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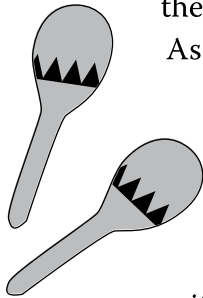
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About the Enhanced CD:

The audio tracks included on the ECD can be played on a stand-alone CD player or via your computer's media player. The video files on the ECD can be accessed by right-clicking the CD-ROM drive in the **My Computer** window and selecting **Explore** on a PC, or by double-clicking the desktop **Recorders In Rhythm - Video** icon on a Mac.



Why Latin Percussion?

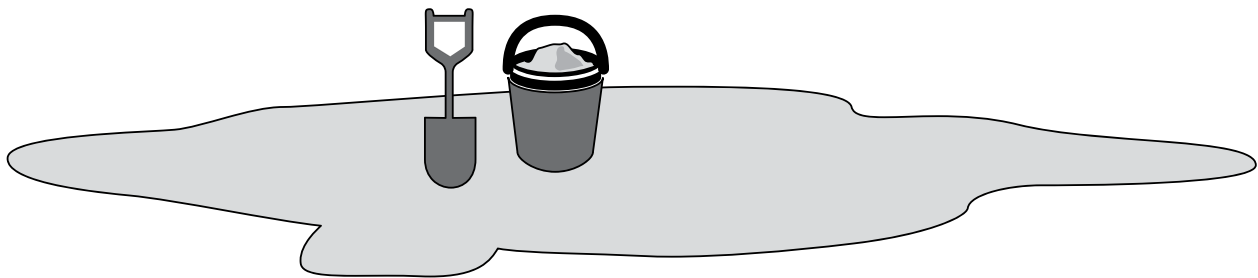


When the concept of this book first came about, I imagined students playing their recorders to a variety of drumming-based genres from all over the world.

As this vision (grand as it was) came into focus, I realized just what a task this would pose to both a music teacher and students as they attempted to learn how to play all the different instruments that make up what we often refer to as “world drums and percussion.” Just being able to obtain all the different instruments would not be an easy task, let alone learning how to play them with the traditional technique and feel. So, it became clear to me that the best choice was to focus on a specific genre.

After all, many musicians and scholars often make it their life’s work to master just a single genre of music, such as Latin or West African.

Because of our connection with Latin music (mainly through the cultural exchange with countries such as Cuba and others in the Caribbean), and because the instruments are readily available, this is a great place to begin. Caribbean musical styles (salsa, rumba, calypso, soca, reggae, marenque, etc.) and their associated instruments (congas, bongos, maracas, guiro, cowbell, claves, etc.) are by far the most widely used in schools and the music industry. They have been a part of our global music culture for at least 60 years and are found in venues of all types, played by both students and professionals. On a practical level, teachers may purchase, store and use the instruments without going to great lengths (or expense) to do so. To reduce setup changes between tunes and to provide more transferable skills for students, the instrumentation in this book is similar to what would be commonly found in a professional Latin music ensemble. This not only provides continuity for learning techniques, rhythms and for performance, but it acts as a bridge to middle and high school bands, and even professional ensembles.



The Percussion Instruments:



Cowbell



Claves



Maracas



Bongos



Conga

Note: Substituting other types of drums for congas is not recommended. If at all possible, use wooden congas with natural heads (the same types of drums used by people in the Caribbean and professional percussionists around the world). There are many authentically-made congas available at reasonable prices.