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Beat the Donkey, Featuring Cyro Baptista • Brazil

Beat The Donkey is more than a ten-piece percussion ensemble. It is a multicultural, polyphonic, highly creative and entertaining group that takes rhythms beyond their natural frontiers. There is an undeniable aura of fun and humor whenever Cyro Baptista takes the stage, and this is particularly true with Beat The Donkey.

The drummers, and even a DJ, from all over the world, wear wild, elaborate costumes and frequently leave their instruments to break into spontaneous dance, making the group fascinating to watch as well as listen to.



Cyro has always rejected rigid classifications in terms of instrumentation and compositional approach. With Beat The Donkey he gives free reign to his imagination, mixing instruments from Brazil, U.S., Indonesia and Africa with his own instruments.

It is mysterious, spellbinding, infectious, irresistible dance music. Cyro himself roams the stage, conducting his troupe with fiendish glee, keeping the audience's attention captive for the whole show. Beat the Donkey will be featured in "Samba for 1000 Drums," the parade which will open the festival, and perform on the main stage Friday, July 20.

Grandmaster Flash New York, NY

During Hip-Hop's 30yr+ history, few names have become as well known to music lovers across the globe



as that of DJ Grandmaster Flash.

Not only is he one of the three pioneers responsible for the musical genre called Hip-Hop, but his use of the turntables made him the first DJ to play the turntables as a musical instrument, thus helping to elevate the status of the DJ to a masterful, artistic position. He is also responsible for assembling one of the earliest and greatest rap groups of all time - The Furious Five.

These are some of the hallmarks of a career, which has extended from the Bronx in the early 1970s to all corners of the globe into the 21st Century.

The Girls • Cleveland, OH

The Pride of Lake County and the surrounding Cleveland area, The Girls band brings solid 3-part harmonies and unique, musical and rhythmical arrangements to Rock, Country, R&B and Pop Music.



This multi-talented group of musicians have over 200 years collective performing experience - being fronted by 3 beautiful and talented award-winning vocalists, The Girls have been awing crowds and setting attendance records at events and venues throughout North Eastern Ohio and have been chosen multiple times to open for National Recording Artists.

The Girls band brings a wholesome and entertaining approach to many Classic-Rock songs, with a unique flavor of electric and acoustic guitars, and coupled with horns, vibes, keyboards, drums and bass, present R&B in a style reminiscent of the "big" band sound - Playing classics such as Ooh Baby Baby and the unforgettable Sly & the Family Stone classic "Dance to The Music", up to the more recent "Ain't No Other Man" by Christina Aguilera and the #1 Hit by American Idol Winner Carrie Underwood, "Before He Cheats", The Girls cover genres of music and songs that will satisfy anyone's taste. Without a doubt the highlight and focus of the band are its strong, melodic and well structured harmonies. These girls can sing!