Music in Brazil embodies the history and people in a unique way. Brazilian music has many sounds and styles, from soft and soothing to rock and roll and pop. Listening to the different music styles, you can hear and imagine the struggles of the Brazilian people through the settling of their country, slavery, military regime, and their colorful history of simply who they are as
a people. Music is the heart and soul of Brazil as a country and it's an important element in the lifestyle and culture of every Brazilian.

Brazil is the land of Samba and Bossa Nova- a music form that has dazzled not only the country but also around the world. Brazil is a melting pot of diverse musical backgrounds and history. You'll hear music everywhere in Brazil - bars, restaurants, sporting events, beaches, homes, businesses, cafes, and mountains. It's part of Brazilian culture and lifestyle. Many young people in Brazil will listen to the same CDs that teenagers in Europe and elsewhere do. Maybe some of the songs on your MP3 player are entertaining people in São Paulo.
Brazil's mixed and multicultural past has come together to create some of the finest music and dance on the planet. With influences from three continents there are perhaps three main genres that one should learn about before going to Brazil.

Families also center their celebrations on music. Carnival and festivals are huge events in Brazil and music is always a big part of those celebrations. Music is always played during religious rituals and services throughout the country. Brazil is recognized as having one of the most diverse and unique styles of music within a country.

Let's learn various forms of music in Brazil and you can read through to find various interesting facts about each form.

Types and Styles of Brazil Music
Today, music of every kind is heard in Brazil. Some of it is strictly regional, but much of it can be heard in several regions of the country. Some musical styles include: samba, axe, MPB,
choro, forro, frevo, Bossa nova, brega, afoxe, and maracatu, to name a few. Classical music and operatic music also have a place in Brazil especially in the larger cities.

Samba:
Samba is perhaps the most popular of music in Brazil and also very well known overseas. The music and accompanying dance originated from black slaves living in Rio de Janeiro. It is said that it was first performed at the Rio carnival in 1917. Due to its roots lying in slavery, the
music naturally has many African influences. This is most noticeable in the unique rhythm which is linked to the Angolan tam-tam. This gave samba both its characteristic music and dance steps. By the 1930s, and due to the impact of radio, samba was huge. This decade saw what was to become the "Golden Age of Samba". One of the most famous musicians of this time was Carmen Miranda, who starred in many Hollywood musicals. She was also well known for her costumes that used fruit – an image that still pervades to this day. During the 1950s and 60s samba's popularity as Brazil's number one music and dance diminished due to the change in tastes.

The Bahian Samba de Roda (dance circle), which became a UNESCO Heritage of Humanity in 2005, is the main root of the samba carioca, the samba that is played and danced in Rio de Janeiro. The Samba National Day is celebrated on December 2.

Samba dancers make very quick steps to follow the rhythm and it is common to see people performing it during carnival parades. Carnival (carnaval in Portuguese) is very popular in many
cities. There are many carnivals held each year all over the country but the biggest is in Rio de Janeiro. It lasts for four days and is mostly a series of street parties with dancing, music and outlandish costumes. Samba Instruments that are used range from agogos, cuica, ganza, berimbau, and more. You can notice that traditional instruments are used when you listen to the music. Samba is a music and dance that partly defines the musical culture in Brazil. The music itself consists of a quick tempo and catchy rhythm while being used for dance.

Bossa Nova:

Bossa Nova entered Brazil's music and dance scene in the 1950s. The term Bossa Nova means literally "New Trend". In Brazil, the word "bossa" is slang for doing something with particular charm, natural flair or innate ability. As early as 1932, Noel Rosa (one of the greatest singers of Brazil) used the word in a samba:

"O samba, a prontidão e outras bossas são nossas coisas, são coisas nossas" ("The samba,
the readiness and other bossas are our things, are things from us"). The exact origin of the term "Bossa Nova" still remains uncertain. At the time it was seen as fresh, modern and challenging music and took not only Brazil but the world by storm.

It appeared at a time of change and was very much associated with the university movements. Bossa Nova brought with it a new way of singing and playing music; one that was less operatic and more natural, quieter and relaxed. Leading figures included Joao Gilberto, Baden Powell, Nara Leao and Elis
Regina. A lyrical fusion of samba and jazz, Bossa Nova acquired a large following in the 1960s initially from young musicians and college students.

Tropicalismo:
Tropicália, also known as Tropicalism, is a Brazilian music movement that arose in the late 1960s and encompassed theatre, poetry, and music, among other forms. It came under the influence of avant-garde artistic trends and pop culture and foreign (such as pop rock and concreteness); mixed traditional manifestations of Brazilian culture to radical aesthetic innovations.

