

ALBERTO GINASTERA (1916-1983)

“Malambo” from *Estancia*

BIOGRAPHY: The Argentinean composer Alberto Ginastera was born on April 11, 1916 and is considered one of the most important Latin American composers of the 20th century. Ginastera successfully combined Latin American rhythms and colors with contemporary compositional technique. His music is lively, rhythmic and exciting, often reflecting his pride in Argentina. He studied with Aaron Copland for some time, and even befriended members of the progressive rock group Emerson, Lake and Palmer when they asked permission to use his work in their own music. During his career, in addition to composing, he spent considerable time in education, directing the National Conservatory and serving as a professor in music at several institutions in the Americas. For the last few years of his life, he lived in Geneva, Switzerland.



▶ **LISTEN** to “Malambo” from the *Estancia Suite*

REPERTOIRE NOTES: “Malambo” is a dance from the ballet orchestral suite *Estancia* which captures the feeling of life on an Argentinean ranch through repetitive and lively rhythms and percussion. It is based on the style of dance “Malambo” which is a native dance that is performed by “gauchos” which are men of the Argentinean wild frontier, similar to cowboys. Traditionally in this style of dance, gaucho boots are worn and used to accentuate and keep rhythms. In this music, that rhythm is kept mostly by the tambourine, with other sections of the orchestra complementing with their own repetitive rhythms and melodies. The movement builds in excitement as it progresses, making it a perfect closing to the suite of music.

WATCH Malambo style dance



“MALAMBO” PLAY ALONG

Now that you’ve watched the Gaucho performance, practice your own rhythms with an instrument of your own! Follow along with [Sound Discoveries](#) Teaching Artist Liz Wu as she shows you how to create your own tambourine! Then you can play along to “Malambo”!

SUPPLIES:

- Two paper plates
- Hole punch (or scissors - be careful!)
- Fasteners such as pipe cleaners, string, rubber bands, duct tape, etc.
- Jingles such as jingle bells, or small dry objects (beads, macaroni, beans)
- Markers or crayons to decorate the plates (optional)

WATCH:

- [How to make a tambourine](#)
- [How to play along with “Malambo”](#)

PLAY ALONG with the recording to [“Malambo”](#)

MORE PERFORMANCE:

- After you’ve played along with Liz, try coming up with new rhythms to try on the tambourine! You can even try using the tambourine with other music!

