

How To Play Enrique Iglesias' "Bailando"

National Standards: 1-9

Latin music has had a huge impact on popular music all over the world. In this lesson, students learn to play Enrique Iglesias' "Bailando," a great song for students to play in both educational and independent settings. The song is recorded in the key of E Minor at 91 BPM and consists of two different four-bar, four-chord sections that repeat several times.

Prepare

Have students listen to modern Latin songs and recordings from the '50s and '60s. Do students recognize those sounds? What sounds are consistent, and which are unique? Which songs do they like the most, and why?

Key points in the article:

- The song's rhythm, or groove, is key. The track opens with handclaps, and then moves to a reggaeton drumbeat. The original recording has drum sounds that are electronic, but students can create those sounds on an acoustic kit.
- The song plays off the bass and drums, so keep these parts consistent; simple but funky.
- Vocals are a very creative part of this song. There are three distinct lead parts: Enrique Iglesias' main verse vocal, the rapper's punctuations, and a third voice who sings the chorus melody while everyone else sings harmony.

Begin

- Have students listen to the original record. Listen to "Bailando" here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8I-7Wk_Vbc
- Next, focus on how students are going to perform each part. Break students into groups based on what instrument or vocal part they're covering and have them study that part in the original song. Do students want to replicate their part as recorded, or do students want to try something new and take their part in a different direction? The best interpretations of "Bailando" keep the song's traditional rhythm and vibe and add something different to the mix. The author of this feature suggests that horns or keys can be added to good effect.

Review vocabulary words from the article below:

- EXHAUSTIVE: considering all elements or aspects.

- UNDERPINNING: the foundation used for support.
- HYPNOTIC: relating to hypnosis; exerting a compelling effect.
- PROPULSIVE: having the quality of pushing forward.

Discuss

How is "Bailando" a classic example of Latin music's influence in popular music? Have students listen to other songs by Enrique Iglesias, such as "Hero," "Tonight" and "Heartbreak." Ask them how they might perform the songs. Would they change them or not, and if so, how?

Questions

1. Name the two Mexican-inflected rock bands of the 1960s and 70s mentioned in the story.
2. Where was Julio Iglesias born?
3. How many albums has Julio Iglesias sold worldwide?
4. Where was Enrique Iglesias raised?
5. What does "Bailando" mean in English?
6. In what year did Enrique Iglesias release his first album?

Answers

1. Santana and Los Lobos.
2. Julio Iglesias was born in Madrid, Spain.
3. More than 300 million.
4. Miami, Florida.
5. Dancing
6. 1995.

Expand:

Have students study Julio Iglesias' music. What similarities do they hear, if any, between father and son? Have students pick a favorite Julio Iglesias song to try covering. Would they go about covering a Julio Iglesias song any differently than a song by his son?