
NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Rob: Hello I'm Rob. Welcome to 6 Minute English. And today we're going to talk about...

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:
(*Samba beat sounds*)

Rob: ...Brazilian music! Ah... the samba...! And I'm joined today by Grace, from Brazil. Hi Grace.

Grace: Hi Rob. Can you sing well? Or do you usually sing, let's say, **out of tune** like me?

Rob: Out of tune, so you mean singing or playing notes that are at the wrong pitch. Yes, I definitely sing out of tune.

Grace: Well, that was the voice of the Brazilian **recording artist** Monica Vasconcelos.

Rob: A recording artist – so that's a singer or musician who creates and releases music either through a record label or independently. She does indeed have a very beautiful voice.

Grace: And she sings many types of music including samba, jazz and bossa nova. Talking about bossa nova, Rob, I have a question for you.

Rob: OK.

Grace: One of the most famous bossa nova tunes is 'The Girl from Ipanema'. It was composed by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes. Do you know the song, Rob?

Rob: I know it very well. Even Frank Sinatra recorded it, didn't he?

Grace: Yes. So when was the song 'The Girl from Ipanema' recorded commercially for the first time? Was it...

- a) in 1955
- b) in 1962
- c) or in 1969

Rob: OK, well, I know it's quite old so I'm going to go for 1962. You know, I've always wanted to know more about the bossa nova. How different is it from the famous Brazilian samba music?

Grace: Let's listen to the expert, Monica Vasconcelos. Which two words does she use to compare these musical styles?

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:

*Samba is very energetic and full of life... and bossa nova is... It's a little **smoother**; it's more **understated**. Bossa is a combination of complex harmonies, coming from... particularly Europe and this very cool bossa **groove** that comes from samba. In addition to that, you have some particular themes: the sea, love... The bossa nova composers, they **were into** beauty.*

Rob: So smoother – that means calmer – and understated, meaning more controlled, more discreet.

Grace: And it's easy to understand the themes of these songs...

Rob: Yes, she says the composers – the writers – of bossa nova were into beauty – **to be into** something means to be interested in something. They were interested in the beautiful things in life.

Grace: The **lyrics** – the words of the songs – were about boats sailing away, a beautiful woman walking by the beach...

Rob: A beautiful view and beautiful lyrics. And bossa nova has a very special kind of **groove**, meaning the feel and style of the music – and the bossa nova groove is cool, funky and smooth! And what about rock and pop music – do Brazilians like these music styles?

Grace: Yes, we do like rock and pop, but a common complaint is that our radio stations play too many songs from Britain and America. Monica explains. What phrase does she use to describe the effect of globalisation on local music?

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:

*You take a traditional rock rhythm... and then take a samba groove... The first example is simpler, so what happens in the process of globalisation where you have rock and pop coming into different markets all over the world... you have a **flattening** of the local grooves which may be a bit more complex, so the simpler ideas end up taking over.*

Rob: Monica talks about a **flattening** of the local grooves – a simplifying of more complex local music that has happened as a result of rock and pop influence coming in through globalisation.

Grace: I know you like travelling a lot, Rob. Would you like to go abroad and find only the very same things you have here in Britain?

Rob: Absolutely not! No! Travelling is all about discovering, hearing local music, discovering local foods – things that are different from things that are back at home.

Grace: Well, now let's see how much you know about bossa nova. I asked when the song 'The Girl from Ipanema' was recorded commercially for the first time? The options were: 1955, 1962 and 1969.

Rob: And I had a guess and said 1962.

Grace: Oh you got it right, Rob! Yeah, you got it right! The first commercial recording of 'The Girl from Ipanema' was by Brazilian singer Pery Ribeiro.

Rob: Well, I love talking about music and other cultures but our time is running out.

Grace: So let's recall the words we heard today.

Rob: Yes, we heard:
out of tune
recording artist
smoother
understated
groove
to be into
lyrics
flattened

Grace: Thanks, Rob. And as we've been talking about music, shall we say goodbye in the rhythm of samba?

Rob: OK, let's give it a try. Please join us again soon for 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English.

Monica Vasconcelos, Brazilian singer:
(Samba beat sounds)

Rob: You're doing it better than me!

Both: Bye.

Vocabulary and definitions

out of tune	singing or playing notes that are at the wrong pitch
recording artist	a singer or musician who creates and releases music either through a record label or independently
smoother	more serene, calmer
understated	more controlled, discreet
groove	cool, funky, smooth
to be into something	to be interested in something
lyrics	the words of songs
flattening	(here) making less complex

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