



NATIONAL XR SAMBA CAMP

COLLABORATE • UNIFY • JAM

**OAKFIELD FARM
18-20 MARCH 2022**

CONTENTS

CAMPSITE MAP	PAGE 1
PROGRAMME	PAGE 2
CAMPSITE SAFETY	PAGE 4
COVID-19 SAFETY	PAGE 5
CAMPSITE FACILITIES	PAGE 6
WHERE DOES OUR MUSIC COME FROM?	PAGE 7
DRUM TUNING	PAGE 8
DRUM CARE	PAGE 10
DRUM ACCESSORIES	PAGE 11
HOW TO READ ROR NOTATION	PAGE 13
FREE SPACE FOR NOTES!	PAGE 15
WHAT TO TAKE TO AN ACTION	PAGE 21



PROGRAMME





DAY FOCUS






On Friday, we will focus on learning the tunes and breaks for Samba Reggae and Stolen. On Saturday, Afoxé and Sambasso, and on Sunday, Funk and Angela Davis. We will rehearse other tunes and breaks too! We respect that some bands do not play Angela Davis, so will ask people to divide themselves according to tune preference on Sunday.

ACTIVITY SPACES

If there's nothing happening in a space, feel free to use it for your own activities and workshops, but please don't use the Clubhouse for noisy activities while it's reserved as a quiet space. 🥁 indicates a slot when we'll be drumming together!

FRIDAY	CLUBHOUSE	MARQUEE 1	MARQUEE 2	OUTSIDE	SMALL MARQUEE
11:00 - 13:00	Whistlers' Meeting	Set up camp - we are all crew!			
13:00 - 14:00		Welcome			Early arrivals' lunch.
14:00 - 15:00	Quiet Space	Set up camp - we are all crew!			
15:00 - 16:00		Surdo Workshop	Snare Workshop	Repi Workshop	Space for small workshops - drum decoration, crafts, etc.
16:00 - 17:00		🥁	NVDA for Bands	🥁	
17:00 - 18:00		History of Samba-Fusion Activism			
18:00 - 20:00	DINNER SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
20:00 - 21:00	Quiet Space		Yoga	Campfire, songs, and chat.	Space for small workshops, etc.
21:00 ONWARDS	Bedtime!				

SATURDAY	CLUBHOUSE	MARQUEE 1	MARQUEE 2	OUTSIDE	SMALL MARQUEE
7:00 - 8:00		Yoga			
8:00 - 9:00	BREAKFAST SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
9:00 - 9:30	Whistlers' Meeting		Space for drum care and tuning.		Space for drum care and tuning.
9:30 - 10:00	Quiet Space		Morning Circle		
10:00 - 12:00				Band Formation Training 	
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
13:00 - 15:00	Quiet Space		The policing bill and risk in activism.		
15:00 - 16:00			Surdo Workshop		Space for small workshops, etc.
16:00 - 17:00			NVDA for Bands		
17:00 - 18:00			Snare Workshop		
18:00 - 20:00	DINNER SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
20:00 - 21:00	Quiet Space		Yoga	Campfire, songs, and chat.	Space for small workshops, etc.
21:00 ONWARDS	Bedtime!				

SUNDAY	CLUBHOUSE	MARQUEE 1	MARQUEE 2	OUTSIDE	SMALL MARQUEE
7:00 - 8:00		Yoga			
8:00 - 9:00	BREAKFAST SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
9:00 - 9:30	Whistlers' Meeting				Space for drum care and tuning.
9:30 - 10:00	Quiet Space		Morning Circle		
10:00 - 12:00				Big Band Training 	
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
13:00 - 15:00	Quiet Space		Rebellion Strategy and Outreach		
15:00 - 16:00	Repi Workshop	Shake it off: stretches for drummers!	Handheld Instruments Workshop		Space for small workshops, etc.
16:00 - 17:00	Quiet Space	Big Band Training 			
17:00 - 18:00				Closing Ceremony	
18:00 - 20:00	DINNER SERVED IN THE SMALL MARQUEE				
20:00 - 21:00	Quiet Space			Campfire, songs, and chat.	
21:00 ONWARDS	Bedtime!				

CAMPSITE SAFETY

EMERGENCIES

There will be a first aid kit at the info point in the small marquee. The contact number for first aid and minor emergencies is **07732 569740**. For serious emergencies, **call 999** and tell the emergency services to come to **Oakfield Farm, Horton Way, Verwood, BH31 6JJ**.

