

# MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD: LATIN AMERICA

*Click here for  
the Concert  
Playlist!*



Our Music for Families concert will take you on a wonderful journey of musical styles from Latin America.

- You'll hear music from some of our favorite Latin American composers.
- You'll hear some of the many fantastic instruments used in Latin music.
- You'll move and groove and sway to some of the many exciting rhythms of Latin music.

Your musical journey of Latin America will include great music inspired by the people and traditions of different Latin American countries, such as

- MEXICO
- BRAZIL
- ARGENTINA
- PERU

There's a lot in store! So pack your bags, fasten your seatbelts, and get ready for your musical ride!



On the following pages are some fun activities for you and your family, along with lots of interesting facts. Take a look at them before or after the concert. Print them out, and have fun!

## WHERE IS LATIN AMERICA?

Latin America is the land mass that begins just south of the United States, and extends to the very end of the continent of South America. It's a fantastic region that includes Mexico—the closest southern neighbor to the U.S.—as well as the region known as Central America, and all of the countries of South America, such as Brazil, Peru, and Argentina.



At the concert, you'll hear music from these countries:

- MEXICO • BRAZIL • PERU and • ARGENTINA.

Find them on the map, and draw a circle around the name!

# HERE IS SOME OF THE GREAT MUSIC YOU'LL HEAR AT THIS CONCERT

## MÁRQUEZ *Conga del Fuego* and *Danzon No. 2*



Inspired  
by MEXICO

Our concert begins and ends with music by Arturo Márquez, one of the most famous composers of Mexican heritage living today. The first sounds you'll hear are the exciting, driving rhythms of *Conga del Fuego*—a “fire dance.” It’s music of celebration! You’ll be able to imagine large groups of merrymakers dancing and playing music in the streets!

More music by Arturo Márquez comes back as the grand finale of our concert, and you’ll hear why. The final piece is another kind of dance, a joyous *Danzon*. This music has it all! It’s energetic and joyous, and it gets more and more exciting right through the very last notes!

## VILLA-LOBOS *The Little Train* of the *Caipira*



Inspired  
by BRAZIL

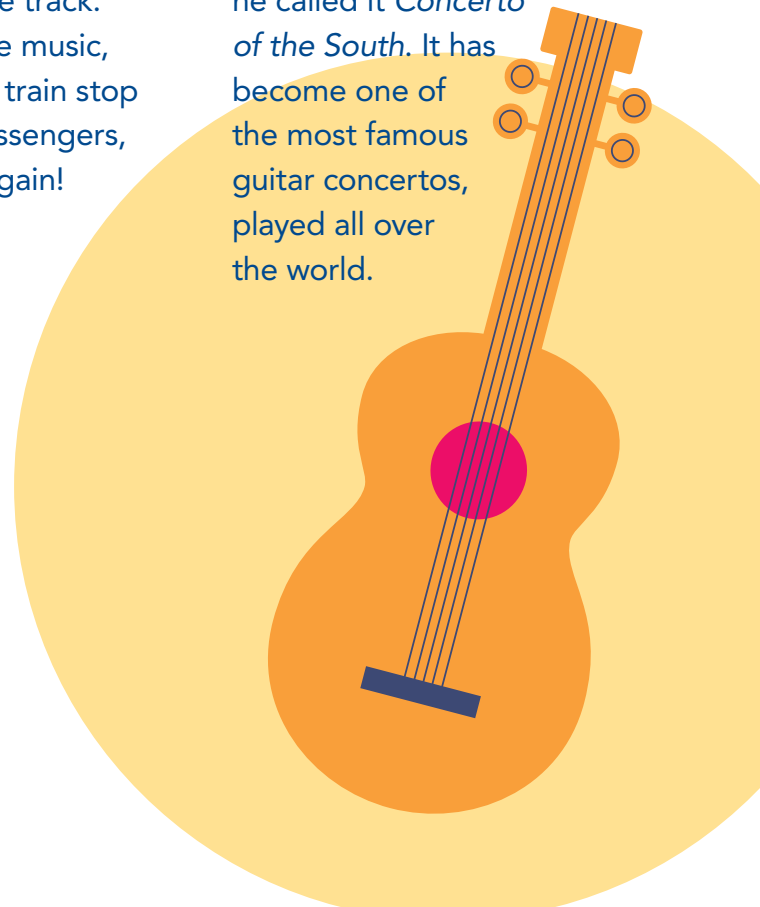
The *Little Train of the Caipira* is delightful music written by the Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. It portrays the journey of a little steam locomotive chugging its way through the Brazilian countryside. Listen for the way Villa-Lobos uses percussion instruments popular in Latin America to depict the clanking of the wheels on the track. Midway through the music, you’ll hear the little train stop to pick up more passengers, and then start up again!

