

*Tico Tico no Fubá* (1917)  
Zequinha de Abreu (1880 – 1935)

This is the title of a renowned Brazilian choro music piece. Its original title, “Tico-Tico no Farelo,” was changed in 1931 because the Brazilian guitarist Américo Jacomino Canhoto (1889 – 1928) had already composed a work with this title. A choro (meaning “cry” or “lament”), is a Brazilian popular music instrumental style that originated in 19th-century Rio de Janeiro. Despite the name, the style often has a fast and happy rhythm, characterized by virtuosity, improvisation, subtle modulations, syncopation, and counterpoint. “Fubá” is a type of maize flour, and “tico-tico” is the Brazilian name of the rufous-collared sparrow. Hence, “Tico-tico no fubá” means “tico-tico in the cornmeal.”

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