

# METRO SPIRIT

## **Babatunde Bang!** **His rhythm is gonna get you**

by : Stacey Hudson



Babatunde Lea Quartet

If there's a word for a percussionist as versatile as Babatunde Lea, it hasn't been invented yet. This Bay Area musician who has worked with Pharoah Sanders and Van Morrison embodies earth and sky, spirit and body, fire and water. It's a transcendent Afro-Caribbean combination that heals the crippled and makes blind men see.

"Music is like oil and water," Lea said. "It does the bidding of who controls it; it has the power to open you up but it doesn't direct where you're gonna go once you're open."

In 2005, Babatunde won first prize in Adventurous Programming given by Chamber Music America/ASCAP and was voted best jazz artist by San Francisco Weekly.

*The Babatunde Lea Quartet will play at Augusta State University on Tuesday, March 20. Call 706-737-1400 or visit [myspace.com/babatundelea](http://myspace.com/babatundelea) or [aug.edu](http://aug.edu).*

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