

THE LATIN AMERICAN STRING COLLECTION

30 SONGS IN AUTHENTIC STYLES WITH ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS

VIOLIN

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1 – Joropo

The extensive plains region of "Los Llanos" is divided between Colombia and Venezuela. Raising cattle is the main commercial activity there and the main musical rhythms of the region are the Joropo and the Tonada. This song features some of the typical instruments of the style: the Cuatro (shaped like a small Guitar), Harp and Maracas.

Buffalos & Cows

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Joropo (♩ = 80)

8

14

20

33

39

45

8

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2 – Rumba

Rumba is considered the mother of many Latin American rhythms including Salsa and Mambo. This style has its roots in Africa, where percussion has an important role. Often this type of music does not include melodic or harmonic instruments. Several Congas, a pair of Palitos, Claves, a lead vocalist and chorus accompany the dancers.

That's My Rumba

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Rumba (♩ = 116)

11

21

31

37

46



3 – Son

The “Son” was born in Cuba at the end of the 19th century and a few years later, it had gained great fame in Europe and the United States. The title of this song refers to the founder of the Matamoros Trio, Miguel, who was a prolific Cuban composer and influential musician in the development of Son.

Hi Miguel!

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Son (♩ = 92)

9

14

21

26

30



4 – Tango

Chimichurri is a seasoned sauce, sometimes spicy, and is the basic ingredient of any Argentine barbecue. This sauce is as traditional as Tango, which is based on distinctive and passionate rhythm. The Bandoneon is the key instrument in the sound of Tango along with Violins, Piano, Bass, Guitar, and Drums. Tango is one of the most influential and recognizable dances of modern history.

Chimichurri

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Tango (♩ = 112)

8

13

18

22



5 – Cumbia

Barú is a peninsula located south of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia and is the home of one of the happiest rhythms and dances called Cumbia. This is the national dance of Colombia and is the source and inspiration behind much of the country's popular music. This song features the main instruments of the style: Accordion and Tambora.

Barú

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Cumbia (♩ = 94)

3

9

15

4 pizz.

24

arco

2

31

Preview Only



6 – Bossa Nova

The Brazilian Bossa Nova was born in 1958, the same year that Brazil won the soccer World Cup with the young superstar Pelé. Tom Jobim wrote the music and Vinicius de Moraes wrote the lyrics for the Bossa Nova classic *Chega de Saudade (No More Blues)* which along with *The Girl from Ipanema* became the signature songs of this style.

Young Pelé

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Bossa Nova (♩ = 62)

6

10

15

19



7 – Merengue

The Dominican Republic is the home of the popular music and dance called Merengue. Beans are a staple of the diet there and are always accompanied by tostones, a rich, fried green plantain. Just like this popular dish Merengue is present at all parties and popular celebrations. This style of music often uses Accordion, Tambora and Güira to give it a distinctive sound and feel.

Habichuelas with Tostones

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Merengue (♩ = 62)

6

10

15

19

Preview Only



8 – Reggae

Reggae was born in Jamaica in the mid-twentieth century and is one genre that gives music to the philosophical and spiritual movement called Rastafari. Currently there are festivals around the world where its greatest performers are featured. Irie is a key word in this culture. It means that everything is fine or that there is no problem, and everything is at peace.

Irie

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Reggae (♩ = 62)

2

6

11

15

Preview Only

Preview Only



9 – Mariachi

Although Mariachi music is the most internationally known Mexican music, it is only one genre of the immense musical range found in this country. Typical Mariachi groups have Violins, Trumpets, and several types of Guitars, like Vihuela and Guitarrón. In Mexico, you might refer to a child as chavo.

The Happy Chavo

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Mariachi (♩ = 128)

8

14

20

33

39

Preview Only



10 – Bolero

Bolero was the main musical genre in Latin America at the beginning of the 20th century and has its roots in Guitar trios. This was a typical group that would gather in the evening under the window of a woman to be courted or celebrated for a special occasion. Think of this style of music as a romantic serenade.

