

## Songo

Songo is one of the few Latin rhythms actually created for the drumset in the early 1970s. The great percussionist Changuito of the Cuban group Los Van Van is recognized as the creator of this rhythm. The song is different from other Latin rhythms in that the cymbal pattern maintains a

very basic half-note pattern, while the left hand is filling in the gaps on the drums. Notice also how the bass drum is consistently hitting the "&" of beat 2. This syncopation gives the rhythm a driving feel. Listen to slow and up-to-tempo versions of the following two examples on the CD.

$\text{♩} = 106$

78  
Track 14.1

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

$\text{♩} = 116$

79  
Track 14.2

Below are some more variations for you to try.

$\text{♩} = 106$

80

Watch for the roll in the first bar of the following example.

$\text{♩} = 106$

81

$\text{♩} = 106$

82

## Bembé

Bembé is a popular  $\frac{6}{8}$  rhythm from Cuba and is named after a type of religious drumming party. Its origins are West African; some of the fundamental rhythms that come from there are based on  $\frac{6}{8}$  and  $\frac{12}{8}$  feels. The exercises will be written in both  $\frac{6}{8}$  and  $\frac{4}{4}$  time so you can get used to seeing the same rhythms written differently.

83  
Track 15.1

$\text{♩} = 126$

Notes in parentheses are optional.

$\text{♩} = 126$

84  
Track 15.2

$\text{♩} = 126$

$\text{♩} = 126$

## Abakwa

Another  $\frac{6}{8}$  feel of Cuba is the *Abakwa* (or *Abakuá*), which is named for a secret society with roots from Nigeria and Cameroon. This is a noteworthy  $\frac{6}{8}$  pattern because of the feel generated from the "4 against 3" *polyrhythm*. (A polyrhythm is two or more different rhythms played simultaneously. We'll get more into polyrhythmic exercises later in the book). Again, this exercise will be written in both  $\frac{6}{8}$  time and  $\frac{4}{4}$  time.

85  
Track 15.3

$\text{♩} = 126$

$\text{♩} = 126$