

Cyro Baptista

Brazilian performer and bandleader Cyro Baptista has emerged as one of the premier percussionists in the world, bringing his unique charm and undeniable rhythmic drive to countless stages, performing on numerous Grammy Award-winning recordings, and collaborating with myriad luminaries such as Paul Simon, Herbie Hancock, John Zorn, Laurie Anderson, Yo-Yo Ma, Caetano Veloso, and many others. Described by Thom Jurek of *All Music* as “simply one of the most limitless musicians we have,” Baptista’s many honors include DownBeat Critics Poll Percussionist of the Year in 2013 and 2011, Jazz Journalists Association Percussionist of the Year in 2010 and 2007, Drum Magazine Percussionist of the Year in 2004 and 2003, and US Artists Walker Fellow in 2009/10.

Baptista’s Banquet of the Spirits, an inimitable world music quartet, tours internationally to venues such as the Village Vanguard, SFJAZZ, Salle Pleyel in Paris, SESC Pompeia in São Paulo, and the Adelaide Festival in Australia. The group has released three albums on Tzadik, most recently receiving a five out of five star rating from *All About Jazz*. Baptista’s critically acclaimed, seven-plus-member ensemble, Beat the Donkey, performs with the wild, joyous energy of a carnival drum line, fusing music, dance, humor and madcap theatrics into unforgettable events. The project has toured to major venues, including Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Grand Performances in Los Angeles, the Walker Art Center, and Central Park Summerstage.

Baptista has performed on hundreds of recordings, composed music for Nickelodeon, and appeared in major motion pictures, including 2008’s “Rachael’s Getting Married” and 2007’s “Across the Universe.” He has performed as guest artist with many major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and others. As an educator, he has conducted workshops and master classes at The Juilliard School, Berklee College of Music, Mannes College of Music, The New School, New World Symphony Orchestra, Kimmel Center Jazz Camp, and many others.

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