

“La bomba, ¡ay, que rica es!”

La Bomba was created at the end the 17th century, in early Spanish colonial times, by the enslaved African people who worked in the sugar cane fields. It was a way for them to express their feelings about the harsh conditions being lived, their politics, spirituality, their anger and sadness, and how to overcome it. In Christmas parrandas, bombas are usually sung accompanied by bomba jokes or rhymes. Write your own bomba joke or rhyme after the Bomba chorus!

Color in the image below and label each instrument. From left to right – cua, barriles (two drums), maracas (man in the back).



Below is the chorus for a bomba. Write your own bomba joke on the lines below.

“La Bomba, how rich it is!
The rhythm crawls through my feet.
Mulatto, invite your trigueña.
To dance bomba, Puerto Rican bomba.
Bomba!”

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