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**THE WALKER ART CENTER PRESENTS TWIN CITIES' DEBUT OF  
BRAZILIAN MULTIPERCUSSIONIST/COMPOSER CYRO BAPTISTA'S  
RAUCOUS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE BEAT THE DONKEY**

"A percussion group that reaches well beyond samba and carnival rhythms . . . the songs summon gamelans, breakbeats, heavy metal, tap-dancing, and funk along with tuneful Brazilian pop."—*The New York Times*

Brazilian multipercussionist/composer **Cyro Baptista** gives free range to his imagination, humor, and theatricality as he directs his raucous 8-piece percussion ensemble **Beat the Donkey** in an unforgettable evening of spontaneous and infectious music at 8 pm Saturday, November 22, in the Walker Art Center Auditorium. With frenzied glee, Baptista (who performed with Tim Sparks at the Walker last season) directs drummers, dancers, and DJs from Brazil, Indonesia, Africa, the Middle East, and the United States.

Recently, while in concert with legendary guitarist Trey Anastasio of Phish at Radio City Music Hall, Beat the Donkey created a traffic-stopping encore in which the musicians and performers marched from the stage out onto Sixth Avenue for a giant block party and samba drumming session with the entire audience. The ensemble's current self-titled album is available on Tzadik Records from legendary downtown jazz-fusion producer John Zorn.

Over the past 10 years, Baptista has emerged as a premier percussionist whose music coincides with the public's interest in world music. He plays more than 30 different percussion instruments from Brazil and around the world as well as many instruments he has created himself.

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In addition to touring with Anastasio and Sting in 2003, Baptista recorded and performed throughout the world with Herbie Hancock, collaborated with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra on a Brazilian carnival modern jazz concert, and toured with Paul Simon's Rhythm of the Saints, which included an appearance on Simon's CD/video concert in Central Park. Baptista has performed and recorded with David Byrne, Kathleen Battle, Dr. John, Brian Eno, Robert Palmer, Melissa Etheridge, Laurie Anderson, John Zorn, James Taylor, Michael Tilson Thomas, Daniel Barenboim, Bobby McFerrin, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Yo-Yo-Ma, and Medeski Martin & Wood. Brazilian collaborators include Caetano Veloso, Milton Nascimento, Ivan Lins, Marisa Monte, and Nana Vasconcelos.

Baptista was selected as "#1 Rising Star In Percussion" in *Downbeat* magazine's 51st Annual Critics Poll in August 2003. *Jazziz* and *Drum* magazines selected his first solo recording, *Villa Lobos/Vira Loucos*, as the "Best Brazilian CD of the Year," and named him "Best Percussionist of 2002." He has performed on four Grammy award-winning albums: Cassandra Wilson's *Blue Light 'Til Dawn*, The Chieftains' *Santiago*, Ivan Lins' *A Love Affair*, and Herbie Hancock's highly acclaimed *Gershwin's World*. Blue Note Records released *SuperGenerous*, a duo CD recorded with guitarist Kevin Breit (KD Lang, Cassandra Wilson). A Beat the Donkey documentary on the prestigious PBS program La Plaza, from WGBH in Boston, garnered three New England EMMY Awards in 2002.

Tickets for Beat the Donkey are \$20 (\$16 Walker members) and are available at the Walker box office or by calling 612.375.7622; or visit [www.walkerart.org/tickets/](http://www.walkerart.org/tickets/). Patrons with special needs are asked to call two weeks in advance.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,  
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.  
For public information, call 612.375.7622.  
Gallery hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am-5 pm;  
Thursday, 10 am-9 pm; Sunday, 11 am-5 pm; closed Monday.  
<http://www.walkerart.org>**