Brazilian rhythms jazz up Beatles songs on new CD

There's no doubt The Beatles changed music as we knew it in the 1960s. Their albums introduced foreign elements of classical and world music into the pop vocabulary.

Rich Kowalewski and his band Brazil and Beyond continue the musical journey with the release of their CD Beatles. Set to a Brazilian beat, the recording covers carly to late 1960s songs like This Boy, Blackbird, and Norwegian Wood.

Wood.

Brazil and Beyond perform
music from the CD at a release
party Wednesday, May 14, at
the Bird of Paradise in Ann Arbor. They'll also play tunes from their latest recording 2 p.m. Sunday, May 11, at the Birmingham Fine Art Festival

p.m. Sunday, May II, at the Birmingham Fine Art Festival in Shain Park. "We've been together five years and always included Beatles songs in our sets," said Kowalewski. "They adapted well to Brazilian rhythms. I grew up in the late 50s with The Beatles. Every new rendr was a big event full of anticipation and excitement. The Beatles took us on a journey from Rubbe 50ul onward. They introduced new sounds,



Expressions

Indian music through George Harrison. They were good influences introducing us to new and positive things. That makes for good music making. Brazil and Beyond pick up where The Beatles leave off by

where The Beatles leave off by arranging songs in sumba. Bossa Nova and Afro-Brazilian styles. The latest CD opens our ears to instruments like the cavaquinho. Kowalewski performs the melody line of This Boy on the ukulele-like instrument. He also plays six-string Brazilian bass guitar and double bass on the CD. Frank Marinello plays elassical and steel string guitan, Dennis Sheridan a number of percussion instruments including the African berimbau. Rob Emanuel sticks to drums and tamborim.

Kowalewski developed an appreciation for classical and

appreciation for classical and jazz music while studying bass at Wayne State University. He



Brazil and Beyond introduce their new CD, "Beatles," at the Bird of Paradise. Pictured are Frank Marinello (left), Rob Emanuel, Dennis Sheridan with berimbaru, and Rich Kowalewski.

now teaches the instrument at Oakland University in Rochester, Farmington Public Schools and Henry Ford Community College in or teaches the instrument at

Community University to the Portuguese brought the cavaquinho to Brazil, said Kowalewski. "It's from the same family of instruments that includes ukulele. We're basely an acoustic group with nylon string guitar, drums,

world percussion playing Brazilian, pop and jazz standards. Brazilian, pot and jazz standards. Brazilia a melting pot like the U.S. It's Latin music but has an African and European influence. I was on the jazz scene 20 years and an important part of jazz is Brazilian and Latin. Jazz is always keeping ears open to world music. Brazilian music is exotic, intoricating.

Beatles is Brazil and

Birmingham Fine Art Festival - 2 p.m. Sunday, May 11, Shain Park, stage in front of Birmingham City Hall on Martin

E CD Release Party - 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, Bird of Paradise, 2312 S. Main St., Ann Artor, (734) 662-8310

Landry's Big Fish - 8-11 p.m. every Friday-Saturday. Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn, (313) 336-6350

Rio Bravo - 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 20.

240 Town Center Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-2900
Troy Summer Concerts - 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18,

Civic Center Lawn, 500 W. Big Beaver, north of Liberty, east of F75

Rochester Concerts in the Park - 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, July 24.

Rochester Municipal Park, Rochester

Music Under the Stars - 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh at 8 Mile Road, Livonia

Beyond's third release after Brazil in 1999 and Amanha, which was introduced at the 2001 Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival. Bealles differs from the first two because we're already familiar with the songs written by John Lengon and Paul

by John Lennon and Pa McCartney, and George Harrison, This Boy and Blackbird are sure to become favorites with Beatles fans, especially those who like their music with exotic flavors.

Brazil and Beyond's "Beatles" CD is available online at www.bfazziarnue yond.com or at Tower in Birmingham, Harmony House, Berkley, and

Know of an interesting story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Arm Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mil to also assessment and

Marching band meets Broadway on Fox stage

Blast! is an entertainment experience. Don't go to this celebration of movement, color and music expecting to see a show strung together by a

show strung together by a story.
Imagine a marching band flashing instruments and sabers to music on a Broadway tage. That's Blast!, the 2001
Emmy Award winner for Best Chorcography.
Blast! explodes onto the stage of the Fox Theatre
Tuesday-Statuday, May 13-17.
There's no story line, just sit back and enjoy it, said Byrand Sutton, one of \$6 cast members putting on the spectacle.
There's comiedy, some sadness but most of it's high-end, fast-paced, energetic.

paced, energetic.
"Blast! is like a visual repre-Biggin is like a visual representation of the emotion a color gives you. It's like a live fantasy with a light show, loud music, lots of dancing to songs that go from purple to red hot and end with Malaguera. There's every kind of music



'Blasti' is a theatrical spectacle of movement, color and sound.

from techno pop to classical to jazz and show tures.

Like the rest of the cast members Sutton's theatrical experience halls from his years with Lakeview High School's competitive marching band and color yeard in St. Clair Shores. Blast is based in marching band and drum corps. The show evolved from

"THE PERFECT FAMILY FILM"

the marching band pageantry of Star of Indiana drum corps founded by businessman Bill Cook in Bloomington, Indiana

petitive drum corps into the theatrical show Brass Theatre

pentitive ordin clops and one theatrical show Brass Theatre and eventually into Blast! which opened to rave revues at the London Apollo in December 1999.

The 28-year old Sutton joined the east flour years ago. He's part of the visual easemble creating dance and movement with flags and sabers but also plays tube and drums.

"I know all of the parts," said Sutton who attended Oakland Community College in Royal Oak and competed with a number of award-winning marching bands. We're all kind of multi-talented and all sing in the show.

Marching and moving

sing in the show."
Marching and moving
around a stage while toting an
instrument or saber takes an
enormous amount of energy.
"It's kind of strenuous on

What Theatrical spectacle of music and movement drawn from marching band pageantry

When: 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, May 13-17;

2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18

Where: Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit Tickets: \$25-\$59, call (248) 433-1515, for information, (313) 471-6611

tour doing mostly one week runs," said Sutton, who goes through seven costume changes during the show. "My

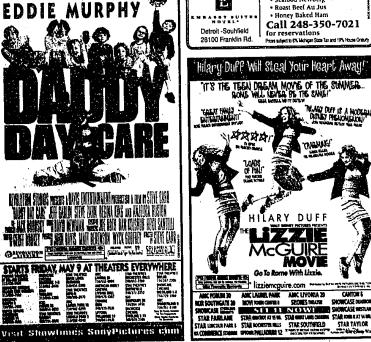
life fits into two suitcases and a

khomin@oe.homecommunet (1734) 953-2145



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Show Mom Just how much you appreciate here of the fact of the laber and put field will not her at the head of the laber and put all of her favorité gourmet foods in tront of her. Ime Souréed Mesquire Breast of Chicken with Bordelaise Sauce, Grilled Atlantic Salmon with Leek Chardonay Sauce of Roasted Porticion with Cermetted Apples and Chardonay Sauce of Roasted Porticion with Cermetted Apples and assorted vegetables. And make sure to leave room for our elet and Wallie station with Bacon and Sausage, our array of fresh fruit, and our assortment of cakes, ples, pastries and cobbler Make It a meal Morn won't forget. After all, she deserves it.

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