

Z★BUMBA

BRAZILIAN DANCE MUSIC FOR ALL

DANCE

FORRÓ!

The room is a blur of smiles, hips, and cocktails, but there is no drum kit in sight, nor expertly-coiffed DJ's in skinny jeans.

So how did it come to be that the unlikely pied pipers of tonight's gyrating horde were singing in Portuguese, apparently wearing pirate hats and playing a triangle... in earnest?

z'Bumba plays **fórró** (fo-HOh) from Brazil's marginalized Northeast. It's an earthy music once derided by sophisticated Brazilian urbanites and unknown outside Brazil.

The bittersweet **accordion**-laced, percussion-studded music communicates a dark, mysterious urgency that compels dancing, so it's a good thing you don't need lessons, fancy clothes, or a crash diet: anybody can do fórró's saucy two-step. Many believe the word 'fórró' came from the english "For All."

Despite its humble origins, fórró eventually became the rage in São Paulo, and it wasn't long before Paris, London, and New York followed suit.

Has fórró fever finally found footing in Portland?