ANIMALS

There are horses on site, but they are accustomed to loud noise due to music events held here regularly. We'll be able to play far enough away from them that they will not be disturbed. There are some cats on site, so please check your accommodation and bed for uninvited guests! Dogs are unfortunately not welcome due to noisy drums and other animals on site.

FIRE SAFETY

There will be an attended evening campfire. Please do not light open flames near tents or release floating lanterns, as this could be a danger to the site and surrounding environment.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted on site as cigarette butts can harm horses. If you need to smoke, you may do so outside the gate, provided you clean up your butts! Vaping is permitted on site, but not indoors.

SECURITY

Please keep your lanyard on you, it proves that you've got a ticket and checked in. Make sure that gates are kept closed, especially around horses.

LOST PROPERTY

Bring lost drumsticks, spoons, children, etc. to the info point in the small marquee.

COVID-19 SAFETY

Spending most of our time outside and in well-ventilated marquees will reduce the risk of Covid transmission at Samba Camp, but we have asked people to observe the following precautions while we're here:

- We have asked people to take two Lateral Flow Tests before they come to camp, and do not come if they test positive, or if they experience Covid symptoms.
- Please observe good hygiene by washing your hands or using hand sanitiser regularly, especially when touching shared or dirty surfaces, going to the toilet, and at mealtimes.
- Please wear face coverings in enclosed indoor spaces if you are able to, use a tissue if coughing or sneezing, and clean your hands before touching your face.
- Please take a Lateral Flow Test if you experience any symptoms during camp, if you come into contact with anyone experiencing symptoms, and before travelling home.

If you experience symptoms and/or test positive while at Samba Camp:

- Let the people coordinating camp know - you can use the minor emergencies number (07732 569740) to do this.
- Leave camp as soon as possible and travel home, avoiding public transport if possible (Public Health England has advised that train travel is an option, provided the person maintains a 2m distance and wears two face coverings). We will try to help you get home safely.

If someone at camp tests positive:

- Everyone else at camp must take a Lateral Flow Test.
- Close contacts who have symptoms and/or are not double vaccinated must travel home.
- Close contacts who have no symptoms and are double vaccinated must take a LFT every day.

CAMPSITE FACILITIES

INFO POINT

There will be an info point in the small marquee where you can find out about the day's activities, including workshops and discussion times that aren't on the programme!

TOILETS AND WASHING FACILITIES

There are multiple toilets and washing facilities throughout the site, including a hot shower. The shower is coin operated - bring 50p coins!

QUIET TIMES AND SPACES

We trust everyone to be considerate about noise from 8pm-8am, especially if you would like to stay up late. People will be sleeping in the Clubhouse and marquees. The Clubhouse will be a quiet space for much of the weekend where people can go to relax and do quiet activities.

FOOD

Vegan breakfast, lunch, and dinner is provided by Food For All in the small marquee. Bring your own cutlery, bowls, and cups. Please volunteer to help out in the camp kitchen if you can!

DRINK

Drinking water is available on site, and there is a kettle in the Clubhouse's small indoor kitchen. You are permitted to bring your own alcohol on site, but please carouse quietly at night!

ELECTRICITY

Charging points for phones and other small devices are available in the Clubhouse, but are limited, so use a battery pack if possible. Pickup points are available for caravans, etc.

RUBBISH

Please take your rubbish home. There will be very limited rubbish disposal for those using public transport, provided by drivers who volunteer to take clean or securely bagged rubbish.

WHERE DOES OUR MUSIC COME FROM?

XR Samba bands play samba-fusion music, which is inspired by Brazilian samba. Brazilian samba includes various genres of music and music culture. Activist samba-fusion is not a traditional samba genre, but a hybrid style created in London to be easy to learn. Authentic Brazilian samba has always been political, beginning as the music played by Black and working-class Brazilians at celebrations like carnivals and saint's days. These celebrations claimed space for joy and resistance.

In 1996, Chris Knight, an anthropologist from the University of East London, worked with the London School of Samba to form an activist band called Barking Bateria after seeing the Liverpool School of Samba playing at protests. A sister band, Rhythms of Resistance, was formed to play at Reclaim the Streets protests, and would begin an international samba-fusion activism movement. This photo, taken in 2000 by Sheila from XR Drummers London, shows RoR's "pink bloc" banner during the anticapitalist protests at the Prague International Monetary Fund and World Bank summit.



