



Cambridge Community Samba Band
Arco Iris
www.arcoiris.org.uk

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Drumming up Support for South American Disaster Victims **Sunday, 18 April, Cambridge Market Square, 4:15 PM**

Cambridge, UK, 16 April 2010 - Cambridge Community Samba Band Arco Iris, well known for playing some of the hottest and loudest samba rhythms around, will be busking for Oxfam's disaster relief programme in Chile and Brazil this Sunday, April 18th, in Cambridge's market square.

Look out for a huge band of brightly coloured drummers in front of the Guild Hall at 4:15 PM. The band will play several 15-minute sets in the area around the market square and finish at 5 PM. All monies raised will go directly to Oxfam.

"We are especially concerned about the plight of the poor after the recent floods in Rio de Janeiro and the earthquake and Tsunami in Chile," says Arco Iris Committee Chair Laura Grimes. "The town of Tirua, Chile, for example, has been devastated by the disaster, and mudslides in Rio have led to terrible consequences for so many slum dwellers. The whole band is keen to help, and as we play Latin and South American samba rhythms, what better way than through music?! We hope lots of families will join us for a fun-filled hour and generously support this charity appeal. We also want to thank Cambridge City Council for being so quick to give its support."

About Arco Iris

Arco Iris is Cambridge's only community samba band, playing the very hottest (and loudest!) of Brazilian carnival rhythms. Our performances range from glittering carnival parades and storming club appearances to local charity events. We have a totally open membership drawn from all sections of the community.

Arco Iris means "rainbow" in Portuguese. We began life in 1993 with a one-off performance of Capoeira and Samba at the Mumford theatre in Cambridge. The following autumn the band got back together to learn more Brazilian and Cuban carnival music. We had a small start up grant from Cambridge City Council, but have been completely self supporting since 1994.

At any one time there are about 60 paid up members and nearly 200 on our mailing list. The membership ranges in age from 9 to 70 and reflects the population of Cambridge: very multicultural, many students, a few unemployed and a smattering of college lecturers. There are semi-professional musicians and people who had never touched an instrument in their lives, and it isn't always easy to tell who's who!

We play Brazilian carnival pieces such as Batucada and Samba Reggae, and a wide variety of other styles, many written by band members. We play about 30 gigs a year and have been regulars at samba festivals and events in Ireland, Wales and Paris. We are known for creating a wild party atmosphere and getting everyone dancing.

Arco Iris is run by an annually elected committee of members who are responsible for finance, costumes, gig bookings, transport, accommodation, looking after the instruments and training new leaders.

Contact Details

For more information, please contact Anke Adams at committee@arcoiris.org.uk.