Just as the Bossa Nova followed the samba, the new sound called tropicalismo burst onto the music and dance scene of Brazil in the late 1960s. The core message of the genre was that all styles were valid. As a result figures such as Gilberto Gil, Rita Lee and Gal Costa incorporated various styles and traditions in their music. This resulted in some very innovative sounds as instruments previously unheard of together were blended to create a
whole new sound.

History of Brazilian Music
Brazilian music is filled with sounds of the history of the country. The indigenous people, prior to the Portuguese settlers arriving in the country, played the first music of Brazil using rattles, flutes, horns, drums, sticks, whistles, and horns. They used their feet to stomp out rhythm and their hands to clap and keep
rhythm as well.

The indigenous people sang their songs both in chorus and as soloists. Two instruments from the early years of Brazil’s musical history have survived into modern times - the ganza and the reco-reco. Both instruments are used to play the modern-day musical styles of samba and choro.

Portuguese explorers introduced the sounds of their music to the indigenous people of Brazil, which was a mixture of sounds culled from Portuguese history. The musical elements from the Portuguese included influences from Europe, North Africa, India, Arabia, and the Middle East. Lullabies, dance music, and ballads were introduced to and melded with the folksy music of the indigenous music to create brand new and interesting musical styles.

Musical influences from Africa are heard throughout Brazil today as a result of the music brought with the African people. You can still hear lundu and maxixe in regions of Brazil, which are two of the popular music and dance cultures brought to Brazil by the African
What types of music are popular in Brazil?

Popular singers in Brazil include Madonna, Amy Winehouse, Beyoncé, Shakira and Ricky Martin. There are, however, forms of music that have become specialties in the country. The most famous form of Brazilian music is Bossa Nova (new wave). Many see Bossa Nova as a type of samba but it has started to have a life of its own since it was created in the 1950s. Early hits that are still popular with Bossa Nova fans include Desafinado (Out of Tune) and Garota de Ipanema (The Girl From Ipanema). The first versions of Bossa Nova came out of Rio de Janeiro and it soon became popular across Brazil and also in other countries. In the 1960s a tour by leading Bossa Nova stars Astrud Gilberto, Carlos Lyra and Antonio Carlos Jobim reached the United States. The concerts they performed had rave reviews and even won the heart of President Kennedy's wife. Music and other arts are celebrated every year in a series of carnivals across Brazil. These begin 40 days before the...
start of Easter to signal the beginning of Lent.

Nowadays, Brazil has many pop and rock bands, such as Los Hermanos, Skank, Jota Quest, which are very popular among many young people. Also, singers like Ivete Sangalo and Michel Teló are listened and watched everywhere on the globe. Brazil also receives many big music festival, receiving artists from all over the world, such as Lady Gaga, Madonna, Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, Strokes, Kings of Leon, Katy Perry, and many others, every year.
Rock in Rio is also a very big music festival, organized in Brazil since the 1980's, gathering almost 200,000 people.

Brazilian Musical Instruments
The musical instruments used in Brazil music vary from the most basic of instruments such as people's hands and feet to more complex instruments such as electric acoustic guitars. Each and every instrument comes together to create unusual and eclectic sounds and rhythms that have become Brazilian music. Berimbau - accompanies capoeira, Agogo bells - used in religious rituals, Accordion, flute, violin - heard in Portuguese songs called the fado and the moda, Percussion instruments - primarily heard in African-style music, but are used in many different Brazilian music styles, Atabaque - hand drum, Pandeiro - instrument similar to tambourine, Samba musical instruments - tamborim, surdo, berimbau, timba, chocalho, caixa, agogo bells, pandeiro, ganza, and cuica Bossa nova instruments - piano, drums, tambourine, nylon string acoustic guitar, saxophone, symbols, vibraphone, and symbols.
Brazilian Pop Music

MPB, or Musica Popular Brasileira, is the name assigned to any and all Brazilian pop music. This type of music came out of a musical style called Tropicalia, a mix of samba and Bossa nova music styles. It's a unique combination of newer styles of pop music with the folk music sounds and style of the indigenous people of Brazil.

Brazilian Drum Music

Drums and percussion instruments are often used in Brazilian music to create interesting rhythms or provide the background music for
other instruments. Sambass is a type of drum and bass music originating from Latin America, but now popular in some regions of Brazil. Sambass is unique music conjured from a combination of bass and drumbeats and rhythms.