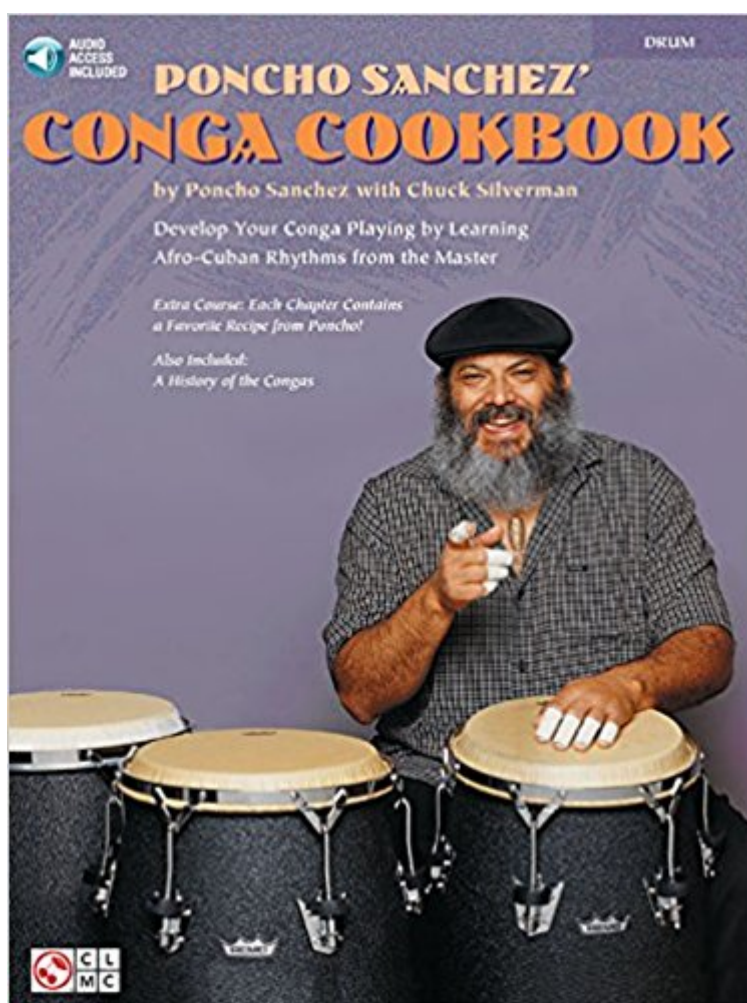


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Poncho Sanchez' Conga Cookbook: Develop Your Conga Playing By Learning Afro-Cuban Rhythms From The Master (Book & Online Audio)



Synopsis

(Percussion). Grammy-award winning conga player Poncho Sanchez and Chuck Silverman have joined forces to produce this book of riffs for beginning conga players or percussionists who want to incorporate Latin or conga techniques into their playing style. This unique book/online audio pack covers all the essential styles you'll need, including many of the grooves that have made Poncho one of the world's most in-demand congueros . The tracks on the accompanying audio, available for download or streaming online, are performed by a world-class band members of the Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band with and without conga parts, so after you learn the material in the book, you'll be able to practice by playing along. Plus there is a tasty bonus. Not only does the music have a decidedly Latin flavor, but so do the spicy hot cooking recipes from Poncho that are interspersed throughout the book!

Book Information

Paperback: 56 pages

Publisher: Cherry Lane Music (February 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1575603632

ISBN-13: 978-1575603636

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #271,428 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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Customer Reviews

I'm a autodidact conga player and I find this book thought provoking. While there isn't much variety in the book in terms of types of rhythms, there are many varieties of the limited number of rhythm's present. For example, There are several pages of variants to the chachacha and mambo rhythms. I am always looking for viable alternative patterns to the basic ones, and this book has them in spades. So if you're like me and play congas frequently but are always looking a new variant of an old classic, this book is loaded with them.

First of all let me say that this is not a conga rhythms encyclopedia, if you are looking for that get Ed Uribe's "Essence of Afro-Cuban Percussion" book, and even that is not complete. So, you only find a few styles here, but the ones covered are done nicely. In the book you'll find Cha cha cha, Mambo, Merengue, and 6/8. Now, keep in mind that the difference between cha cha cha and mambo is very subtle as far as congas go, so these tumbaos can be applied to Son, Guajira, Rock, and a myriad of rhythms. In Cuban music many times what changes is not the conga pattern but the tempo and other instrumentation of the song, and voila! you have another style there. For example, nobody will shoot you if you are playing the traditional Afro-Cuban tumbao to a Cha cha cha, in which the only difference is an open tone on the "and" of the second beat, but somebody will surely kill you if you were playing clave instead of guiro in Cha cha cha. Another instrument that changes in this rhythm is the bongos, they are not played in Cha... but Timbales are. Anyways, inside you'll find lots of biographical notes and pictures from Poncho's collection. It has a good history of the congas as well. One thing you'll find here that you don't see very much is an extensive section on soloing, which although it won't make you Poncho in a day it'll give you a good start. Most books just cover patterns and exercises, not this one. This book also gives you some useful Merengue patterns with the stick to be played in the absence of a Tambora, this is rare to find also. The included play along and demonstration CD is top notch, none of that MIDI programmed nonsense that sounds like a cheap Nokia cellphone, these are real musicians playing real instruments. Get this book!

I'm taking a conga lesson at college with one of the percussion professors here and he required me to get this book. The book is an easy read, with a bit of history at the beginning and then LOTS of exercises. Every sound that is generally used on the drum is defined and then the book leaves you on your own. The accompanying CD has many of the exercises on it so you can analyze how the exercises should sound as opposed to what you sound like. Every exercise is notated with the type of stroke to use and which hand it should be played with. There are preliminary exercises for each pattern covered, along with variations of the patterns. The book says on the front that each chapter contains a favorite recipe from Poncho, and literally that's what is in there. I was reading through chapter 1 and was very surprised when I got to "Refried Beans and Spanish Rice." I thought the book had meant some cool conga beat recipe, but no, it was food! I highly recommend this book as I'm getting a lot out of it, but you cannot develop correct playing technique from this book without the guidance of a good teacher.

As an Instructional Systems Designer I will say that this manual was put together very well. Not for

the novice, but more at an intermediate level. My only complaint is the binding. I use a conductor's stand to read music, so a loosely bound book would have been better suited. Also I can do without the recipes, just my .02 cents.

I reviewed this book upon receiving it and was very impressed by the overall layout. Included in the book is a history & evolution of the conga that helps any beginner appreciate the instrument. For those of you who like cooking, there are many Latin-style dishes to try out. I haven't tried the recipes so I can't comment on the flavors. Also, the examples in the book are all laid out in a very easy to understand manner. Only bad news is you'll need to read standard drum notation as there are no conga tablatures. The best part is that you can switch the conga track off by adjusting the balance on your stereo and you can play along with the other recorded musicians. This is the closest it gets to playing with "real" musicians even if you don't have anyone to play with. This is a truly great book and I would recommend it to anyone who has interest in Afro-Cuban Drumming. Last but not least, the CD recorded has great sound so turn up your stereo & play with the examples!

Nicely done... as expected.

Good product. Worth the price. If you think this might be what you're looking for today, give it a try.

Excellent.

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