



In Olympia Washington, on, Wednesday, September 26, 2012, Mestre Nininho and Derek Wright taught a *maracatu* percussion workshop, hosted by *Samba Olywa*, a drum and dance ensemble dedicated to the learning and sharing of Brazilian music styles. I am the ensemble's music director. Thirty people attended the workshop, including, members of *Samba Olywa*, members of similar groups from other cities, and people from our local community, curious about Brazilian percussion and the culture of Pernambuco.

Mestre Nininho's workshop was an inspiring and enriching experience for everyone. Some had never played percussion before, many had a strong background and interest in Brazilian music. All were excited to learn new rhythms. Mestre Nininho quickly and effectively taught us all to make music together with *caixa*, *gongue*, *agogo*, *abe*, *alfaia*, and *surdos*. Mestre Nininho shared with us ten of his *maracatu* patterns, as well as his compositions of *Coco na Rua* and *Subindo Ladeira*.

Doctor Sean Williams, an ethnomusicologist at *The Evergreen State Collage* in Olympia, Washington, and member of *Samba Olywa*, was in attendance:

It was an honor and a pleasure to work with Mestre Nininho in his workshop with Samba Olywa. He is dynamic, knowledgeable about his art, and is easily able to convey a variety of culturally-appropriate performance techniques to the members of the group, both individually and as an ensemble. The fact that workshop participants drove long distances from every direction to study with him is a reflection of his skills as both a musician and as a leader. Samba Olywa is a long-established group, and yet in just one workshop our collective skill level improved dramatically. I highly recommend him to both community groups and academic classes at the secondary school level and at the university level.

Mestre Nininho is an invaluable cultural resource, a talented and skillful composer/arranger, and a thoughtful and patient teacher. I look forward to future opportunities to work with him. Derek Wright deserves praise for his work facilitating this tour, as well as California Brazil Camp for their support.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

David Kern Moseley
Music Director for Samba Olywa