My Love

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Bolero (♩ = 94)

8

12

16

20

1.



11 – Mambo

Mambo originated in Cuba at the beginning of the 20th century. The famous Bass player Israel López, known as "Cachao", was one of its inventors and main promoters throughout the world. Another influential musician of mambo was Timbale king Tito Puente who had a band with powerful brass which is a characteristic sound of the genre.

Cachao's Bass

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Mambo (♩ = 62)

6

10

15

19



12 – Cumbia

One of the main cities of Colombia is Barranquilla which is the cradle of a festive and spontaneous culture, typical of the curramberos. This city is known as the golden gate of Colombia because it was the first port through which gold, silver and other exports left to be shipped around the world. Barranquilla is also famous for its four-day carnival which often features Cumbia music.

A Golden Gate

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Cumbia (♩ = 96)

4

2

8

12

2

16

1.

4

22

Preview Only



13 – Bachata

At the end of the 1970s, a new urban rhythm emerged in the Dominican Republic, with lyrics associated with heartbreak and failed romances. Today the emotional singing style of Bachata is known throughout the world. One of the most well-known Bachata performing groups is Aventura from the United States.

Let's Dance

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Bachata (♩ = 132)

8

12

16

20

1. 4

Preview Only



14 – Cueca

Cueca has African and European roots and is so famous in Chile that it was declared the national dance in 1979. Some people think that its dance represents the courtship between the rooster and the hen, and the typical white handkerchief worn by the man symbolizes the feathers. The traditional instruments of Cueca include Accordion, Guitar, and Percussion.

My White Handkerchief

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Cueca (♩ = 138)

8

12

16

20



15 – Norteña

Norteña music groups of Mexico cover a great number of styles such as Ranchera, Corrido and Bolero. You can tell that the style is rooted in European music because of the Polka influence. The main instruments of Norteña are Accordion, Drums and a group of wind instruments like Trumpets, Saxophones and Tuba.

The Tiger Violinist

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Norteña (♩ = 116) pizz.

5 arco

9

13

18



16 – Calypso

Trinidad and Tobago is a nation consisting primarily of two Caribbean islands off the coast of Venezuela and is the birthplace of Calypso music. A close relative of West African kaiso, Calypso music is an upbeat genre based on call and response singing. Steel Drum is the most recognizable instrument in Calypso music.

A Spicy Island

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Calypso (♩ = 86)

5

9

13

17

Preview Only



17 – Bambuco

The Tiple is a 12-string instrument of the Guitar family. It is smaller than a classical Guitar and is one of the main instruments used in Bambuco. The lyrics of this genre are usually nostalgic and romantic, but above all express the pride that Colombia feels for its land and why it is associated with cheerful and hardworking people.

Hold My Tiple

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Bambuco (♩ = 68)

5

12

19

26

33



18 – *Timba*

Although the king of the Timbales himself, the great Tito Puente, affirmed that Salsa did not exist as a musical genre...he thought it was simply the combination of several styles such as Mambo, Guaracha, or Cha cha chá. But we can say that Salsa music is a style that has become popular in a great number of countries and is deeply rooted in the culture of Puerto Rico.

Got Salsa?

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Timba (♩ = 100)

7

15

20

24

1. 4

2

3

3

2.



19 – Tango

Quino was the creator of a comic strip that was followed by entire generations. Millions of Latin Americans enjoyed the witticisms of a little girl named Mafalda who didn't like soup and felt a great concern for world peace and the environment. Mafalda was originally created while the master of the Tango, Astor Piazzolla was becoming famous for his composition *Libertango*.

Che Quino

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Tango (♩ = 124)

4

8

12

16

20



20 – Choro

Choro is the traditional music of Brazil. It is a genre that is usually instrumental with somewhat complex harmony and melody. The main instruments of Choro are Mandolin, Cavaquinho (an instrument like Guitar, but with 4 strings) and Pandeiro (a percussion instrument like a Tambourine). The guaraná is a fruit with many vitamins and minerals that comes from the Brazilian rainforest.

