

When rock and Brazilian rhythms come together: the integration of different genres in drum set playing

Brazilian rhythms have been mixed with rock and other forms of popular music by many generations of artists in Brazil. The resulting production often blends sounds that are characteristic from the rock universe, such as heavy distortion in guitar riffs and vigorous backbeats in drum arrangements, along with elements from Brazilian percussion instruments such as agogô, tamborim, pandeiro, zabumba and alfaia. Learning the combination of those musical ideas demands that one understands their basic particularities and their points of intersection. This session will demonstrate how that discussion applies to drum set teaching at the University of Sao Carlos in Brazil, bringing together various playing techniques and sound environments. For instance, students strive to get the feeling of the mentioned percussion instruments while playing the drum kit, sometimes dividing their bodies to have half in “rock mode” and the other half in “Brazilian mode”. Musical examples chosen range from the samba rock of Jorge Ben to the psychedelic experiments of the Tropicalia movement, from the *mangue beat* of the group Nação Zumbi to the metal of the band Sepultura. As a conclusion, the session highlights the importance for young apprentices of learning Brazilian percussion instruments in order to play Brazilian rhythms on the drum set. Equipment needed: data show projector and a drum set.

Abstract

This session will demonstrate the blend of Brazilian rhythms and rock and how that is taught for drum set students at the University of Sao Carlos in Brazil. The discussion highlights the importance for young apprentices of learning Brazilian percussion instruments in order to play Brazilian rhythms on the drum set.

Biography

Daniel Gohn is a faculty member at the University of Sao Carlos (UFSCar), Brazil. He holds Master's and Doctor's degrees from the University of São Paulo and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Campinas. His main interests in research include the use of technology for music education and processes for teaching and learning of percussion instruments. He is currently the coordinator for the distance education program in music at UFSCar and is the author of “In the World of Drumming: concepts, ideias and compositions”, “Music Education and Distance Learning: approaches and experiences”, and “Music self-learning: technological alternatives” (Portuguese only).