

Dear 92nd Street Y School Partners:

92nd Street Y's 2012-13 Musical Introduction Series concluded on May 22 and 23 with the musical virtuosity, vibrant color and amazing energy of Cyro Baptista! With an impressive array of instruments, ranging from Brazilian percussion, piano and electric guitar to Cyro's own invented instruments, the performance was on a mission to show your students that music evolves from everyday life, and that objects we see all around us can be transformed into musical instruments.

In fulfilling that mission, Cyro and his band pulled out all the stops, displaying technical and improvisational virtuosity, and incorporating dance, playful costumes and an obvious joy in the kind of spontaneous collaboration that is prepared for anything and generates a delightful thrill for the audience.

Prior to the concerts, 92Y teaching artists worked in partnership with MIS students and their classroom teachers to apply the concept of transformation to making Found Sound instruments – percussion instruments that are created out of everyday objects. Students explored the rainforest sounds of Cyro's Brazilian home and the everyday sounds of New York City, experimenting with how these sounds can be performed on their Found Sound instruments, and that by layering different kinds of sounds, they can create their own original music.

At the concert, Cyro and his band conducted the students in a "rainforest symphony," layering improvised rainforest sounds around the concert hall to create an improvised piece, where students could show off their knowledge of how to turn everyday sounds into music. Cyro also incorporated his own Found Sounds story into the concert, giving the audience a glimpse into his process of inventing some of the instruments he played at the concert, such as kitchen pipes he bought at Home Depot, transformed into a marimba and played with flip flops!

92nd Street Y would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your students, teachers and staff on their excellent work and enthusiastic participation in the 2011-12 Musical Introduction Series. We are honored to bring the highest quality music programming to your classrooms and our concert hall, and to inspire musical and cultural creativity in your school communities. We look forward to our continued work together next year and for years to come!

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Larisa Gelman, Director

Debra Kreisberg, Managing Director