Guaraná

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Choro (♩ = 88)

6

10

15

19

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21 – Mariachi

Mariachi is not only a musical genre, but it is also the name given to the musicians who play it. Garibaldi Square in Mexico City has Mariachi music 24 hours a day. The performers are always ready to liven up any birthday or special celebration. A native of Mexico City is called chilango.

The Chilangos

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Mariachi (♩ = 106)
6

12

18

24

29



22 – Bolero

The typical Spanish Bolero is a lively dance in 3/4, but *A Rose for You* is the slower tempo version that originated in Cuba in 4/4. Various instruments like Castanets, Tambourines, and Guitars were used to accompany the singers. Bolero is the classic romantic love song of the twentieth century in Latin America.

A Rose for You

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Bolero (♩ = 92)

7

11

18

22

28

33

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23 – Merengue

The distinctive sound of Merengue is achieved by two percussion instruments: the Tambora, which is cylindrical and is held on the legs and played on both sides and the Güira, which is made of metal (unlike the Güiro which can be made of hollowed wood or dried gourd) and is played with a "hook" or drumstick that scratches its surface.

Güira and Tambora

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Merengue (♩ = 120)

7

12

17

24

28

32



24 – Joropo

Pabellón is a traditional Venezuelan dish, the local version of rice and beans with a fried egg, cheese and avocado. The Joropo is a rhythm of strong character and typical of the countryside. Joropo is the national dance of Venezuela.

Pabellón

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Joropo (♩ = 132)

8

12

16

20

24

1. 2.



25 – Latin Jazz

Latin Jazz is, naturally, a branch of American Jazz; it began to take shape when two great figures came together: Dizzie Gillespie and Machito, giving rise to what at first would be called "Cubop" and a little later settling as an independent genre. Its ramifications can be seen in the Bossa Nova of Brazil, the New Wave of Venezuela, the Tango of Argentina or the Timba of Cuba.

Go Machito

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Latin Jazz (♩ = 112)

7

12

17

22

27



26 – Gaita

Venezuelan folk music is largely dominated by two genres, Joropo and Gaita. Gaita is usually associated with the holiday season from November through the New Year. Gaita was originally from the city of Maracaibo, but now the whole country feels it as its own. Modern instruments (like synthesizers and electric Bass Guitar) have been added to contemporary Gaita music.

When I Cross the Bridge

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Gaita (♩. = 104)

8

15

22

29

36

45

4

1

1



27 – Guarania

Guarania is a musical genre that rose to popularity in Paraguay during the early twentieth century. It is a slow, melancholy style of music that was created by composer José Flores. Also important in development of the music were composers Oscar Ramirez and Matias Morel. At the core of the sound of Guarania is the Paraguayan Harp which is a surprisingly versatile instrument which can play complicated melodies and driving rhythms.

Memories

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Guarania (♩ = 84)

7

12

17

22

28

Preview Only

Preview Only



28 – Bossa Nova

The most famous song associated with Brazilian Bossa Nova is *The Girl from Ipanema*. It was written by Antônio Carlos (Tom) Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes. The first recording of the song featured Stan Getz on the Tenor Saxophone. Since its original recording in 1964 the song has been played and sung by artists from around the world.

Tom and Vini

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Bossa Nova (♩ = 120)

7

12

17

25

29



29 – Ska

Dreadlocks are a very typical hairstyle that have been adopted by many Ska musicians. Ska, like Reggae, uses rhythms typical of the Jamaican culture but it has become popular worldwide, especially in Spain, Venezuela, Argentina and the United States.

Cool Dreadlocks

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Ska (♩ = 134)

9

14

19

24

29



30 – Salsa

A “pana” is a close friend or “pal”. The musical genre Salsa is a rhythm that is born and lives in the street. You can hear it in the humblest neighborhoods but you can also see its most famous singers in luxurious parties in major cities.

He's My Pana

Violin

MARK CONTRERAS GÓMEZ

Salsa (♩ = 104)

2

7

12

20

25

29

Preview Only

