



TimeOut

Snap, crack, ,

Pop .

A new music fest focuses on the body as musical instrument

By Jim Harrington
STAFF WRITER

‘WHAT IS body music?” That’s a question Keith Terry, Oakland’s own body music champ, has heard many times. Sometimes he’ll answer verbally, explaining that the art form consists of clapping, stomping, singing and/or other musical displays made solely from using the body.

Other times he’ll provide a demonstration.

“If we are in the same room, I can show them,” he says. “Then they will immediately understand.”

He’s trying to duplicate that feat, on a much grander scale, as he hosts the inaugural International Body Music Festival this week in Oakland and San Francisco. The festival, which runs through Sunday, includes a full slate of concerts, workshops, lectures and demonstrations, featuring top performers from around the globe. Organizers hope it will go a long way to-

ward increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of body music in the Bay Area.

“It’s a fascinating art form,” says Terry, the founder of three acclaimed Bay Area body music troupes, Slammin All-Body Band, Crosspulse Percussion Ensemble and Professor Terry’s Circus Band Extraordinaire. “It’s the oldest form of music on the planet. Before we were making instruments, we were probably clapping and stomping.

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“It’s very accessible work. I think people see it and say, ‘Wow I could do that.’ People relate to it.”

Terry says he’s been dreaming of putting on this type of festival for five years. The dream got a boost earlier this year when he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, which he funneled toward putting on a festival.

Terry says he’s pleased with the lineup for this first outing, one that illustrates the wide breadth of styles that exists in

PREVIEW

■ **WHAT:** International Body Music Festival, featuring performances, demonstrations and workshops

■ **WHEN & WHERE:** 8 tonight at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland; 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. Sunday, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St., S.F.

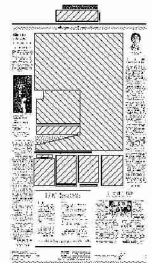
■ **TICKETS:** Prices vary per performance, contact 510-601-9797 and www.crosspulse.com.

■ **ONLINE:** See a video of body music performer Keith Terry demonstrating his skills on **Contra-CostaTimes.com** or **InsideBayArea.com**.

the genre and should squash any misconceptions that body music is a one-dimensional art form.

“We are all just dealing with the same instrument,” Terry remarks. “But there are so many different techniques in how we find the musicality.”

That range of techniques and sounds will be on full display at tonight’s event at the Oakland Museum of California. The lineup for this lecture/demonstration consists of Brazil’s Barbatuques, a 12-member “circle orchestra” that



performs samba and maracatu classics through vocalizing and body movements; the elegant folk-oriented KeKeCa, an ensemble that specializes in transforming traditional Turkish songs into body music; and Inuit throat singers Celina Kalluk and Lucie Idlout.

The two throat singers, who deal in the Inuit vocal games from Canada's Arctic territory of Nunavut, sound particularly interesting.

"It's different than Tuvan

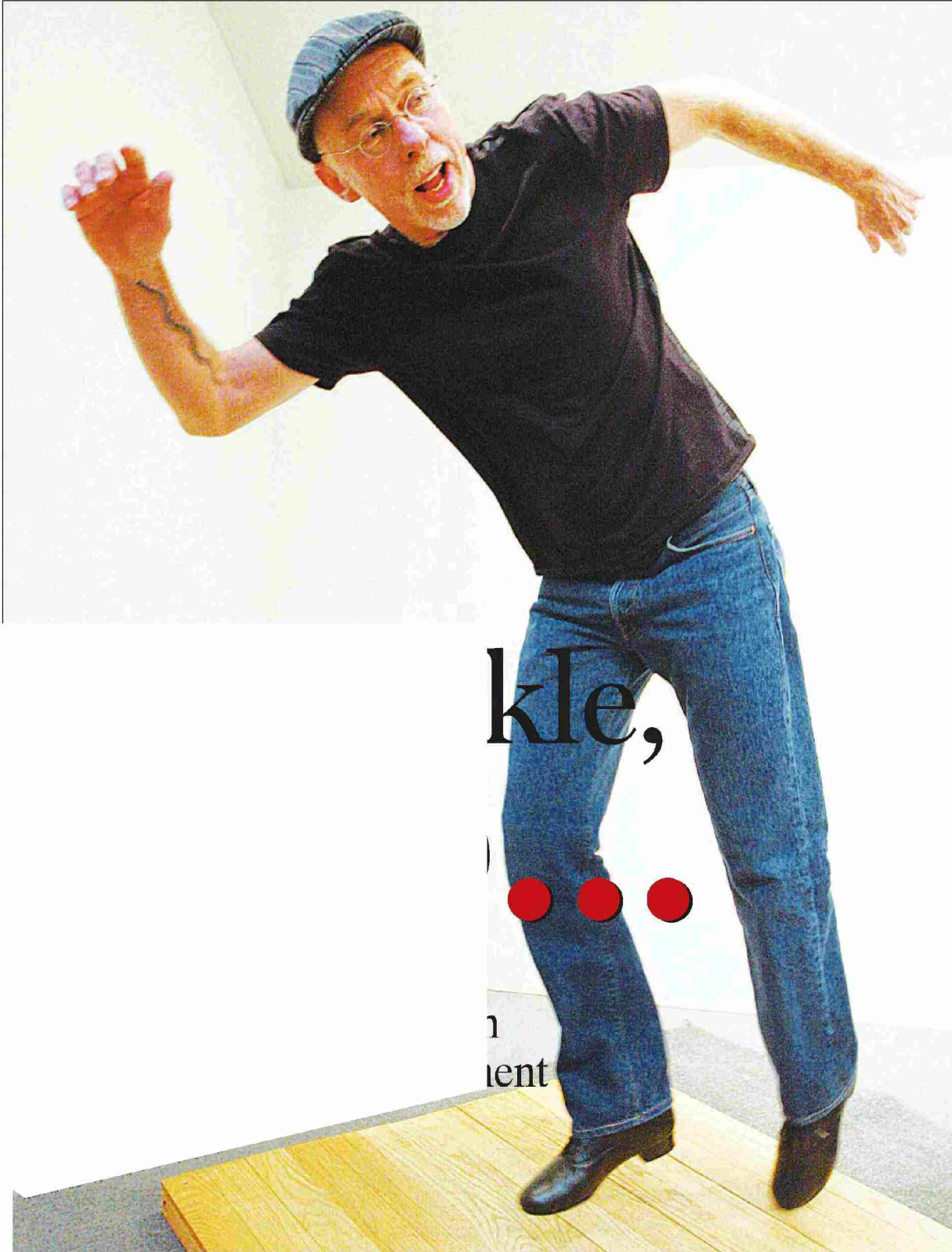
(throat singing), which many people know about," Terry says. "What they do is sing into each other's mouths, from about four inches apart, using the other person's mouth as a vocal resonator.

"It's a very old style, a traditional style. I've only seen it twice. It had such a profound effect on me that when I got around to putting together a festival, I said, 'We've got to have some of that.'"

In all, the festival will fea-

ture performers from Brazil, Indonesia, Turkey, Canada and other spots on the map, including, of course, the United States. Terry's own Slammin All-Body Band will take the stage as will other top U.S. acts such as "hambone" hero Sam McGrier.

Reach Jim Harrington at jharrington@bayareanewsgroup.com. Read his "Concert Blog" at www.ibabuzz.com/concerts.



JANE TYSKA/STAFF

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KEITH TERRY demonstrates the rhythms of body music at his home in Oakland.