

# RANKY TANKY LAUNCHES LANDFALL

CEDAR RAPIDS — When Ranky Tanky performed Monday at Johnson STEAM Academy, student Will Hatchell loved it so much that he brought his parents to the band's Tuesday night performance at CSPA Hall. And he and his mom were the first ones up and dancing to the bouncy Gullah island beats.

It wasn't a hard sell.

"We love Legion Arts and CSPA and come here often," said Will's mom, Kimberly Dukes. Will, who turns 9 today (9/14), whirled and twirled with abandon through most of the nearly two-hour concert that launched Legion Arts' 10th annual Landfall Festival of World Music.

The weeklong event is bringing 32 musicians from 12 countries to the heart of Cedar Rapids for a series of indoor and outdoor concerts, school presentations and pop-up shows around town through Saturday.

Ranky Tanky lives up to its loose translations of "work it" and "get funky." The Charleston, S.C., quintet did all that and more, as it entertained and educated 50 enthusiastic audience members on the culture of the islands along the Carolina and Georgia coastlines. Four band members are direct descendants of the African slaves who lived on the

coastal plain and Sea Islands. The fifth performer, guitarist Clay Ross, is "a convert," trumpet player and frontman Charlton Singleton said.

All five band members are elite musicians, from Grammy nominated drummer Quentin E. Baxter to "American Idol" alum Quiana Parler on lead vocals. All have kept good company in jazz, pop and country realms, performing with the likes of Gregory Hines, Miranda Lambert, Phil Ramone and David Foster.

Those worlds are reflected in the band's music, which weaves jazz trumpet, gospel vocals and R&B rhythms into traditional spirituals, laments and odes to joy.

The opening a cappella harmonies on "Join the Band" established the blend of their individual artistry before melting into funky Caribbean beats. Friends for "a long time" but performing together for just two years, they gave the audience a taste of nearly every song from their self-titled debut album, due out in October.

It's an eclectic collection that includes "You Better Mind," swinging with a blend of New Orleans jazz and gospel, including razor-sharp, crystalline three-part vocal harmonies, backed by bassist Kevin Hamilton and drummer Baxter smiling all the way.

Everyone took dazzling solo

turns throughout the evening, beginning with Parler's soulful, rendition of the spiritual "Turtle Dove," and later in the show, wailing to the heavens on the lament, "Been in the Storm."

More often, the spirit of the evening was upbeat, with gentle Calypso beats and rollicking dance rhythms that had the crowd on its feet.

You have two more chances to get funky with the bunch, at 6 p.m. today (9/14) at the Cedar Rapids Public Library and 4 p.m. Friday (9/15) on the lawn at NewBo City Market. I guarantee the library won't be quiet.

— DIANA NOLLEN, THE GAZETTE

## LANDFALL FESTIVAL

Here are the remaining shows in the 10th Landfall Festival of World Music, presented by Legion Arts/CSPA. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$10 at each event. In case of rain, Friday and Saturday's outdoor concerts will move to CSPA.

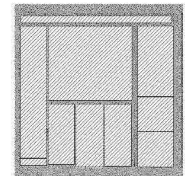
### TODAY

**Ranky Tanky:** 6 p.m., Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Ave. SE; updating the Gullah slave culture of the Georgia and Carolina Sea Islands with gospel vocals, jazz trumpet solos and an R&B rhythm section

**Mdou Moctar:** 8 p.m., CSPA Hall, 1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids; Tuareg guitarist, singer, songwriter from Niger in West Africa

### FRIDAY

**Ranky Tanky:** 4 p.m., NewBo City Market, 1100 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids  
**Ladama:** 6 p.m., NewBo City Market; ensemble of women musicians from across the Americas, with rhythm





and percussion driving their original compositions that are sung in Spanish, Portuguese and English, combining disparate, traditional roots music with pop

**Pascuala Ilabaca:** 8 p.m., CSPA Hall; a favorite on the new scene of young Chilean singer-songwriters, her music is rooted in traditional sounds, informed by her colorful childhood moving from Barcelona to Mexico to India, and back again.

**SATURDAY**

**Bang Data:** 4 p.m., NewBo City Market; vocalist Deuce Eclipse and instrumentalist Juan Manuel Caipo layer bilingual rhymes and melodies over electroacoustic beats

**Maria Pomianowska & Reborn:** 6 p.m., CSPA Hall; using ancient instruments, this Polish musician and composer blends the plaintive melodies of her native folk music with the flavors from her travels in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia

**INFORMATION**

[Legionarts.org/calendar-list](http://Legionarts.org/calendar-list)



**RANKY TANKY**

Ranky Tanky updates the Gullah slave culture of the Georgia and Carolina Sea Islands with gospel vocals, jazz trumpet solos and an R&B rhythm section. Band members are (from left) vocalist Quiana Parler, drummer Quentin E. Baxter, trumpet player Charlton Singleton, guitarist Clay Ross and bassist Kevin Hamilton. The band performed Tuesday night at CSPA Hall in Cedar Rapids, as part of the Landfall Festival of World Music, and also will perform tonight (9/14) at the Cedar Rapids Public Library and Friday afternoon (9/15) at NewBo City Market.