There are several RoR bands across the UK including in London, but XR rebels learned samba-fusion from the RoR website in 2018 shortly after XR was formed. Since then, XR samba-fusion has been part of every Rebellion and will be a big part of the next one!

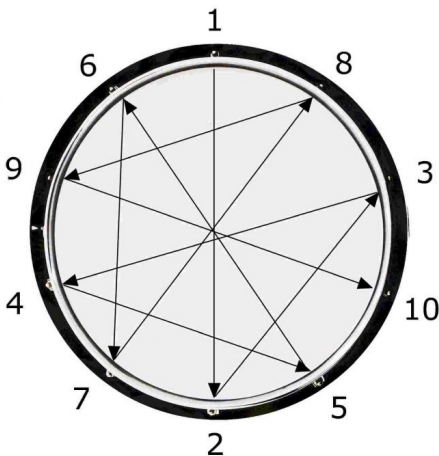
DRUM TUNING

Most drums used by XR bands have a wooden or metal body, a plastic drum skin, and a metal hoop with tuning rods. Brazilian drums have tuning rods that tune the top and bottom skins at the same time, drums from recycled drum kits have two skins that need to be tuned separately. Most wooden or metal drums with plastic skins are rainproof, but dry them when you get home to prevent rust and mould.

All drums need tuning to sound their best, and a loose drum skin can break more easily. Tuning works by tightening the screws on a drum's tuning rods to press the hoop down and stretch the drum skin over the body of the drum. The tighter the skin, the higher the sound.

You will need a tuning key to tune drums recycled from drum kits. You can buy these online or in many music shops that sell drums. Brazilian drums usually have tuning rods with 10mm nuts. You can buy a special drum key for them, or use a 10mm or adjustable spanner.

Tuning drums evenly will keep the skin in good condition. Tighten the screws across from each other, not next to each other, like this:



This drum has an even number of tuning rods. It might be a bit trickier if your drum has an uneven number, but the important thing is not to tighten all the screws on one side first.

BASSES, TOMS, AND SURDOS

In a traditional samba band or a RoR band, the bass is provided by the surdos. There can be several different pitches of surdos. RoR bands use three - surdo 1 (low pitch), surdo 2 (mid pitch), and surdo 3 (high pitch). Many XR bands use bass drums and tom drums from recycled drum kits instead. Bass drums or big toms play low and mid surdo parts, and small toms play high surdo parts. Not all XR bands have mid surdos. In a traditional samba band, all the drums are tuned carefully to exact pitches, but XR bands don't need to be as strict!

SNARES AND CAIXAS

Snare from drum kits need a drum key for tuning, Brazilian caixas have tuning rods and 10mm nuts. Snare may also need to have their wires adjusted using a nut or key. Some have a lever to release the wires from the skin. Wires can break, so check how they're fixed to your drum and what kind you'll need to buy in advance!

REPINQUES

Repinques should be tuned to sound high pitched and sharp, this will also make it easier to make the "buzz" sound (called a flare on RoR tune sheets). A small tom drum can be tuned very high to play repi parts.

TAMBORIMS

Tams need tuning too! They should sound clear and sharp, and can be tuned the same way as bigger drums. Most Brazilian tams need a 6mm key or spanner. Tam skins break easily so it's also a good idea to carry a spare skin.

AGOGOS

These can't be tuned, but different brands can sound different - if you're buying some for a new band, you might want to buy all the same kind! Cheaper agogôs with a welded seam at the side can break easily.

DRUM CARE

DAMPENING DRUM SKINS

If your drum doesn't sound right even after it's been tuned, a dampening patch can solve rattly or tinny sounds and make it sound lower and less resonant. You can make a dampening patch by taping a pad of tissue, cloth, or sponge to the drum skin, or just by using tape. Duct tape and electrical tape is available in various colours! Stickers on your drum skin can also have a dampening effect, especially for tams.

REMOVING AND REPLACING DRUM SKINS

A broken drum skin can be easily removed by unscrewing the hoop. Drum skins are cheap and easy to find online and in drum shops - measure the broken skin to make sure you buy the right size. Recycled kit drums can often have the bottom skin removed without altering the sound much - this can make them lighter to carry, and you'll have a spare skin!

