

Cyro Baptista's Banquet of the Spirits Biographies

Tim Keiper was Born in Red Bank, NJ, and moved to New York City in 1999. Since then, he has focused on touring, recording, and building musical instruments. He has worked with Cyro Baptista, John Zorn, Julie Taymor, Jonas Mekas, Mike Stern, Skeleton Key, and Dirty Projectors. Keiper has worked extensively with Malian guitarist Vieux Farka Toure, including performances at the Festival in the Desert in Timbuktu.

Brian Marsella was first introduced to music by his father, an amateur multi-instrumentalist, who exposed him to jazz, disco, and the bossa novas of Antonio Carlos Jobim. What started out as a love of Tchaikovsky and ragtime quickly grew into a love of all music. Throughout his school years, Marsella performed frequently in a number of settings, from chamber music, opera, and musicals to jazz, blues, and R&B. Marsella went on to study piano at the Juilliard School and the Peabody Conservatory. He earned his BA in jazz performance from the New School University.

Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1975 to Egyptian and Polish parents. He was given his first instruments, the pots and pans from the kitchen and a three string guitar at the age of two. Blumenkranz is featured on over 25 releases on Tzadik, John Zorn's record label, since 1999—producing and arranging many of the bands he works with.