



To SEPAC, Marcia Solto, Clarice Andrade:

On Monday, October 8th Mestre Nininho and Derek Wright presented two guest workshops at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the UW World Percussion Ensemble (WoPE) regarding *maracatu* and *coco*. The UW WoPE is a nationally recognized performance ensemble that focuses on the study and performance of percussion based music from outside Western musical traditions and is an official performance ensemble within the school of music (course numbers 660-268 and 660-568 lab 2). The classes were attended by all of the WoPE members and directors as well as many community members from the Madison metropolitan area.

Both workshops were absolutely amazing, both in content and presentation. The UW WoPE has performed various Brazilian styles, including maracatu for many years. In fact, in December 2010 I studied with Mestre Nininho in Olinda for two weeks. My experiences in Olinda were inspiring and confirmed that I wanted to help bring Nininho to the United States so that my students in Madison could experience the musical mastery of this amazing person. During the workshops at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mestre Nininho was able to help the WoPE in specific and general stylistic considerations while providing us with many new arrangements drawn from his deeply creative and forward thinking musical mind. In addition, these wonderful teachers were able to weave into their workshop important information regarding the culture of Pernambuco and Northeastern Brazil in general.

Mestre Nininho and Mr. Wright's appearance in Madison, Wisconsin was the result of a partnership between the University of Wisconsin WoPE and local music ensembles Metabaque and The Handphibians. There is no question in my mind that Mestre Nininho has had a tremendous impact on the Madison musical community that will inspire all of us interested in Brazilian music for years to come!

This has been an outstanding cultural exchange and we are indebted to Mestre Nininho for offering to us his talents and deep knowledge of Brazilian culture and music. We are also grateful to Mr. Derek Wright for his management of Mestre Nininho's time in the United States as well as his extensive knowledge of this music.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Respectfully,

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