

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Robert Cable
650-736-0091
rcable@stanford.edu

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS PRESENTS BRAZILIAN PERCUSSION VIRTUOSO CYRO BAPTISTA ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Baptista's Banquet of the Spirits Quartet to perform selections from its newly released *Infinito* recording and its acclaimed self-titled CD

Stanford, CA, September 30, 2009—Brazilian master percussionist and genre-defying composer **Cyro Baptista** brings his **Banquet of the Spirits** quartet to Dinkelspiel Auditorium for a performance presented by Stanford Lively Arts on Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m. Appearing on the heels of his newly-released CD, *Infinito*, already regarded as “one of Baptista's meatiest, most readily engaging works” (*Jambase*), Baptista and the members of his quartet sing and play a dizzying array of instruments with fluid virtuosity, mixing African and Brazilian folk instruments like the gimbri, balafon, mbira and berimbau with electric keyboards, drum set, and electric bass.

Baptista's quartet features three young musicians out of the downtown New York City scene: **Brian Marsella** on keyboards, **Tim Keiper** on drums, and **Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz** on bass, oud and gimbri. The name Banquet of the Spirits references a Brazilian movement of “cultural cannibalism” from the 1930s, absorbing a wide range of influences from that time: the Afro-Brazilian, the indigenous native Brazilian, and the European.

“To be Brazilian is to absorb these influences as a matter of heritage,” says Baptista. “I've been so lucky to play with so many great musicians, like Herbie Hancock, Paul Simon, Sting, and Laurie Anderson, and I've learned so much from them.”

OPENING ACT

The performance will also include a short “opening act” curated by Stanford student **Natalia Duong**. Responding to the cross-cultural influences of Baptista's work, she will work with dance students guided by Stanford dance lecturer **Diane Frank**, in reviving portions of **Parijat Desai's** choreography,

-More-

which was set on students during Parijat's campus residency last year. Opening Acts is a new initiative launched by Lively Arts this season to involve Stanford students in the performing arts both onstage and behind the scenes.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, **Cyro Baptista** arrived in the United States in 1980 with a scholarship to the Woodstock-based Creative Music Studio. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Creative Music Studio was considered the pre-eminent study center for contemporary creative music and is credited as the birthplace of world jazz—the improvisational and compositional expansion of the world's musical traditions. Founded in 1971 by Karl Berger, Ingrid Sertso, and Ornette Coleman, CMS brought together leading innovators in the jazz and world music communities. After his time at CMS, Baptista moved to New York City, where he began his career on the streets of lower Manhattan. He has since emerged as one of the premier percussionists in the world. With the rise in the public's interest in world music, Cyro Baptista has recorded and toured with some of music's most popular names. His mastery of Brazilian percussion and his numerous homemade instruments have catapulted him into world renown. His unique versatility has led to close collaborations with diverse artists such as Herbie Hancock, Paul Simon, Sting, Laurie Anderson, Caetano Veloso, Milton Nascimento, John Zorn, Yo-Yo Ma, Wynton Marsalis, and Medeski, Martin, and Wood, just to name a few.

The quartet *Banquet of the Spirits* is the newest of several projects led by Baptista. The others are his phenomenally vibrant long-standing ensemble *Beat the Donkey*; *Supergenerous*, the duo with Canadian guitarist Kevin Breit; and the *Robison, Lubambo, and Baptista Trio*, featuring classical flutist Paula Robison and guitarist Romero Lubambo.

THE KORET JAZZ PROJECT

Stanford Lively Arts' presentation of Cyro Baptista is part of the **Koret Jazz Project**. Generously funded by The Koret Foundation, the Koret Jazz Project is a multi-year initiative to support, expand, and celebrate the role of jazz—one of America's greatest contributions to world culture—in the artistic and education programming of Stanford Lively Arts.

TICKETS

Tickets for **Cyro Baptista's *Banquet of the Spirits*, presented by Lively Arts on Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m.** at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, range from \$34 to \$38 for adults and are \$10 for Stanford students. Half-price tickets are available for youths people age 18 and under, and discounts are available for groups and non-Stanford students. Call 650-725-ARTS (2787), or visit <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/>.

-More-

VENUE INFORMATION

Dinkelspiel Auditorium is located on the Stanford University campus at 471 Lagunita Drive, adjacent to Tresidder Union. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found in the lot off Lagunita Drive near Tresidder Memorial Union and on Abbott Way. Maps and directions can be accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

Stanford Lively Arts curates experiences that engage artists' and audiences' imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. Founded in 1969 at Stanford University, we produce and present music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multi-media events. We place a special focus on innovation and risk-taking, and through commissions and premieres are an incubator and destination for new work. Stanford Lively Arts plays a leading and collaborative role in the university's thriving vision of a sustained culture of creativity—one in which the arts integrate with the academic disciplines, flourish as a vital part of campus and community life, and inspire new perspectives on our lives and culture.

NOTE TO EDITORS

High-resolution images can be accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/presscenter/>.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Who: Stanford Lively Arts

What: **CYRO BAPTISTA'S BANQUET OF THE SPIRITS**

Program: Selections from its self-titled first CD and the newly released *Infinito*.

Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford University

When: Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$34/\$38 (Adult); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: Hailing from Brazil (living in the United States since 1980) and one of the foremost percussionists in the world, Cyro Baptista has drawn a large world music audience through his mastery of Brazilian percussion and the many instruments he creates himself. His exuberant ensemble fully embraces the ethos of Brazil's Anthropofagia movement—consume art and culture without restraint, and celebrate that mix of influences in your own performances. He has performed with artists as diverse as Yo-Yo Ma, John Zorn, Herbie Hancock, David Byrne, Bobby McFerrin, Wynton Marsalis, and Medeski Martin & Wood, as well as Brazil's Milton Nascimento, Caetano Veloso, and Marisa Monte.

#