

# Maracá de Lelê

(Brazil)

This dance was choreographed by Lucia Cordeiro in 2008 to music by Edgar Morais (CD “Nação Canta Pernambuco”). The rhythm and the song are referred to as *maracatu* and it belongs to the Carnival parade in the northeastern part of Brazil. The roots of the *maracatu* are the processions of African royalty brought to Brazil as slaves. It’s like a street opera, with many figures and characters. Above all, the Queen of Maracatu, who reigns and leads all the parade, moves with her dance.

Pronunciation: mah-rah-CAH day LEH-lih                      Translation: Lele’s maraca  
 Music: 4/4 meter    *Lucia Cordeiro: Brazilian Soul, Track 6*  
 Formation: Circle of dancers facing center.

Steps & Styling: Two-step: step R to R (ct 1); step L on ball of ft next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and in any direction. Can be done while turning to R or L.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>4/4 meter</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
2 meas		<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No action. Can shift wt from ft to ft. Begin with the lyrics.
	I.	<u>RIGHT AND LEFT.</u>
1		Hands in V-pos, beg R and moving CCW, walk three steps to R (cts 1, 2, 3); touch L next to R and turn to face CW (ct 4).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and dir.
3-8		Repeat meas 1-2 three times.
	II.	<u>TRAVEL AND TURN.</u>
1		Hands up W-pos, but not joined with other dancers, palms twd ctr, step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); step R behind L (ct &); step L in place (ct 4). Push palms twd ctr and back on alternating counts.
2		Facing CCW, R hand palm down in front and L hand on hip, beg R, walk 3 steps fwd (cts 1, 2, 3); touch L next to R and face ctr (ct 4). R hand pushes down on each ct.
3		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
4		Full turn CCW using a 7-step buzz step, beg with R.
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4.
	III.	<u>TO CENTER AND OUT.</u>
1		Step R diag twd ctr, keeping L in place (ct 1); step L next to R without wt (ct 2); step L diag twd ctr, keeping R in place (ct 3); step R next to L without wt (ct 4).
2		Facing ctr and beg R, three large steps (R, L, R) twd ctr with alternating arms moving to front (cts 1, 2, 3); step L to R (ct 4).

## Maracá de Lele — continued

- 3 Step R to R and slightly back (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R back (ct 2); step L to L and slightly back (ct 3); step R next to L (ct &); step L back (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- IV. URNS.
- 1 Full turn CW using a 7-step buzz step, beg with L.
- 2 Full turn CCW using a 7-step buzz step, beg with R.
- V. ENDING.
- 1 With L hand on hip and R hand extended at eye ht, face CCW, and step R fwd (ct 1); step L behind R (ct &); step R fwd while R hand circles away from self (ct 2); step L fwd (ct 3); step R behind L (ct &); step L fwd and R hand circles toward self (ct 4).
- 2-10 Repeat meas 1 nine times while dancers scatter and dance freely on the floor.
- 11 Step R (ct 1); step L to R (cts 2) and hold (cts 3-4).

Sequence:

Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig II, Fig III,  
Fig I, Fig II, Fig IV, Fig V.

Presented by Lucia Cordeiro

Lyrics:

## MARACA DE LELE

Maraca, maraca de Lele  
Bate o congue na batida do bate Odolun  
Dança rainha do maracatu

É ordem do rei pra dançar  
Lamos saravar  
Salve o povo que vem de Luanda  
Trazendo as correntes nas ondas do mar

## LELE'S MARACA

Maraca de Lele  
Beat the conga on the beat of the Olodum beat  
Dance the Maracatu Queen

It's the king's order to dance  
Let's Saravar  
Greet the people that comes from Luanda  
Bringing the chains in the sea waves