

Oye cómo va

Tito Puente

Ernesto Antonio Puente (1923–2000) was born of Puerto Rican parents in New York City. This legendary musician played the vibraphone, claves, piano, saxophone, and clarinet extraordinarily well, but his specialty was the **timbales** (*kettledrums*) and, in general, all types of percussion. In the fifties, Tito Puente helped popularize Afro-Cuban and Caribbean rhythms, such as mambo, son, and cha-cha-cha, in the United States. Later, he also recorded bossa nova, Latin jazz, and salsa albums. Throughout his career, Puente won five Grammy awards for his albums *Un tributo a Beny Moré*, *On Broadway*, *Mambo Diablo*, *Goza mi timbal*, and *Mambo Birdland*.

To the right you see an excerpt from one of Tito Puente's songs. Read it and then complete these activities.

Comprensión

Indicate whether these statements are **cierto** or **falso**.

- | | Cierto | Falso |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Tito Puente was born in Puerto Rico. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Puente helped popularize Afro-Cuban rhythms in the U.S. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. His specialty was the saxophone. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Puente won three Grammy awards. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Carlos Santana recorded <i>Oye cómo va</i> in 1970. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Tito Puente has never performed with Carlos Santana. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Música hispana

Match each musical genre with its country of origin. ¡Ojo! (*Careful!*) One of the countries will not be used.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. ranchera | a. España |
| 2. vallenato | b. Estados Unidos |
| 3. flamenco | c. México |
| 4. tango | d. Cuba |
| 5. tex-mex | e. Argentina |
| 6. son | f. Guatemala |
| | g. Colombia |

va goes *mi ritmo* my rhythm *pa' gozar* to enjoy *mulata* (fem.) person of mixed ethnic heritage



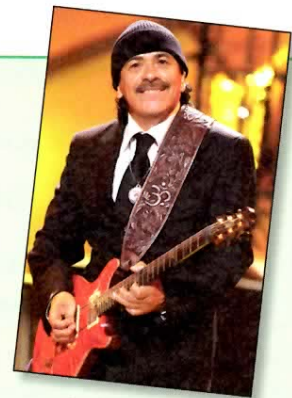
Oye cómo va

Oye cómo va° mi ritmo°,
bueno pa' gozar°, mulata°.

Oye cómo va mi ritmo,
bueno pa' gozar, mulata.

La transculturización

Tito Puente's eclectic sound has transcended generations and cultures. Rocker Carlos Santana recorded a best-selling rendition of *Oye cómo va* in 1970. Seven years later, Puente and Santana performed the song together during a live show.



Carlos Santana

recursos

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