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Afro Green is a Dave Samuels original. It was first recorded by Afro-Bop Alliance on Camino Nuevo (Mambo Maniacs Records), and was later recorded by the CJP on their Concord release, Mosaic. The feel of this tune is a 12/8 Afro-Cuban groove, anchored by the repetitive lines of the piano and bass. This creates ample space for the drums to color and shape the feel. The drum groove is centered around the piano ostinato, combined with the 12/8 bell pattern and rhythmic interplay with the congas.

The tune starts with four bars of drums. Basically, the concept centers around groups of four, alternating between eighth-note triplets and sixteenth notes:

The groove begins with congas and drums and is joined by the bass. Experiment with phrases that will relate to the groove you wish to establish. The piano and marimba enter trading ideas before the piano settles into the rhythmic vamp which will be restated by the entire band leading into the head. Measure 9 states the melody (accompanied by the piano ostinato) upon which the drum groove is based:

This section is repeated, and ends with a drum fill outlining the brass figure which leads into the bridge.