



10:23

Michael Reed:

Our defending PIA Champions, Spirit of America (MA) will be next to defend their title with "Perpetual Cycles." The set is an elaborate olive/yellow floor with matching backdrops that have curvilinear symbols on them. There is a black object at the back of the floor with 4 human shapes in different colors on top, depicting a baby, youth, adult, and elderly person.

10:23

Michael Reed:

life is celebration of endless cycles of souls and stars swirling among paths of universe" is heard to set the stage at the beginning.

10:24

Alex Mendoza:

I gotta' say, even though A class is deemed as "basic", the emotional depth from some of these programs has made me laugh and pensive all at once.

10:25

Michael Reed:

Along the back, there is a dial on the 4 people on the object that is pointing to the youthful figure. The music is robust and full of vigor.

10:25

Michael Reed:

Now the dial has moved to the adult.

10:25

Alex Mendoza:

And seeing kids as young as they are in this ensemble performing with the same energy as people much older than them is nothing short of heart warming.

10:25

Michael Reed:

This is, I believe, on average the youngest line in the class.

10:26

Alex Mendoza:

Wow - what a gorgeous vocal moment. You can hear the voices fill the entire arena.

10:26

Michael Reed:

The dial moves to the elderly person, as the members wear black hoods, like the Grim Reaper without the scythe. The black object also moves and turns.

10:27

Michael Reed:

As old people don't move swiftly as they once did, so the music is an adagio pace.

10:28

Michael Reed:

After death, there is rebirth, as a banner reading "spring reborn fertilizer life" appears and the line is now clad in white. The dial on the object moves pointing to the baby crawling.

10:28

Michael Reed:

Some of these kids must be 10 years old or thereabouts.

10:28

Alex Mendoza:

These guys love their hand percussion features, and rightfully so - they perform with such energy you can't help but find yourself drawn. Especially to the lil' lads in the front ensemble rockin' the shakers.

10:29

Alex Mendoza:

This sounds a lot like the music of Vampire Weekend.

10:29

Michael Reed:

Excuse us while we stand. That was phenomenal.

10:30

Alex Mendoza:

Agreed. Watching kids that young perform at such a high level is always inspiring.

10:31

Alex Mendoza:

Text PIA10 to 71813 for Spirit of America Percussion Ensemble.