



BATALA

ALL WOMEN PERCUSSION BAND



Batala is available for private parties, corporate parties, fund raisers, festivals, parades, workshops, and many other events in the Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland area.

Batala in Washington, DC is an all-women percussion band whose mission is to empower women through drumming and expose people to Brazil's dynamic music and culture. Band proceeds go toward providing instruments and costumes to its members, all of whom are volunteers.

Music

Batala is a samba-reggae band that plays rhythms typical of the northeastern region of Brazil. The heavily syncopated music is rooted in traditional African drumming, and is accented with a heavy dose of Brazilian samba. The women of Batala play this music on 4 types of drums, creating a powerful, dynamic sound that has captivated audiences in the DC area. The music, combined with Batala's colorful costumes and energetic dancing, create a visual and auditory experience that few forget.

Members

All women older than 21 years of age are welcome to join the band, regardless of income, nationality, or musical experience. The result is a diverse community of women hailing from countries in South America, Europe, Asia and North America. There are currently over 50 women in the DC group!

History

Batala in Washington, D.C. is part of an international Batala family formed in Paris in 1997 by Giba Goncalves. Batala began as the European wing of Cortejo Afro, an arts education project to help disadvantaged young people. The instruments and clothing are all manufactured in Salvador, Bahia, where the band has a social program that provides jobs for many poor families. From Paris, Batala spread to other cities in France, Belgium, Spain, Africa, the United Kingdom, and back to its origins in Brazil. In 2007, Batala came to Washington, DC, extending the reach of this infectious music to the United States.

Contact Sarah King or Mia Foreman

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www.batalawashington.com



Batala Performances & Accolades:

- National Fourth of July Parade
- America's Got Talent
- Opened for Los Amigos Invisibles at 9:30 Club
- National Cherry Blossom Festival
- Washington Nationals season opener
- African Diaspora for Obama Inaugural Ball
- Opened for Grupo Fantasma at Black Cat
- World Bank Domestic Violence Awareness Month event w/ Madeleine Albright
- Marine Corps Marathon
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
- FOX 5 News Morning Show with Holly Morris
- Fiesta DC
- Smithsonian Institute's Fiesta Musical, National Zoo
- Adams Morgan Day Festival
- Hot August Blues Festival
- Artomatic
- DC United half-time show at RFK
- Opened for Toubab Krewe at The State Theatre
- DC Roller Girls Half Time Show
- Studio Theater Annual Fundraiser
- And many others!

**Batala voted
"Best Local Band" in
Washington, DC**
Washington City Paper, March 2010

"Batala was a big hit at the 16th annual Hot August Blues. I hear as much about you guys as our main stage acts. You will be back next year for sure."
Brad Selko, Hot August Blues

"I just want to thank you and the rest of Batala for your Marine Corps Marathon performance. Batala was well-received by the runners and one of the most popular bands on the course!" *Tami Faram, Organizer, Marine Corps Marathon*

"Batala was undoubtedly the high point of this year's Fiesta DC. The energy was incredible and you were all having so much fun the crowd couldn't help but have fun too." *Dan Pierron, Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ)*

Please visit our website to learn more about Batala's history and to view videos, photos, and our calendar of upcoming performances - www.batalawashington.com