## PONCE Music from *Concerto* of the *South* for Guitar and Orchestra



Inspired  
by MEXICO

The guitar is a very important instrument in the musical life of Mexico! The Mexican composer Manuel Ponce, who wrote many wonderful pieces of music for the guitar, was asked to write a very special work that would feature the guitar playing with a symphony orchestra. That’s exactly what he did, and he called it *Concerto of the South*. It has become one of the most famous guitar concertos, played all over the world.



## MÉNDEZ

*Cucurrucucú  
Paloma*



Inspired  
by MEXICO

What a fun name:  
*Cucurrucucú Paloma!*

It's the name of a song written by the composer Tomás Méndez that is famous all over Mexico and beyond. It's so famous that it has been featured in a number of movies. The title means "cooing dove." *Paloma* is the Spanish word for a type of dove, and *cucurrucucú* is the cooing sound the dove makes.

Try saying it:  
coo-coo-roo-coo-COO,  
coo-coo-roo-coo-COO!

## PIAZZOLLA

*Libertango*



Inspired  
by ARGENTINA

This graceful music is a dance called the *tango*. The tango is a very popular dance in Argentina—in fact, it's the country's national dance! To dance the tango, two people glide together across the dance floor in a stylish and elegant manner. The steps can be very smooth, or sometimes quick and dramatic. You'll hear a wonderful piece of tango music called *Libertango*, written by Astor Piazzolla, Argentina's most famous composer of tangos.

## FRANK

*The Mestizo Waltz*  
from Three Latin  
American Dances



Inspired  
by PERU  
and  
CHILE



The composer of this wonderful music, Gabriela Lena Frank, was born in Berkeley and lives right here in the Bay Area. Her family heritage includes ancestors from Peru, and she has always had a love of Peruvian music. Frank has visited Latin America many times and loves writing music influenced by Latin American culture. *The Mestizo Waltz* is a fun piece that pays tribute to the *mestizo*—or mixed-race—music of the South American Pacific coast (Peru and Chile).

Read a special  
message from  
**GABRIELA LENA FRANK**  
on the next page!



Here's a special message from  
**GABRIELA LENA FRANK**



Hello! My name is Gabriela and when I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to grow up to be a composer. All day, I would hear songs in my head that no one else could hear. I wanted very much for other people to hear them, too! And so, I learned to write down the music on paper, which meant my musician friends could bring them to life. It was exciting! Now I do this every day, sometimes all day!

I especially love writing music that is influenced by my Latin American culture. In the piece you will hear performed by the San Francisco Symphony, *The Mestizo Waltz*, I include a lot of Latin percussion instruments such as the shimmery *chekere*, the rich *conga drum*, and the clackety *castanets*. The music should make you want to get up and dance! And maybe some of you will want to be a composer someday, too!

I hope you like it, and muchas gracias!

# MY MUSIC INSPIRATION

If you were a composer, what would you write a piece of music about? What would be your music inspiration?

Composers on your *Music for Families* concert were inspired by many things:

- Gabriela Lena Frank was inspired by Latin American culture.
- Heitor Villa-Lobos was inspired by a train.
- Manuel Ponce was inspired by the guitar.
- Tomás Méndez was inspired by the cooing sounds of a dove.

What's the inspiration for YOUR music? It can be anything! It can be your home, a friend, a bridge, trees—anything you really like!

## MY INSPIRATION FOR THE MUSIC I WILL COMPOSE IS:



**MY MUSIC INSPIRATION**

**COLOR  
YOUR  
WORLD!**

Here's a map of Latin America.

Maps usually show different colors for different countries, which makes it easier to see each country's boundaries. Your job is to be a *cartographer*—a special word for a map designer—and to add color to the map.

