



SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106

September 24, 2012

To SEPAC, Marcia Solto, Clarice Andrade:

On Tuesday, September 11, 2012, Mestre Nininho and Derek Wright taught a guest workshop on *maracatu* percussion at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB). I direct the UCSB Afro-Brazilian Ensemble, an official Ethnomusicology Ensemble within the Music Department, with course numbers A70S/A170S/A270S. The 20 students at Nininho's *maracatu* workshop included members of my ensemble (both UCSB students and other non-student members), as well as several people from the community who came to learn about the culture of Pernambuco.

The workshop was a wonderful experience for everybody involved. At the start of the three hour workshop some students had never played any percussion before, but soon we were all making music together with caixa, gongue, alfaia, and surdos. We covered ten of Nininho's brilliant and creative *maracatu* arrangements, then went on to his arrangements of *Coco na Rua* and *Subindo Ladeira*.

We have continued to practice Nininho's arrangements and hope to perform them in our formal concert this quarter at UCSB. One of my students said that he had never been able to appreciate Maracatu before this workshop, but that it's now one of his favorite musical styles.

Nininho is an incredible cultural resource with deep knowledge of many musical styles, a brilliant composer and arranger, as well as a caring and patient teacher. I look forward to more opportunities to learn from him in the future. I also express my gratitude to Maracatu Luta (particularly its director Derek Wright) and California Brazil Camp for their support of this tour.

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Wright
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