

# Caribbean Music

## Rumba

'Rumba' is used in Cuba to mean 'Party' and is also a type of dance. The **Rumba Clave** is a rhythm that underpins the music, musicians use it as a guide for **melodies**, **chords** and **basslines**. Rumba later formed the basis of many styles of **Jazz** and **Dance music**.

Instruments:

Quinto  
(a small,  
high pitched  
Conga)



Timbales



Also:  
Vocals  
Piano  
Guitar  
Bass

## Calypso Music Origin: Trinidad and Tobago

Calypso music began as a way for African slaves to communicate without their plantation owners understanding. The **lyrics** are usually about important topics and social issues. The music has **verses** and **choruses**, and the **rhythm** is **syncopate** (off-beat). Calypso has been influenced by music from Spain, France and Britain. It is now linked with the **carnival**.

Instruments:

A wide range  
including guitars,  
bongos, claves and  
steel pans



Bob Marley

Calypso Rose

## Reggae

Prominent artists: Bob Marley, Desmond Dekker, Marcia Griffiths  
Instruments: Vocals, electric guitar, electric bass, organ, drum kit

Reggae uses an **off-beat rhythm**, usually played on the **Guitar**, called **Skanking**.

The **chords** were originally borrowed from **Blues** music, played with a **pop song structure**.

**Lyrics** are usually about politics, religion and relationships