Pull out your crayons, pens, or markers! Make the map as colorful as you wish!

**FOR AN EXTRA CHALLENGE:**

Try to make sure no two countries with a shared border have the same color. Expert cartographers always have bordering countries in two different colors.

**FOR A SUPER-DUPER  
EXTRA CHALLENGE:**

See how many countries you can identify, and write in the names!

(Super-secret tip:  
You can refer back to the  
map of Latin America on  
page 2.)



# A S E C R E T C O D E

The San Francisco Symphony wants to share a **secret** with you! Find out what it is by solving the riddles below. Then, transfer the letters that have numbers below to the right place in the **SECRET CODE BOX!**

- The national dance of this country is the tango.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
		8			12		

- This is the largest country in South America. The composer Villa-Lobos wrote a fun piece about a little train running through it.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
		11		4

- This Latin American country shares a border with the United States.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1				5

- The composer Gabriela Lena Frank wrote a piece inspired by these two countries that lie on the western (Pacific) edge of South America.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
		9		2	and		

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
		6		10

- This is the country we live in right now!

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3				7



S e C r e T

2 6 C L 6 1

C o d e

C o q e

B o x

B o x

Your secret message from the San Francisco Symphony is:

1 2 3 4 5

6 7

8 9 10 11 12

1 5 3 4 2

9 1

8 6 10 11 15

Your secret message from the San Francisco Symphony is:

# A PICTURE DICTIONARY OF LATIN AMERICAN PERCUSSION

Percussion instruments are played by hitting, scraping, shaking, or rubbing.

Here are some popular percussion instruments used in Latin American music:



## **Cajon** [kah-HON]

A wooden box with a hole on one side. You sit on the top and hit the box with your hands.



## **Castanets** [cas-tah-NETS]

Two wooden shells that you strike against each other to make a clacking sound.



## **Chekeré** [sheh-keh-REH]

A large gourd (a type of plant) that's been hollowed out, with a net of beads attached on the outside. You can hit the bottom with your hand and you can shake it.



## **Claves** [CLAH-vays]

Two wooden sticks that you play by striking them against each other.



## **Conga** [KOHN-gah]

A tall drum that you hit on the top with your hands.



## **Guiro** [GWEE-row]

A gourd (a type of plant) that's been hollowed out, with notches carved on the top. You play it by using a stick to scrape across the notches.



## **Maracas** [mah-RAH-cahs]

Small gourds (a type of plant) filled with seeds, beads, or small stones. You play them by shaking to make rattling sounds.



## **Tambourine** [tam-boor-REEN]

A small instrument you hit and shake to make rattling sounds.

