

# **Cuban Music**

## *Roots of Rhythm*

*Narrated by Harry Belafonte*

The documentary you are about to watch is entitled *Roots of Rhythm*. It examines Latin music, mostly from the island of Cuba. This music is a mixture of many different cultures, primarily those of African and Spanish descent. While watching the film, please write answers to the questions below. We will talk about the answers when the film ends and perform some of the rhythms that you hear.

### **Africa**

What is interesting about African culture? What do you notice about the music?

Who is the Drummer that the narrator describes? Why is he important?

### **Spain**

What do you notice about the Spanish group performing in the hills?  
(Think about lyrics and instruments)

What is a Troubador?

What is the name of the royal court musician who the narrator talks about? Why is he important?

## **Christopher Columbus & Cuba**

Who was in Cuba when Columbus arrived in 1492?

What other group came to the island soon after?

One of Cuba's most popular forms of music is known as **Rumba**. What did you think of this music? The dancers? How does the music remain popular today?

## **Young People playing Cuban Music**

What do you think about the young musicians performing at the end of the documentary?

How old do you think they are?

How do you think they were educated on their instruments?