

Berimbau

The following information about the song “Berimbeau” by Baden Powell and Vinicius de Moraes was extracted from these websites. For more information, read the articles:

<http://www.answers.com/topic/roberto-baden-powell-de-aquino>

http://cliquemusic.uol.com.br/en/artists/Artists.asp?Status=ARTISTA&Nu_Artista=598

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinicius_de_Moraes

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berimbau>

<http://www.nscottrobinson.com/berimbau.php>

Included below are biographical excerpts about the composer (Baden Powell), his lyricist (Vinicius de Moraes), their place in music history, their collaboration, and references to “Berimbau.”

Since the song refers to a Brazilian musical instrument (berimbau), there is also a paragraph about the instrument.

Click on the audio and video links below to hear various performances of “Berimbau” including one by Baden Powell himself (instrumental), and of performers playing berimbau, the instrument.

Finally, you can view the song lyrics and its English interpretation.

Composers and Song

Baden Powell [1937-2000] is a Brazilian musician with a solid international reputation. A gifted instrumentalist and composer, he bridges the gap between classical artistry and popular warmth and was a key figure in the bossa nova movement.

Vinicius de Moraes, nicknamed **O Poetinha** (the little poet) ([October 19, 1913](#) - [July 9, 1980](#)), born **Marcus Vinicius da Cruz de Mello Moraes** in [Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), son of Lydia Cruz de Moraes and Clodoaldo Pereira da Silva Moraes. Vinicius was a seminal figure in the contemporary [Brazilian music](#). As a [poet](#), he wrote lyrics for a great number of songs that became all-time classics. He was also a [composer](#) of [Bossa nova](#), a [playwright](#), a [diplomat](#) and, as an interpreter of his own songs, he left several important [albums](#).

In the 60's and 70's, Vinicius continued collaborating with many renowned Brazilian singers and musicians, particularly [Baden Powell](#), with whom he penned a series of songs with a heavy Afro-Brazilian influence and which came to be known collectively as the *Afro-Sambas*.

1962 was also the year when he met Baden Powell, with whom he would go on to compose several thematic pieces far removed from bossa nova, including afro-sambas, like ("Canto de Ossanha", "Canto de Xangô", "Samba de Oxóssi") and other sambas, such as ("Samba em Prelúdio", "Samba da Bênção", "Formosa", "Apelo", "**Berimbau**").

[In 1965], Powell with Vinicius recorded their Afro-sambas "Canto de Xangô," "Canto de Iemanjá," and "Canto de Ossanha" for Forma, along with "**Berimbau**" and "Samba da Bênção."

Baden Powell and others brought the *berimbau* to the attention of musicians outside Brazil in *afro-samba* songs that mimicked the sound and rhythm of the *berimbau* on the guitar.

The Instrument - Berimbau

The **berimbau** is a single-string [percussion instrument](#), a [musical bow](#), from [Brazil](#). The berimbau's origins are not entirely clear, but there is not much doubt on its African origin, as no [Indigenous Brazilian](#) or [European](#) people use musical bows, and very similar instruments are played in the southern parts of Africa.^[*citation needed*] The berimbau was eventually incorporated into the practice of the Afro-Brazilian martial art [capoeira](#), where it commands how the capoeiristas move in the *roda*. The instrument is known for being the subject matter of a popular song by Brazilian [guitarist Baden Powell](#), with lyrics by [Vinicius de Moraes](#). The instrument is also a part of [Candomblé](#)-de-caboclo tradition.

Audio-Video Links

Baden Powell: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N00YXpeRs94&feature=related>

Sergio Mendez: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psLmZ2apAIE>

Unknown Artist: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3j2aICZs0VY&feature=related>

Unknown Artist: http://www.nme.com/video/id/yLN_6SBHkyI/search/baden

Berimbau Player: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psLmZ2apAIE>

Berimbau Player: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBaSBSN9ssw>

Lyrics - Berimbau (Brazilian Portuguese)

Quem e homem de bem nao trai
O amor que lhe quer seu bem
Quem diz muito que vai, nao vai
Assim como nao vai, nao vem
Quem de dentro de si nao sai
Vai morrer sem amar ninguem
O dinheiro de quem nao da
E o trabalho de quem nao tem
Capoeira que e bom nao cai
Mas se um dia ele cai, cai bem

Capoeira me mandou dizer que ja chegou
Chegou para lutar
Berimbau me confirmou vai ter briga de amor
Tristeza camara.

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Lyrics - The English translation (approximate):

A righteous man does not betray
the love that wants to do good for him
Whoever says they go a lot, they don't go
because it doesn't go, it doesn't come
Who inside himself doesn't try
will die without loving anyone
Wealth that doesn't give
is the work that has nothing
Capoeira that is good doesn't fall
and if some day it falls, it falls well
Capoeira told me to tell you that it's already here
It arrived for battle
Berimbau confirmed to me that there will be a fight for love
Sadness, my friend
A righteous man does not betray
the love that wants to do good for him
Whoever says they go a lot, they don't go
because it doesn't go, it doesn't come
Who inside himself doesn't try
will die without loving anyone
Wealth that doesn't give
is the work that has nothing
Capoeira that is good doesn't fall

and if some day it falls, it falls well
Capoeira told me to tell you that it's already here
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Sadness, my friend