

Samba Glossary



Keyword	What is the definition? How does it sound?
Esperanza Spalding	Vocalist and acoustic bass guitar player
Fusion	When you 'fuse' two genres together
Bossa Nova	A fusion of Samba and Jazz
Low Tessitura	When the melody/ vocal part mainly uses low pitches.
Double Stopping	When a string instrument plays two notes at ones
Syllabic	When a vocal melody uses one syllable per note
Acoustic Bass Guitar	A bass guitar with an acoustic body.
Acoustic Guitar	A guitar that has a hollow body to generate it's sound without the need for an amplifier
Virtuosic	When a part is difficult for the instrumentalist
Ornamentation	When a melody uses different embellishments to a melody (Trills, mordents, and turns etc.)
Conjunct	A melody that moves in steps. To the note next door to it in the scale.
Strophic	A piece of music containing verses (this piece also contains an acoustic guitar solo)
Monophonic	A texture where only one melody is heard
Melody and Accompaniment	When there is a melody with a chordal accompaniment Another word for melody dominated homophony
Polyphonic	When there are many independent melodies played at once e.g verse 3
Rubato	Playing with expressive and rhythmic freedom. Similar to free time.
4/4 Quadruple Time	Four crotchet beats in a bar
Triplets	3 notes played evenly in the space of 2 of those notes
Rests	Breaks in the phrases (think of them as musical punctuation)
Syncopated Rhythms	Rhythms that emphasise the off beat in music
Tonal	Music written using conventional keys and harmony.
Extended chords	Chords with notes added other than the basic triad. The 7 th for instance
Diminished 7th	A Chord built on minor 3rds. Very dissonant
Flattened 5ths	When the 5 th note is flattened by a semi tone
Chromatic Chords	Chords that use non diatonic notes

Descending Chromatic Movement	When notes descend through non diatonic notes. Often in chordal movement.
Key signature	This piece: B minor