

# SONGLINES

## BRAZIL CELEBRATING BLACK MUSIC IN BRAZIL

Salvador museum to launch the first international multimedia centre dedicated to black music

In the heart of Salvador, Bahia's capital and historic centre, Carlinhos Brown's Museu do Ritmo has announced it will open the Centro de Música Negra (CMN) in December 2010. The CMN will be the first international centre for black music, and occupy 1,000 square metres within the current 7,500 square metre site of the Museu do Ritmo.

Bahian megastar, social activist and outspoken critic-rebel of Brazil's racial status quo, Brown (pictured right) established the Museu do Ritmo in 2007. It's now a thriving and spectacular open-air performing arts centre in the abandoned complex of buildings that once housed Salvador's 19th century lower-city Mercado d'Ouro.

The CMN will trace the complex saga of black music – its history, geography, and artists – while encompassing the musical cross-fertilisations and links between Bahia, Africa, and the African diaspora throughout Europe and the Americas. Working with architect Pedro Mendes da Rocha, the CMN will feature permanent and revolving exhibitions with 100 state-of-the-art, interactive, multimedia installations, an online research and documentary centre, spaces for concerts, films, lectures and workshops, a restaurant and café. French partner Mondomix, the leading online world music website are project managers and will provide technical support, with a committee of 20 international experts.

The CMN will help pull Salvador, Brazil's emblematic city of Africa, out of relative insularity and strategically connect it with the world's centres of black music. Its objectives are noteworthy: to instill black pride in a country with a long history of repressed Afro-Brazilian culture; stimulate cultural tourism by paying tribute to black music in Brazil and throughout the world; and spur recognition of Salvador as South America's capital of black music.

**ONLINE** [www.mondomix.com/cmn/en](http://www.mondomix.com/cmn/en)

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Salvador's Centro de Música Negra will both commemorate the history of black music and act as a platform for its future manifestations; insert: the Museu do Ritmo buildings which will be transformed as the CMN project gets underway

