

arts
education
njpac



cyro

baptista

the david g. berger
master class series

about cyro baptista

Cyro Baptista is a Brazilian-born percussionist and composer whose vast talent and penchant for innovation brought him to be praised as one of the most respected musicians in the world. Born in São Paulo in 1950, Baptista is known for the many percussive instruments that he created and his capacity to stretch the definition of music past what is expected, fusing genres from all continents. He released his first solo album in 1997 and has since accumulated an extensive list of collaborations with renowned artists. From Paul Simon, Yo-Yo-Ma, Herbie Hancock, Kathleen Battle, John Zorn, Wynton Marsalis, Laurie Anderson and legendary Brazilian artists Milton Nascimento and Caetano Veloso — they all wanted Cyro's magic touch on their recordings or live performances. In 2002, Baptista released his album *Beat the Donkey* with an ensemble of percussionists and dancers spanning from rock, funk, jazz, Brazilian and Balkan influences. This album garnered so much attention it became the focus of a documentary by WGHB-TV. To describe Baptista's style simply would be to say it knows no bounds. He is interested in exploring all expressions, definitions and variations of music from all expressions, definitions and variations of artists.

Baptista's endless sonic curiosity and intense rhythms led him to create several musical ensembles and record many albums of his own. He has also lent his sounds to several GRAMMY® Award-winning records and to over 300 CDs with many of the world's most beloved musicians. Cyro's credits read like a "who's who" of modern music. His talent and versatility have led to associations with a wide range of leading jazz, rock, pop, classical, avant-garde and Brazilian artists.

Baptista leads four different ensembles with ten released albums under his name. He tours continuously throughout the world with them. Additionally, he conducts master classes at major musical institutions, such as Juilliard School, Berklee College of Music, New York University, Mannes College of Music, The New School, Holy Cross University, New World Symphony Orchestra, University of Vermont, University of Buffalo, Kimmel Center Jazz Camp and K-12 schools across the country. Baptista has a great interest in education and sharing his knowledge and experiences, especially with underserved factions of society through his Sound of Community initiative.

accolades

GRAMMY® Award-winning albums featuring Cyro Baptista:

- *Obrigado Brasil* by Yo-Yo Ma
- *Blue Light 'Til Dawn* by Cassandra Wilson
- *Santiago* by The Chieftains
- *A Love Affair* by Ivan Lins
- *Gershwin's World* by Herbie Hancock

sound of community initiative

Imagine a performance that would involve professional musicians, children, teenagers, senior citizens and adults with disabilities performing choreography. A performance where no more emphasis would be placed on Yo-Yo Ma's Stradivarius Cello as would be placed on pizzicato rubber bands and balloon bassoons. Imagine an opportunity for a first-time artist to play an instrument he or she built from scratch as part of a full production on a stage with lights in front of an audience.

This is the ultimate goal of The Sound of Community project. Cyro Baptista called upon his close friends and musical collaborators Kenny Wolleson and Brian Marsella to help realize this vision. Baptista, Wolleson and Marsella have worked together for many years on various projects, including John Zorn's Electric Masada and numerous movie soundtracks. Brian Marsella was an integral part of Cyro's ensembles *Banquet of the Spirits* and *Beat the Donkey*.

The Sound of Community is a project of true inclusion, where underserved members of the community would collaborate together. Each participant will be made to feel that music isn't something only created on big stages and fancy recording studios — but rather can be a part of their everyday life as a ritual and a means of bringing people together. It's with all this in mind that Baptista's initiative was created.



brazilian rhythms & cultural impact

From samba to bossa nova, Brazilian rhythms define generations of artists, like Cyro Baptista; there is a connection across musical instruments and continents. Samba has roots in Africa, Angola and the Congo, while frevo comes from the culture of Brazilian Carnival, which focuses on rapid up-tempo beats traditionally for dancers. Creating jazz, or Brasileira, translates to Brazilian instrumental music, the style bossa nova was born. Bossa nova is the marriage of samba and jazz.

The most notable example of this new trend is 1964's "The Girl from Ipanema," the second most played song behind the Beatles' "Yesterday." The guitar, piano, electronic organ, acoustic bass and drums are staples in bossa nova music and fusion.

The improvisational nature of bossa nova impacted Flora Purim, Dizzy Gillespie and Antonio Carlos Jobim to cross the world and bring innovation to artists to come.



People from Africa, from India, from Brazil — **different cultures playing under the umbrella of jazz.**

— Cyro Baptista

seed questions to consider

1. How does the musical fusion movement impact Baptista's approach?
2. Does combining art forms make music more or less accessible to artists of all abilities?
3. How is making music different when you play instruments of your own invention?



resources

Websites

Cyro Baptista Website
cyrobaptista.com

Wikipedia | Cyro Baptista
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyro_Baptista

NPR | Cyro Baptista:
“Sounds From Everywhere, Evoking Home”
npr.org/2011/03/24/134665087/cyro-baptista-sounds-from-everywhere-evoking-home

NPR | Musical Cannibalism:
“Consuming The Spirit Of Cultural Genius”
npr.org/2016/11/10/501564127/musical-cannibalism-with-cyro-baptista

Cyro Baptista Bio
allaboutjazz.com/musicians/cyro-baptista

About Sounds of Community – Cyro Baptista
cyrobaptista.com/sounds-of-community

Wikipedia | Anthropophagic Movement
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropophagic_movement

Videos

Cyro Baptista Videos
youtube.com/@CyroBaptistanyc

“Mumakata” – Cyro Baptista and Banquet of the Spirits
youtube.com/watch?v=4cYx-B3d8w4

Cyro Baptista Interview
youtube.com/watch?v=GY7qnbbonu4

SDR’s interview series “For The Record”: Cyro Baptista
youtube.com/watch?v=fzofF4NLUA

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the arts in your school

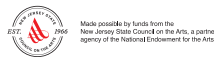
In-School Residencies: NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development: Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our education sales team at artseducation@njpac.org. Or visit njpac.org/education

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study the arts at njpac

Saturday Programs: NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level – from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs: Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in one of seven programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.