

# Making Movies

## Teacher Resource Guide

### Lotus Blossoms 2024



lotus  
BLOSSOMS

## About Making Movies

Making Movies is a dynamic band that blends Afro-Latino rhythms and rock 'n' roll with African-derived percussion and styles like rumba, merengue, mambo, and cumbia.



The band members are (left to right): Diego Chi (bass/experimental vocals), Juan-Carlos Chaurand (percussion), Enrique Chi (songwriter/vocals/guitar), and newcomer Duncan Burnett (drums). The members of Making Movies come from Panama, Mexico, and the US. Rooted in diverse musical backgrounds, they aim to create music that embraces their individual identities and serves as a healing force. They are passionately committed to exploring music history and connecting genres and cultures.

Enrique Chi is driven to share knowledge while recognizing the endless possibilities in musical exploration. The band's quest for musical exploration has led to collaborations with legendary musicians. Following their 2019 album "Ameri'kana,"<sup>1</sup> Making Movies engaged in a documentary series of the same name,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://amerikana.tv/>

connecting with figures like famous organist and songwriter Reverend Charles Hodges, and the gospel soul vocalists The Sensational Barnes Brothers.<sup>2</sup>

## Instruments

### Conga Drum

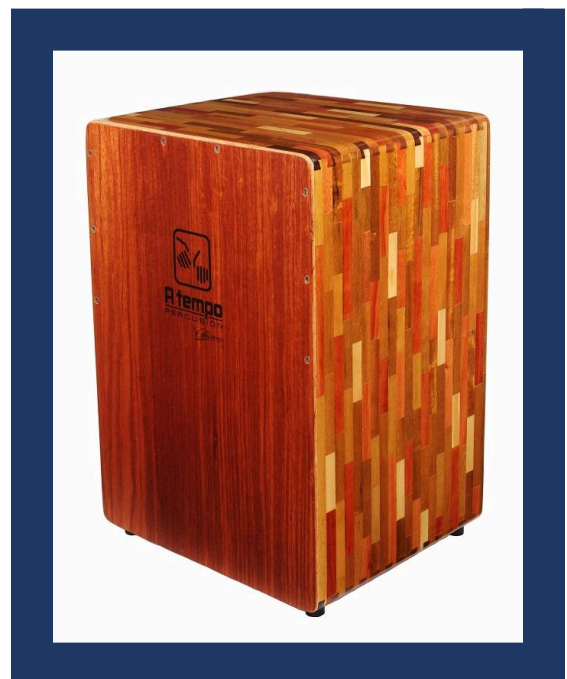


The Conga drum is a narrow, single-head hand drum that can come in many different sizes and diameters<sup>3</sup>. Traditionally made from olive barrels, this percussion instrument originated in the enslaved African Bantu-speaking communities of Cuba in the 17th and 18th centuries. The conga is considered the cornerstone of Latin rhythms, and was popularized by drum-centric rumba music in the 19th century. The conga is also known as tumbadora, timba, or jícamo in Cuba. A congo

player is called a conguero or conguera.

### Cajón [ka-hon or ka-hone]

The cajón is a percussion instrument that originated in Peru. The word "cajón" means "box" or "crate" in Spanish, and the instrument is essentially a wooden box with one side partially open. The player sits on the top surface of the box and strikes the



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.makingmovies.world/about>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.congachops.com/blog-articles/2021/1/1/a-brief-history-of-the-conga-drums>

front or rear surface with their hands, fingers, or various percussion implements to produce a variety of sounds.<sup>4</sup>

## Cross Culture

The members of Making Movies come from Panama, Mexico, and the US, bringing a unique blend of instruments like guitars, bass, percussion, keys, and drums to the music scene. The band explores the multicultural experience of the Latinx generation, delivering positive messages of self-identification and respect for their heritage.

## Latinx

Latinx is the gender-neutral alternative to Latina or Latino. It is a term used to describe a diverse group of people who have roots in Latin America<sup>5</sup>.

