Go-Go

Go-go originated in Washington, DC in the mid 1970s and was created by Chuck Brown and his group, the Soul Searchers. This brand of funk, which incorporates elements of jazz, rock, blues, gospel, rap, Latin, and Caribbean music is very percussion oriented. Some groups, especially early go-go groups, are known for using two drummers plus several percussionists as part of the groups instrumentation. Today, most go-go groups use one drumset player together with one or more percussionists.

Audience participation is a major part of a go-go performance. Throughout much of the show there is a call and response-like communication between the front person of the group and the audience. In an effort to keep the audience involved, Chuck Brown was the first to have his group play continuously without stopping between songs. Today it is still common for go-go groups to segue from one song to the next without stopping, and they usually don't take breaks. This is where the name go-go comes from. The band keeps going and the music doesn't stop until the show is over.

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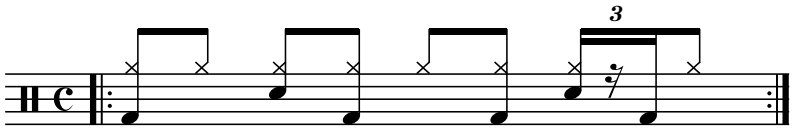

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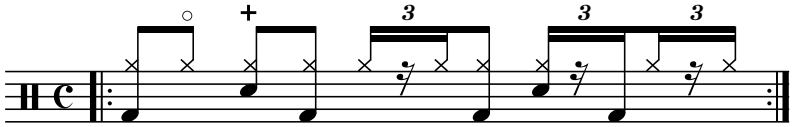

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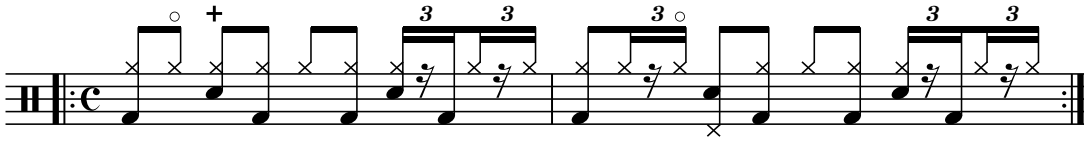

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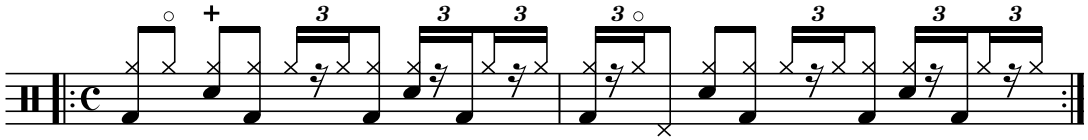

Listen to:

Chuck Brown and the Soul Searchers, Trouble Funk, Code Red, Junkyard Band, Rare Essence, E.U. (Experience Unlimited).