

BANDA SINALOENSE

WHAT IT IS

- A genre of regional Mexican wind band music utilizing a variety of brass instruments, clarinets, and percussion
- Originated in Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico
- Developed out of a mixture of German military bands, regional civic bands, and municipal bands
- Currently one of the most streamed musical genres in the 21st century
- Can also be called **tambora**

TRADITIONAL ENSEMBLE SETUP

- 3 trumpets
- 3 clarinets
- 3 valve trombones
- 2 Eb horns
- 1 sousaphone
- 1 tambora
- 1 tarola

MUSICAL STYLE

- Traditionally learned by rote
- Occasional use of **partituras**, or transpositions of recordings of songs
- Note articulation is based upon prominent marcato and wide vibrato
- Dynamics tend to be group based; forte for tutti, naturally quieter for soli sections
- Elements of improvisation; use of **adornos** or fills
- Repertoire includes traditional **sones**, or folk songs, dances such as **zapateado** or **cumbia**, and/or original compositions

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BANDA

- Naval port of Mazatlán, Sinaloa allowed for acceleration of trade (such as piston valve brass instruments), urbanization and multicultural integration
- French-Austrian Intervention (1862-1867)
 - Military regiments had their own bands, would play in the town squares
 - European music en vogue with the aristocracy of Mexico
 - Abandoned citizens of the military and town municipal bands moved to nearby towns in Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Jalisco, and Nuevo Leon
- Mexican Revolution (1910-1920)
 - Fought as a social-political reaction to the 31-year regime of Porfirio Díaz (known as *Porfiriato*)
 - Military bands followed regiments into battle
 - Conflict dispersed large village ensembles; family members went off to fight in the war
 - Rise of the **corrido**; developed as a way to spread stories of the war to community members

- Public demand for music entertainment rises along with a rise in national sentiment the 1920's following the end of the conflict
- Early 20th century
 - Villages and cities begin to form local bands with flexible instrumentation, mostly small conjuntos and orquestas run by several generations of family members
 - Economics forced many citizens to travel to the cities for work; many musicians begin to gather and play for entertainment and civic functions, such as at festivals and cantinas
 - The development of the standardized instrumentation occurs
 - Emergence of broadcast media such as radio and TV
- 1940's-60's
 - Banda becomes it's own separate style as a reaction to mariachi, orquesta típica (string orchestra), and big band mambo
 - First banda recordings on vinyl, and banda increases in popularity as a result of increased exposure
 - Repertoire takes shape, which includes traditional sones, Sinaloa songs
 - Increased acceptability of the style as accompaniment to famous singers on recordings (ex. Luis Pérez Meza, Antonio Aguilar)
 - Travel was difficult due to geography of the country and a lack of developed highways. Banda as a result was contained within Sinaloa and border states such as Nayarit, Durango, and Chihuahua.
- Late 1980's-early 1990's
 - The Banda "Boom"
 - Quebradita (little break) dance style
 - Defined use of charango (fast cumbia) rhythm and use of electronic instruments and amplified equipment (techobanda)
 - Use of tejanas hat, jeans, and botas (boots) as fashion for Latino/a pride
 - Gained large following in the greater Los Angeles area
 - Reemergence of banda as a preeminent style of Mexican popular music
 - Increased radio output and commercial popularity encourages more bandas to emerge from outside the Sinaloa region
 - Regional styles of music begin to become more homogenized
- Modern banda
 - Bigger concerts and bigger budgets
 - Tours outside of the Americas
 - Increased emphasis on social media and music videos
 - Focus has shifted from purely instrumental to utilizing a **vocalista** (vocalist)
 - Amplification of instruments creates a specific compressed brass sound
 - Bandas are no longer formed just in Mexico

Other genres related to Banda

- Tamborazo
- Duranguense
- Norteño
- Ranchera
- Cumbia (musica costeña)

Important Bands to Know

- Banda el Recodo (de Don Cruz Lizárraga)
- La Original Banda El Limón
- Banda Machos
- Banda MS
- Banda MM
- La Arrolladora
- Banda Los Recoditos
- La Adictiva Banda San José De Mesillas

Role of each Instrument

- **Trumpet (Trompeta)** – Melody; typically the main voice of the ensemble along with the clarinet
- **Clarinet (Clarinete)** – Melody; typically the main voice of the ensemble along with the trumpet
- **Trombone (Trombón)** – Melody and inner line; usually paired with Trumpet and Clarinet for melody as well as being an independent inner voice within the ensemble
- **E ♭ Horn (Saxor, armonía, o charcheta)** – Accompaniment; almost always plays the 3rd and 5th of the chord on the offbeat pulse, depending on the song
- **Tuba** – Accompaniment and bass; plays the arpeggiated bass line to outline the harmony
- **Tarola** – Percussion that typically uses a snare drum, timbales, a hi-hat, and cowbells. The musician who fills this role is called the **tarolero**.
- **Tambora** – A large bass drum (usually 20-26 inches) with a cymbal mount on top. Not to be confused with the tambora (bombo) that is utilized in other Latin American countries.

Standard Banda Repertoire List

Key: R = ranchera, Z = zapateado, C = cumbia, W – waltz, B = bolero

Mí Gusto Es - W	El Toro Mambo - Z
El Sinaloense - Z	El Ahualulco – C
Arriba Pichatarro - Z	El Son de los Aguacates - Z
Juan Colorado - Z	El Niño perdido - Z
Juan Martha - R	La Yaquesita – C
Corazon De Texas	El Coyote - Z
Diana Ranchera - R	La Pachuca - C
El Toro Viejo - Z	Y como quieres que te quiera – C

El Quelite - W El Olotito - Z El Pavidito Navido - Z La Loba - Z Arboles la barranca – R El son de la rabia Una pagina mas – B Las guilotas – Z Un Puno de Tierra – R	El Sauce y la Palma - Z El Muchacho Alegre - W Cien Anos – B Cuatro milpas – R Mi ranchito – R Se les pelo baltazar – W Lamberto quintero – W La repetidora – C Las 3 tumbas – W
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Concert Band Instrument Substitutions for Banda*

- E ♭ Horn - French Horn
- Valve Trombone - Baritone, Slide Trombone (careful)
- Tambora Drum - Bass Drum w/ a cymbal mount
- Tarola - Marching Snare plus 12-13” timbales
- Clarinet - Saxophone (tamborazo)

***Note:** These substitutions change the ensemble sound concept

Google Drive Link to Materials

<https://bit.ly/3VLZYNi>

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