## Facts About Panama

- Capital: Panama City
- Primary Language: Spanish
- Currency: Balboa
- Population: 3,800,644

**For more information about Panama, visit:**

- [Panama Geography](#)
- [Panama Facts](#)



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<sup>4</sup> <https://cajonbox.com/about-the-cajon/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/news/latinx-heritage-month-more-than-one-word-more-than-one-heritage>



## Facts About Mexico

- Capital: Mexico City
- Primary Language: Spanish
- Currency: Peso
- Population: 126.7 million (2021)

For more information about Mexico, visit:

- [Mexico Geography](#)
- [Mexico Cultural Life](#)



For more information about Making Movies visit:

- Website: [Making Movies](#)
- Facebook: [Making Movies](#)
- Instagram: [Making Movies](#)

## STEAM Activity

### See Sound in Action!

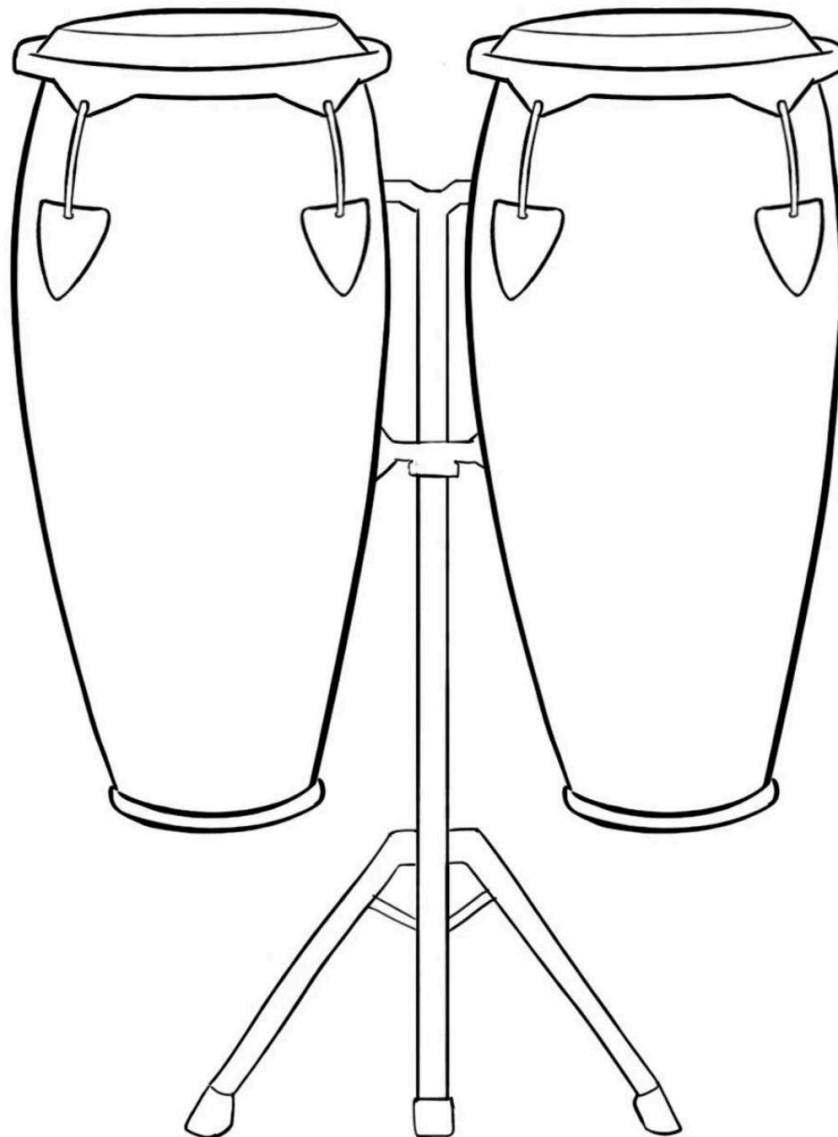
Learn about different aspects of sound and music by using the several experiments on the Chrome Music Lab page. Whether you compose with friends on the Shared Piano, or create beautiful rhythm using the Rhythm app, these tools are a great way to better understand the science behind sound.

### CHROME MUSIC LAB



<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments>

# Conga Drums



Materials prepared by **Lotus Education and Arts Foundation**, 2024  
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Special thanks to the **MCCSC STEAM/CS Team** for providing fun STEAM activities for our 2024 Lotus Blossoms study guides!

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