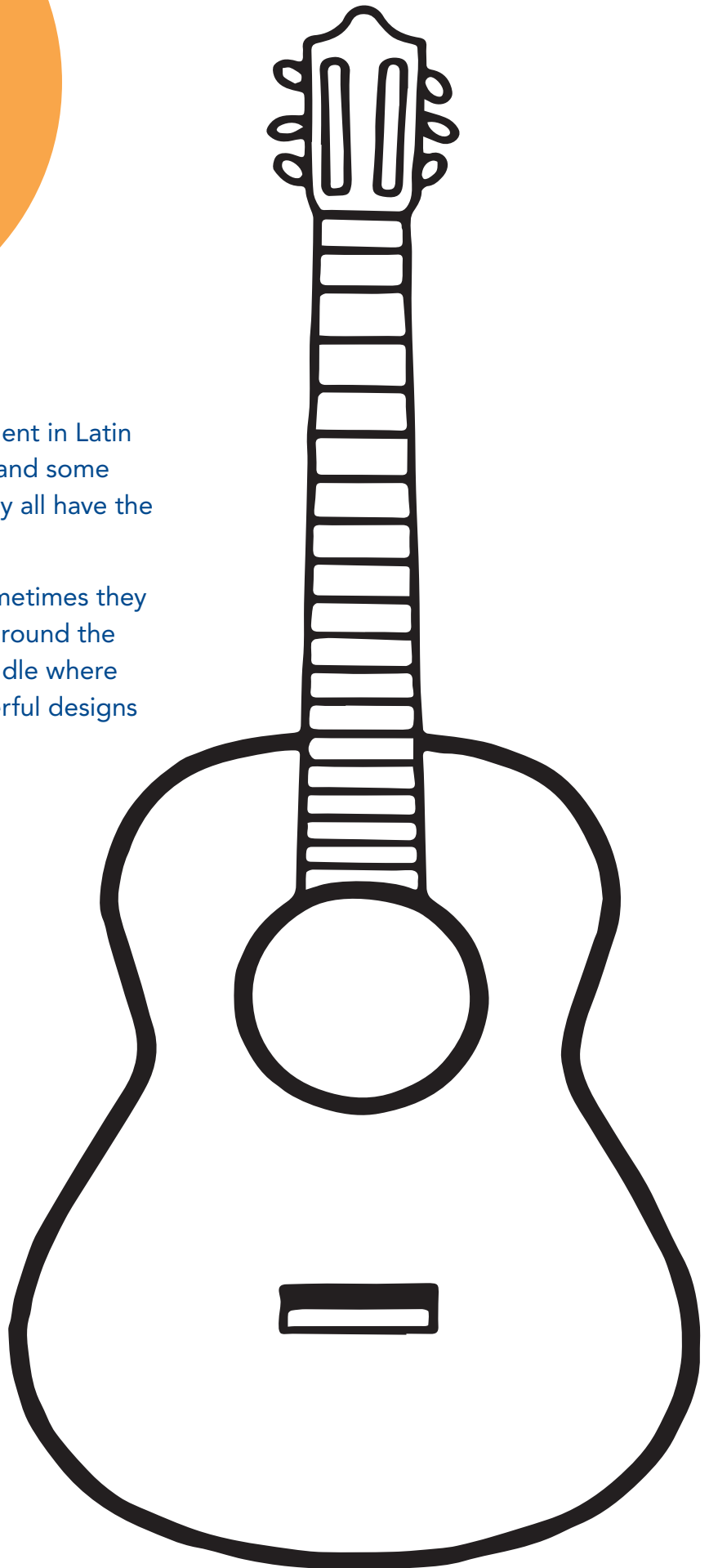
# DESIGN YOUR OWN GUITAR!

The guitar is a very important instrument in Latin America. Guitars come in many sizes and some are called by different names, but they all have the same basic shape.

Guitars are beautiful instruments! Sometimes they are decorated around the edges, or around the sound hole (the round hole in the middle where the sound comes out), or have wonderful designs on the front surface.

