



Cambridge Community Samba Band

**Arco Iris**

[www.arcoiris.org.uk](http://www.arcoiris.org.uk)

**Press Release - For Immediate Release**

## **Cambridge Samba Band Raises over £1,000 for Haiti Earthquake Relief**

### **Arco Iris band members are overwhelmed by audience's generous donations**

*Cambridge, UK, 26 January 2010* - Cambridge Community Samba Band Arco Iris, well known for playing some of the hottest and loudest samba rhythms around, was overwhelmed by the generosity of onlookers as the group busked to raise donations for the Earthquake relief funds of Oxfam and Medecins sans Frontieres on Sunday, January 24th, in Cambridge's market square. The band raised **£1,006.76**, which will be divided equally between the two charities.

"None of us would have dreamed we would raise just over a thousand pounds. A few kind market stall holders even gave us a donation before we started playing, as we were warning them of the imminent noise," enthuses band and committee member Marianne Wyllie.

Around 45 brightly coloured drummers gave it their all in a 15-minute set in front of the Guild Hall before parading along the market square and down Market Street, where the performance continued on the corner of Sidney Street. An enthusiastic audience of shoppers, families, stall holders and local businesses cheered, clapped, danced and gave generously.

"We especially want to mention the staff of Don Pasquale, who donated a whole handful of notes - it was unbelievable," says one of the band's leaders and committee chair, Laura Grimes.

"The whole band had a wonderful time and wants to whole-heartedly thank Cambridge for the amazing level of contributions, and the City Council for being so quick to give its support," adds Arco Iris Events Coordinator Larissa Moore. "Our thoughts continue to be with the survivors in Haiti, where we hope every penny will be put to good use."

### **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.



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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 have never touched an instrument before 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.

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### **Contact Details**

For more information, please contact Steve Dosman at [publicity@arcoiris.org.uk](mailto:publicity@arcoiris.org.uk), see our website at [www.arcoiris.org.uk](http://www.arcoiris.org.uk), or to see previous releases see our press release page here [[link](#)].