact the overall feeling of the song?

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