



Cambridge Community Samba Band  
**Arco Iris**  
[www.arcoiris.org.uk](http://www.arcoiris.org.uk)

**Press Release – For Immediate Release**

## **Percussion for Pakistan Live Samba Performance in Cambridge**

**Sunday, 22 August - Cambridge Town Centre - from 12:30 PM**

**Cambridge, UK, 19 August 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 Pakistan disaster relief programme this Sunday, August 22nd.**

A big band of brightly-coloured carnival drummers will play at the corner of Market and Sidney Streets (opposite Next and Monsoon in the town centre) starting at around 12:30 PM. The parade will then head to Great St. Mary's Church, where a second performance will take place. All monies raised will go directly to Oxfam.

*"We all know the response to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan has been extremely inadequate," says Arco Iris Publicity Officer Steve Dosman. "The scale of the disaster is almost unimaginable. All of our band members are extremely keen to contribute. People in Cambridge were so generous when we busked to raise funds for the Haiti and Chile catastrophes earlier this year. We hope our performance will inspire shoppers to give to a cause that hits very close to home for so many in the UK. Whether you can spare pennies or pounds, come along and have a great time, Brazilian style! We want as many people as possible to clap, cheer, stomp their feet and dance alongside the band to show their 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 age 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 have 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 we 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 Steve Dosman at [publicity@arcoiris.org.uk](mailto:publicity@arcoiris.org.uk).