

ALL AROUND THIS WORLD

19. Ahora es Cuando es

Country: Cuba

Language: Spanish

Genre on CD: Conga

Instruments on CD: Bocu, Bottles, Campanas, Trumpet, Trombone



[“Ahora es Cuando es” on AllAroundThisWorld.com](#)

About the song: A conga arranged in the style of Santiago de Cuba. You can hear a bit of percussion from original from the Smithsonian Folkways album "Carnaval in Cuba" 🌸 In Havana, Cuba's capital, musical performances during "carnaval" are most often presented to the community as a formal performance, while in Santiago de Cuba the Carnival parade is composed of members of the community--the audience and the parade are one.

About the genre: Congas and comparsas are two different but related parts of the Cuban Carnival. A conga is an informal group of percussionists that forms in the street and gains momentum as the procession goes on. Comparsas are teams of musicians from particular neighborhoods or social groups, that have a long history of performing with one another. Usually members of a comparsa wear the same costume and follow a practiced choreography.

Conga: Video of a Santiago de Cuba conga 🌸 (the percussionists appear about 8 minutes into the video, following the police who swatting the marchers away. Note the campanas, the automobile brake pans, which are leading the percussion brigade)

Comparsa: Video of Santiago de Cuba comparsa 🌸

About the instruments:

Instruments often included in a conga:

Bocu 🌸 Bombo 🌸 Campanas 🌸 (bells, sometimes automobile brake pads)

Usually a Chinese horn leads a conga, though our version of "Ahora Es Cuando Es" doesn't feature one. You can hear the Chinese horn's distinctive squeal in this video: 🌸

Non-English words in our version:

Ahora es cuando es

basically means

Now is the time



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A E7 A

Ahora es cuando es, ahora es cuando es

D E7 A

Ahora es cuando es, ahora es cuando es

A E7 A

Now is the time, now is the time

D E A

Now is the time, now is the time

Pre-Goodbye

AHORA ES CUANDO ES

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Translation and Arrangement
by Jay Sand

$\text{♩} = 240$

A E⁷ A

A - ho-ra es cuan - do___ es,___ a - ho-ra es cuan - do___ es,___ a -

5 D E⁷ A

ho ra es cuan - do___ es,___ a - ho -ra es cuan - do___ es.---

A E⁷ A

Now is the time,___ now is the time,---

13 D E⁷ A

now is the time,___ now is the time.---



“Ahora es Cuando es”

Ahora es cuando es

Now is the time

(Cuba, Spanish)