

# Vox Sambou

## Teacher Resource Guide

### Lotus Blossoms 2021



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## About Vox Sambou

Vox Sambou is an MC, poet, and multilingual performer who writes and performs in Creole, French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. He comes from Limbé, Haiti, and is a founding member of Montreal-based hip-hop collective, Nomadic Massive.

A Haitian-Canadian, his music focuses on the traditional rhythms of Haiti mixed with elements of Afrobeat, jazz, reggae, and hip-hop. Vox's artistry is influenced by a strong commitment to calling out injustices and social imbalances. His message is one of great positivity that not only reflects the realities of life in Montreal as a Caribbean immigrant, but also the relationship between artists in the Americas.

Vox recently won two prestigious awards this past November at the All African Music Awards (AFRIMA) for music collaborations with artists such as Afrontronix, a Lotus World Music and Arts Festival artist 2019.



## Vox Sambou's Music

Vox Sambou's unique sound is created by fusing several different musical styles, including:

### **Traditional Haitian Rhythms**

Haitian music's distinct rhythms come largely from the practice of Vodou. Vodou is a religion and cultural practice unique to Haiti, which draws upon West African religious practices and traditions and Catholic influence. An integral of Vodou practice is its intricate drumming tradition, which utilizes various types of drums and rhythms. Vodou drumming has influenced nearly all of modern Haitian music.<sup>1</sup>

### **Jazz**

Jazz is a musical form, often improvisational, developed by African Americans and influenced by both European harmonic structure and African rhythms. It was developed partially from ragtime and blues.<sup>2</sup>

### **Afrobeat**

The musical genre afrobeat originated in the 1960s and 1970s as a blend of traditional Yoruba music with jazz, West African highlife, and funk. The pioneering style of afrobeat is identified with the Nigerian artist Fela Kuti.<sup>3</sup>

### **Reggae**

Reggae is a style of popular music that originated in Jamaica in the late 1960s and quickly emerged as the country's dominant music. It is based on ska, an earlier form of Jamaican popular music, and employs a heavy four-beat rhythm driven by drums, bass guitar, electric guitar, and the "scraper," a corrugated stick that is rubbed by a plain stick.<sup>4</sup>

### **Hip-hop**

Hip-hop is a cultural movement that attained widespread popularity in the 1980s and '90s. Although widely considered a synonym for rap music, the term hip-hop refers to a complex culture of aural and visual art forms.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.haitianmusic.net/haitian-vooodoo-drumming/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/art/jazz>

<sup>3</sup> <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/nigeria/articles/fela-kuti-s-afrobeat-legacy/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/art/reggae>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/art/hip-hop>

## The Republic of Haiti

The Republic of Haiti holds a special place in history as the world's first black-led republic.

- Capital: Port-au-Prince
- Population 10.2 million
- Area: 10,714 square miles
- Major languages: Kreyol (Haitian Creole), French
- Currency: Gourde<sup>6</sup>



Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Haiti has beautiful beaches along the Caribbean sea, and its topography is rugged, with about two-thirds of the total land area above 1,600 feet.<sup>7</sup>

For more information about Haiti, visit:

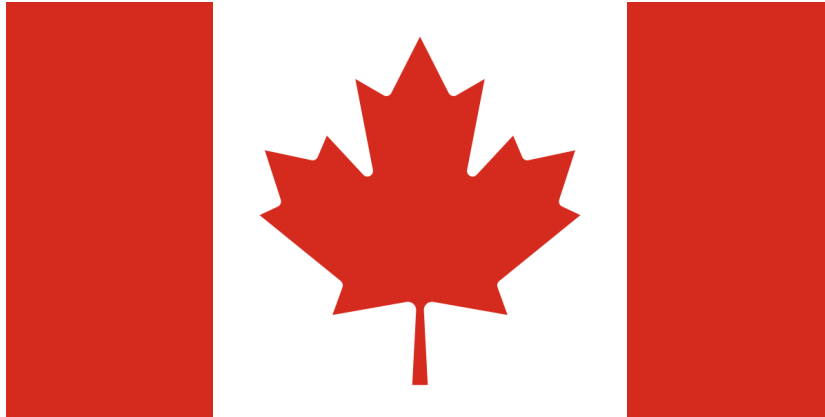
- [Haitian Geography](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19548810)
- [Haitian Cultural Life](https://www.britannica.com/place/Haiti)
- [Haitian History](https://www.britannica.com/place/Haiti)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19548810>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/Haiti>



## Haitian Communities in Montreal, Canada



**Montreal** is the second-most-populous city in Canada and the principal metropolis of the province of Quebec, Canada.<sup>8</sup>

### **Canadians of Caribbean origin**

belong to one of the largest non-European ethnic groups in Canada. They are put at an estimated half a million or almost 2% of the total population of Canada. Haitian immigration to Quebec has skyrocketed in the past 10 years, particularly after the devastating 2010 earthquake which sent thousands of Haitians to search for new homes outside of their native land.

Haitians are put at 13.9 percent of the total black population in Canada.<sup>9</sup> Haitians began arriving in Quebec in the 1960s to flee the tyranny of dictator François Duvalier, known as Papa Doc. Today, there is a Haitian member of Parliament, a senator as well as celebrated singers, and more.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>8</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/Montreal>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.newsamericasnow.com/10-fast-facts-about-caribbean-immigrants-in-canada/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/13/world/canada/quebec-immigrants-haitians.html>

## Helpful Links & References

- [Odelia - Vox Sambou](#)
- [www.voxsamboumusic.com](http://www.voxsamboumusic.com)
- [Encyclopedia Britannica - Haiti](#)
- [Encyclopedia Britannica - Montreal](#)
- [Vox Sambou on YouTube](#)
- [Vox Sambou on Facebook](#)
- [Vox Sambou on Instagram](#)
- [Vox Sambou on Spotify](#)

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