IDEAS FOR DECORATION:

- * Collect stickers on your drum.
- * Stick or tape art or flyers to the body of your drum.
- * Make a drum flag by tying or pinning a small block printed flag to your tuning rods.
- * Decorate drums and smaller instruments with ribbons or plaited cord.
- * Paint your instrument with waterproof paint (be very careful if you paint a drum skin, paint a test patch and see if it affects the skin when you play it before you paint it all).
- * Use a stencil to spray paint your drum.
- * Use a full-size XR flag to decorate a big surdo.
- * Wrap LED lights (you can get solar powered ones!) around your drum. You can also put lights inside your drum to make the skin glow.

DRUM ACCESSORIES

WHERE TO BUY ONLINE

If you need to buy something new, support the international samba community! Kalango (kalango.com) and Knock on Wood (knockonwood.co.uk) get their stock from Brazilian suppliers. Second hand things can be found on sites like eBay and Facebook.

STICKS AND BEATERS

Surdos, basses, and big toms should be played with beaters that have a soft and fluffy head. You can buy these online from around £14 to £30 a pair or make your own - a tutorial can be found at instructables.com/make-your-own-drum-surdo-beaters/. The fluffy head is important, if you make your own, cover the head with soft material like a fuzzy sock as hard material like duct tape can sound harsh. Snare and smaller toms should be played with regular drumsticks. Relax your arms and wrists whatever you're playing, this will prevent aches and blisters and can actually make your hits louder. You can wrap the handle of your beaters with grip tape for bike handles to reduce blisters, and even tape on cord lanyards so you don't lose them.

TAMBORIM BEATERS

Tams sound best when they're played with a special forked plastic beater. You can buy these online for around £2 to £10 (very cheap ones break easily). You can also make your own by cutting up a plastic coat hanger - smooth the ends with sandpaper or by rubbing them on a rough pavement so they don't break the tam skin.

EAR PROTECTION

Loud instruments, especially high-pitched ones, can cause hearing damage. Safety earplugs and earmuffs can be bought in DIY shops, and can be a bit better quality than earplugs just meant for sleeping. Noise attenuating earplugs designed for music are more expensive, but allow you to hear more clearly than foam ones.

STRAPS

Drums can be worn on a waist strap or shoulder strap. It's up to you which one you prefer, but a waist strap holds the drum in a more stable position. Wear your drum as low as is comfortable, because that will let you have a looser swing and relax your arms instead of sticking your elbows out. If you want to make your own strap, use strong materials but make sure you can release it quickly in case you fall over. Webbing works well, and climbing carabiners are strong enough for the biggest drums!

PADDING

Get creative, lots of padding tricks can work! Shin or knee pads from a sports or DIY shop work great if your drum bumps your legs. Sports gloves can protect your hands from blisters or make it more comfortable to hold sticks or small instruments. Pipe insulation foam can add more padding to an uncomfortable strap. You can also attach something soft to the drum itself, such as foam or even a small pillow!



Here's some customised drums spotted at COP26 by Victor from XR Drummers London. One is a big tom decorated with printed posters and has pipe insulation foam for padding on the bottom rim and strap. The other is a Brazilian surdo with some stickers and cloth decoration, and the skin is dampened with black duct tape.

TUBS GRIDS

READING RHYTHMS OF RESISTANCE NOTATION

The notation system that RoR tune sheets use to write down samba-fusion music is the Time Unit Box System (TUBS), which was created in the 60s by musicologists Philip Harland and James Koetting to notate West African drumming.

Samba-fusion tunes are made of beats, bars, and notes. Each bar has four beats - you can count beats by stepping or swaying as you play. Notes are what you actually play. Snare players play four notes for every beat, called sixteenth notes.

Here's the 4 beat silence break and 8 beat silence break notated using TUBS. Sixteenth notes are shown by boxes with grey lines, beats are shown by rectangles with black lines.

Silence <i>4 fingers</i>	1		4 Beats of Silence
Double Silence <i>two hands show</i> <i>4 fingers</i>	1 2		8 Beats of Silence

Sometimes, everyone (marked with **E**) plays sixteenths. Here's the Karla drumroll break, which is three bars of sixteenth notes, one note on the first beat, then three beats of silence.

