

# Finding the Groove

## Part One

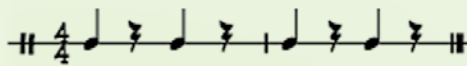
## THE JOURNEY OF A RHYTHM

Music from Africa and Cuba had a particular influence on the development jazz in New Orleans. Remember that the city was a multi-cultural city, which means that people from many different countries lived, worked, went to school and socialized together.

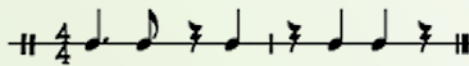
We know that most music contains three things: melody, harmony, and rhythm, and one of the biggest rhythmic influences in the development of jazz was the rhythmic pattern we know as clavé. The idea to have a rhythm like the clavé originated in Africa and traveled to Cuba and the Americas via the trans-Atlantic slave trade during the mid to late 19th century. Even though slaves did not come to Cuba and America by choice, they still brought with them their cultural traditions, which included their music, and rhythms like clavé. In Spanish, clavé means “key” and these rhythms are the “key” to understanding Cuban music and its influences on American Jazz.

**ACTIVITY: Listen up!**

### EXAMPLE 3.1: RHYTHMIC PULSE



### EXAMPLE 3.2: 3-2 SON CLAVÉ



## Vocabulary

Clavé  
Pulse  
Ostinato

**The journey of the clavé rhythm**

NORTH AMERICA

**New Orleans**

