



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Producer: Mary Ferreira
Script version: FINAL
Duration: 5'50"

CUBA: THE MUSICAL LEGACY OF A MILLION SLAVES

INTRO:

Over the centuries more than one million African slaves were transported to Cuba. Today, their legacy can be heard in Cuba's music, blending African and Latin rhythms.

CUBA: THE MUSICAL LEGACY OF A MILLION SLAVES (TRT 5'50")

VIDEO

BEAUTY SHOTS OF CUBA
MUSIC UNDER

MAGALI ROLANDO ON-CAM

SUPER
MAGALI ROLANDO

MAGALI TEACHING
STUDENT PLAYING PIANO

(MUSIC)

AUDIO

MAGALI: (In Spanish)

'It is impossible to find a Cuban who doesn't have a little bit of rhythm in their blood.// It means life to us. It is our history. " (23")

NARRATION

Magali Rolando is a piano teacher who lives in Havana, the capital city of Cuba. She eagerly teaches the younger generation about the roots of Cuba's music. (9")

MUSICIANS IN STREET

Music lies at the heart and Soul of every Cuban. It originated mostly from Africa by those who were brought and enslaved centuries ago on this Caribbean Island. (17”)

MAGALI PLAYING IN A BAND

Magali’s ancestors originated in southern Africa which connects her to the African beat. Besides teaching, Magali plays in a musical band led by 45-year-old Ramon Garcia who creates his own music. (17”)

RAMON GARCIA ON-CAM

RAMON GARCIA: (In Spanish)

I try to connect it with Africa.”

There is no way I would compose a song without a little bit of (boom boom boom). That gets me going and gets the rhythm that comes from the inside and leads my moves. (23”)

NARRATION

DRUMS/DANCERS

Now songs and tunes are mixed with Spanish and pre-colonial indigenous origins as the enslaved embraced the tempo they found in Cuba when they first arrived. (9”)

MATANZAS. MUSEUM

It is estimated that more than one million Africans were brought to the island through the port of Matanzas, some 100 kilometres from Havana, as part of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, from the 16th century, until slavery was abolished in Cuba in 1886. (16”)

SUPER

MERCEDES ALVAREZ
DIRECTOR, MUSEUM OF THE
ORICHAS OF THE YORUBAN
CULTURAL SOCIETY

MAGALI ON-CAM

IMAGES FORM THE
TRANSLANTIC SLAVE
TRADE

DANCERS

MERCEDES ALVAREZ: (In Spanish)

“They came here because the Spanish needed cheap labour and brought them here to work in the fields as slaves.” (11”)

MAGALI: (In Spanish)

“They worked on sugar and coffee plantations. The worst was the separation of families. The father and the mother and the children were separated. Some of them were removed from their culture.” (13”)

NARRATION

Communication was difficult forcing many to create ways to send messages to their people. (5”)

MAGALI: (In Spanish)

With the drums they announced funerals, deaths and huntings. (5”)

Everything was communicated by drums and also by smoke signals ” (5”)

NARRATION

Today, people of African descent treasure the legacy of music and song brought to Cuba by their ancestors. And the younger generation is keeping that flame alive. (10”)

NATSOT – STUDENTS DANCING

DANCERS

But that isn't the only contribution by people of African descent to the development and culture of Cuba. (8")

DRUM MAKER SAN SEVERINO CASTLE

In recognition of their African heritage, Cuba participates in a global Slave Route Project initiated by UNESCO in 1994. (8")

SAN SEVERINO/MATANZAS SUPER OLGA RUFINS MACHIN UNESCO, Cultural Advisor

OLGA RUFINS MACHIN: (In Spanish)
"UNESCO enthusiastically welcomed the decision of Cuba to establish the castle at San Severino a museum, dedicated to the Slave Route project. This very same castle was constructed by slaves' hands, and that's why we helped with its reconstruction and making this a museum." (13")

CITY OF MATANZAS WALL CARVINGS

NARRATION

Situated at the docks of Matanzas, the enslaved would carve symbols on slabs of stone depicting their religious and cultural background. (8")

OLGA RUFINS MACHIN ON- CAM

OLGA RUFINS MACHIN: (In Spanish)
"We are convinced that a lot of them were brought in with a high level of education and were disgraced by this human tragedy." (10")

NARRATION

SAN SERVERINO CASTLE
UNESCO DOCUMENTS

Now a cultural heritage site, San Severino castle documents the history of slavery through memorabilia and photos dating back to the 16th century. (11”)

ICONIC BUILDINGS

NATSOT - CHAINS

NARRATION

By the time slavery was formally abolished, the enslaved had constructed forts and iconic buildings that still stand today attracting thousands of visitors to the island. (10”)

IMAGES FROM BISPO
STREET

There are around 200 million people of African descent living in the Americas. Many millions more live in other parts of the world, outside of the African continent. Across the globe, Africans and the African diaspora continue to suffer inequality and disadvantage because of the legacy of slavery and colonialism. (22”)

IMAGES FROM THE SLAVE
TRADE

The United Nations has also set aside an International Decade for People of African Descent, which began in January 2015, to acknowledge their contribution to human history. The decade also recognizes injustices they endured while promoting and protecting their human rights. (20”)