		<i>>from soft to loud</i>															
Karla Break	1	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
<i>rabbit ears OR finger</i>	2	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
<i>pistol shooting up</i>	3	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
	4	E															

On this tune sheet for Karla, you can see how the snare plays the sixteenth notes. Quieter notes are marked with a dot, louder accents with **x**. Other instruments' notes are marked with **x**.

Karla Shnikov		tune sign: move index+middle finger like rabbit ears and cover other fingers with other hand OR point with finger pistol to head															
Groove		1				2				3				4			
All Surdos	1-3	x				0	x	x						0			
	4	x				0	x	x		x				x	x		x
Repinique		x				x	x			x				x	x		x
Snare		.	.	.	.	x	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tamborim	1					x											x
	2					x				x		x		x	x		
Agogô	1	l				l	h			l				l	h		l

Most instruments have a pattern that repeats every one bar (four beats). However, the tamborim has a pattern that repeats every two bars. Surdos repeat their pattern for three bars, then play a different pattern for their fourth bar. RoR Karla has no separate tom/high surdo part, as that was an XR invention!

You can't show everything on a TUBS grid, but symbols can sometimes be used to indicate certain things. On this Karla grid, **0** tells the surdo players to press the drum skin with their free hand to "dampen" the resonance of the drum (if you do this, you need to keep your second beater in your belt for drumrolls). **l** and **h** show the low and high notes of the agogô. However, we can't show things like speed or loudness.

It's helpful to learn how to read TUBS grids, but not necessary, as samba-fusion music is informal and involves lots of reinterpretation. Nothing beats learning together!

FREE SPACE
USE THESE PAGES FOR NOTES!

WHAT TO TAKE TO AN ACTION

CUT THIS PAGE OUT AND STICK IT ON YOUR FRIDGE!

- Your instrument (and strap if needed)
- Drumsticks or beaters
- Ear protection
- Water
- A snack
- Hand sanitiser
- A list of important phone numbers, and/or a bust card
- Medical tape for blisters, any medication you might need
- Weather protection - a rain jacket, a hat or scarf, sunglasses, etc.

OTHER USEFUL THINGS:

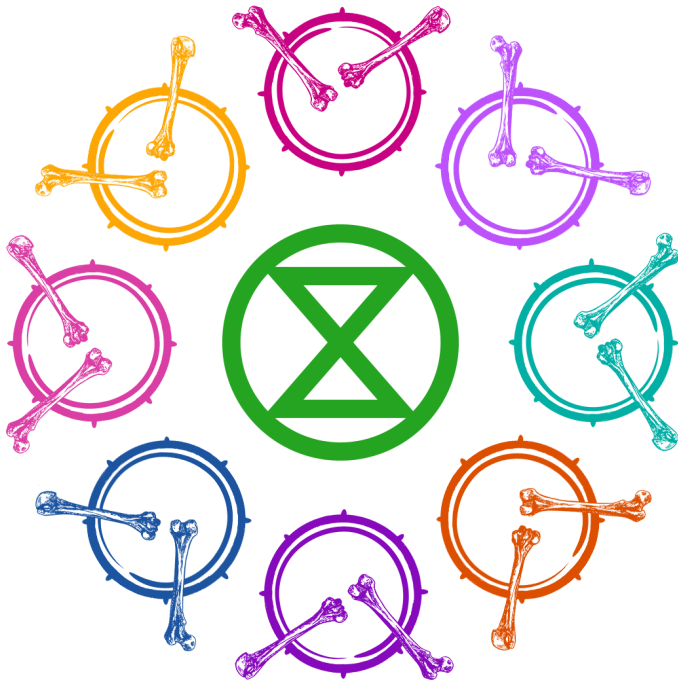
A sign for your drum, a patch or badge, a whistle (even if you're still learning to direct!), a drum key, a pack of cheap foam earplugs, spare drumsticks, a blanket or yoga mat to sit on, sun lotion, tissues, spare contact lenses or glasses if you wear them, a spare face covering, duct tape (has endless uses including fixing broken drumsticks and decorating drums), safety pins (for patches and drum flags), vegan snacks to share, a phone battery pack and cable, a book, some cash for the bus or train home, pavement chalk, a marker pen, a pen and notebook.

MINOR EMERGENCIES NUMBER

07732 569740

SITE ADDRESS

Oakfield Farm
Horton Way
Verwood
BH31 6JJ



THANK YOU FOR MAKING CAMP HAPPEN!