



BATALÁ

ALL WOMEN PERCUSSION BAND



Batalá is available for hire to perform at outdoor and indoor venues for public events, festivals, concerts, private parties, workshops and many other events.

Batalá in Washington, DC is an all-women percussion band whose mission is to empower women through drumming and expose communities to Brazil's dynamic music and culture. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, all proceeds go towards providing instruments and costumes to members, all of whom are volunteers.

Music

Batalá is a samba-reggae drumcorps 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 and Caribbean reggae. The women of Batalá play this music on 5 types of drums, creating a powerful, dynamic sound that is captivating audiences in the DC area. The music, combined with Batalá's colorful costumes and energetic dancing, create a visual and auditory experience that few forget.

Members

Women over 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 the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. There are currently over 75 women in the DC group!

History

Batalá in Washington, DC is part of an international Batalá family formed in Paris in 1997 by Giba Goncalves. Batalá 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, Batalá spread to other cities in France, Belgium, Spain, Africa, the United Kingdom, and back to its origins in Brazil. In 2007, Batalá came to Washington, DC, extending the reach of this infectious music to the United States. The band also operates a community outreach project to teach underserved youth samba-reggae rhythms and dance throughout the DC Metro Area.

**Contact Meredith Bruce or Heather Ferris
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www.batalawashington.com



Photos by Doug Van Sant

Batalá Performances & Accolades:

- National Independence Day Parade
- Lavagem da Rua 46 Parade in New York City
- Brazilian Day Festival in New York City
- Kennedy Center Open House Arts Festival
- World Bank w/ Dr. Madeleine Albright
- International Monetary Fund
- America's Got Talent
- Opening act for Los Amigos Invisibles, 9:30 Club
- National Cherry Blossom Festival
- Washington Nationals Season Opener
- African Diaspora for Obama Inaugural Ball
- Opening act for Grupo Fantasma, Black Cat
- Marine Corps Marathon
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
- FOX 5 News Morning Show with Holly Morris
- Telemundo-TV Fería de la familia
- Fiesta Musical, Smithsonian National Zoo
- Adams Morgan Day Festival
- Opening act for Toubab Krewe, State Theatre
- DC Roller Girls Half Time Show
- Sounds of Brazil Nightclub
- Fête de la Musique, Embassy of France
- Capoeira Festival, Embassy of Brazil
- DC United Half Time Show, RFK Stadium
- And many others!

Batalá voted "Best Local Band" in Washington, DC

Washington City Paper, March 2010

"Batalá was undoubtedly the high point of this year's Fiesta Musical. 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 Smithsonian National Zoo (FONZ)*

"Batalá 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 Batalá for your Marine Corps Marathon performance. Batalá was well-received by the runners and one of the most popular bands on the course!" *Tami Faram, Organizer, Marine Corps Marathon*

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