**HERE'S A  
CHANCE TO  
ADD YOUR  
OWN UNIQUE  
DESIGN TO  
A GUITAR.**

*(Don't forget to draw the strings!)*



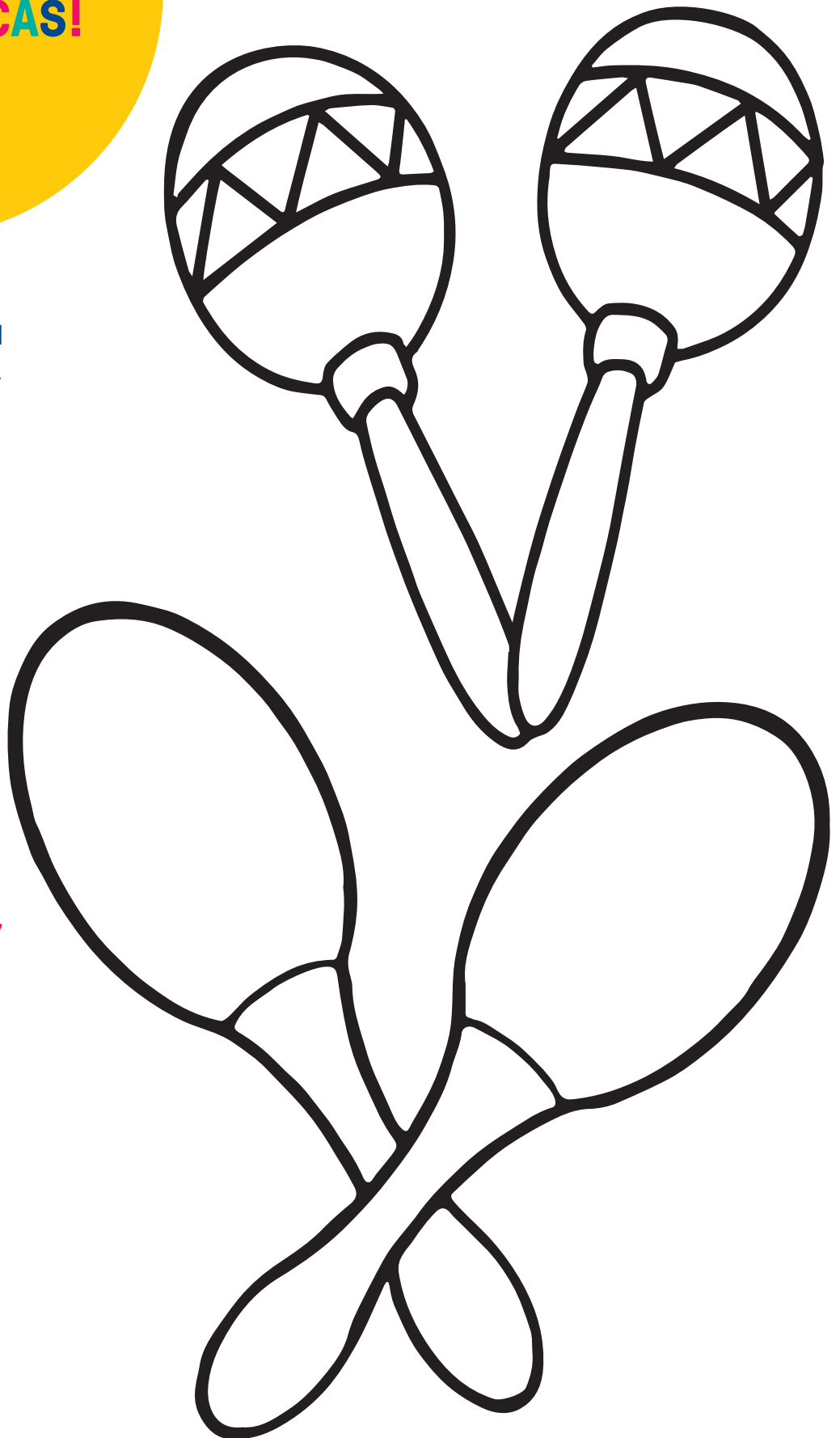
# DESIGN YOUR OWN MARACAS!

Maracas are often decorated with bright festive colors. Or, they may have fun designs around the surface, such as palm trees, geometric patterns, animal faces—you name it!



Now it's your turn!  
You're the Master Artisan  
of a brand new pair of  
MARACAS.

**ADD YOUR VERY  
OWN UNIQUE  
DESIGNS!**



# MAKE YOUR OWN CHEKERÉ

## This is what you'll need!

- Recycled plastic bottle – like a large juice bottle
- Long twist ties or pipe cleaners from a crafts store
- Beads, buttons, shells, metal or plastic charms, or even pasta tubes (such as rigatoni) – anything with a hard surface that you can pass string or thread through
- Sturdy string or beading thread



1. **Wash and dry the bottle.** Feel free to draw designs on the surface with a marker.
2. **Fasten twist ties or pipe cleaners together to create two rings.** One ring should be sized to fit around the neck of the bottle. The other ring will be much larger, as it will circle the bottom (wide) part of the bottle.
3. **Fasten/tie these rings around the top and bottom of the bottle.**
4. **Cut several pieces of string or beading thread,** each long enough to reach from the neck of the bottle to the bottom.
5. **Slide the beads, buttons, pasta, etc. onto the strings.**
6. **Carefully attach each end of the strings to the rings at the top and bottom of the bottle.**
7. **Optional:** You may wish to place beads, pebbles, marbles, etc. inside the bottle as well.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**YOU HAVE CREATED YOUR VERY OWN CHEKERÉ!**

## ANSWERS:

A S e C r e T C o d e  
A S E C R E T C O D E

Argentina

Brazil

Mexico

Peru and Chile

United States

Secret Message:

**MUSIC IS GREAT!**

MUSIC IS GREAT!

Secret Message:

United States

Peru and Chile

Mexico

Brazil

Argentina