

# Pedro Espí-Sanchis



**Shows & Workshops  
on the theme of  
AFRICAN MUSIC**

*Tapes &  
Audio-  
Visuals*



**PEDRO ESPI-SANCHIS** has a number of shows, workshops and other productions on the theme of African music.

Pedro was born in Spain, went to school in France, and came to South Africa at the age of nineteen. That was when his study of African music began. Twenty-something years later, he has touched the lives of millions of people in this country with his enthusiasm for that music. He is a household name from his "Pedro the Music Man" series on television, and he sees an average of 7000 children a month in the course of his schools tours here and in neighbouring countries.

He recently spent five years training music teachers in Gazankulu, and he is actively involved in redesigning the music syllabus for schools in a changing South Africa. He is well-known also for his workshops, courses, radio recordings and story-tapes—all inspired by the magic of African music.

Pedro's work celebrates the spirit of community expressed in African music; and it carries the message that music-making can be accessible to everyone.

## — THE SHOWS —

### SHOWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



In his live shows, Pedro makes instruments on stage and demonstrates the almost magical range of sounds that even the simplest material can produce. He also incorporates social instruments, where each person plays only one note, and invites the audience to take part and discover the excitement of making communal music.

*Pedro has four shows on offer to schools:*

The first three are programmes of stories with music, designed for children of all ages. Some of the stories are traditional and some are Pedro's own originals. Making instruments and music the African way is an integral part of all the stories.

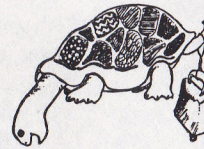
#### THE MAGIC LEKOLILO BIRD

A hyena who learns to sing; a lion who dances to kalimba music; a magic bird who knows the secret of the simplest flute; the smallest boy who finds the biggest voice ...



#### COWBELLS AND TORTOISE SHELLS

A tortoise in the Kalahari desert discovers the first flute; a crocodile gate-crashes a birthday party and discovers the joys of sweets and mbira music; a boy's hunting bow is transformed into a glorious musical instrument ...



#### ONE CHILD, ONE NOTE



Again the theme is African music and the medium is story-telling, but with a difference: here the children participate much more actively in the music-making. They are encouraged to explore found materials and make their own instruments in advance of the performance, so that they can contribute music and sound effects to the stories.

#### THE MUSIC OF AFRICA



This show was designed for senior primary and high school students, at the request of teachers who wanted a more in-depth introduction to African music. In this show Pedro introduces the basic principles of music-making in Africa. The instruments he plays in this show (with some help from the audience!) include cow-bells, kudu horns, paw-paw leaf flutes, a tortoise shell harp, mbiras, bows, xylophones, and more. The show deepens the audience's understanding of African music in the most entertaining way possible.

#### Some responses to the children's shows:

*"The principals spoke afterwards of spell-bound children hanging on your every word. You have a great gift as a story-teller and your musical illustrations are enchanting ... (these) coupled with the simple lessons in instrument-making, proved to be an irresistible combination"*

(Director of Educational Development, United Herzlia Schools, Cape Town)

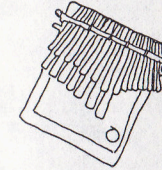
*"The children were enthralled and wished you could go on forever! You inspire the children to want to learn more about music, to want to make music, and to develop their respect for the music of other cultures."*

(Director of Children's Education, The Strybing Arboretum Society at San Francisco's Botanical Gardens)

*"Wonderful program; ... truly a gifted performer and teacher",*

(Curator of Education, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC)

## SHOWS FOR ADULTS



#### THE MUSIC OF AFRICA

The show described alongside, adapted for an adult audience.

#### ZAMBA DE MI ESPERANZA

In this cabaret show Pedro plays and sings a selection of songs from Africa, Brazil, South America, France and Spain. They have been selected from a vast repertoire as being of particular beauty and power, and the theme that binds them is the expression of hope and strength in the face of oppression and adversity.

Pedro accompanies his singing with virtuoso guitar-playing, and also plays a range of fascinating South American and African folk instruments.

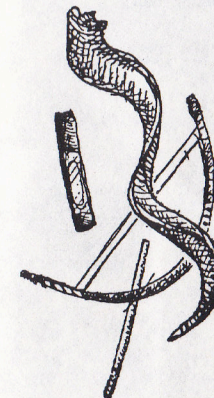


## — WORKSHOPS —

### WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENT TEACHERS

Pedro offers workshops for groups of teachers and students on the making and playing of African instruments. These can be arranged in many different forms to suit the institution concerned. The workshop series is structured to give the participants a practical, first-hand knowledge of the music, with the emphasis on group co-operation and fun.

The instruments featured in these workshops are listed overleaf.



*"The presentations were of outstanding quality and were both highly entertaining and educational. We are convinced that all students and teachers who attended have been truly inspired"*

(Retha Louise Hofmeyer, Director of Arts, Namibian Ministry of Education)

## WORKSHOPS WITH CHILDREN LEADING TO A PERFORMANCE OF AFRICAN MUSIC

In a series of five workshops a group of children, under Pedro's guidance, work on a repertoire of African music. The emphasis is on communal music, where each child contributes a different part to the polyrhythmic whole. The experience of hearing a complex, melodic piece of music emerge from the weaving together of simple parts is very exciting for the players and for the audience.

THE INSTRUMENTS to be featured in the teachers' and the children's workshops include several of the following:

- the Amadinda xylophone (a large xylophone from Uganda played by 3 people)
- Makondere horns (kudu horns from central Africa)
- Zwingelengele cow bells (from Gazankulu, S. Africa)
- Tshikona pipes (a one-person-one-note reed pipe ensemble from Venda)
- drum ensembles
- bows (resonated by calabash or mouth, from southern Africa)
- Xipotoliyo (a set of ocarinas made from a hard-shelled fruit, from Venda)
- Batacada percussion (percussion ensemble from the Brazilian carnival)

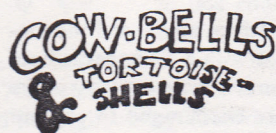
## STORY-TAPES FOR CHILDREN

*All the story-tapes are approximately one hour long:*

# The Children's Carnival

A village in Africa is famous for its annual carnival, the highlight of which is the music of the village band. Disaster strikes one year when all the instruments are burned in a fire . . . This is the story of how the village children, helped by the magic Lekolilo Bird, discover how to make their own African instruments and save the carnival.

A python who is a famous doctor . . .  
a lion who dances to music . . .  
a hyena who learns to sing . . .  
a crocodile who loves sweets . . . !!  
These stories from Zimbabwe, told by Pedro were recorded live with the children of the Peace Club in Giyani.



Four African adventures in which greedy hunters, tyrannical chiefs, tortoise-tears and other problems are overcome . . . with music !

## SLIDE-&-TAPE PROGRAMMES

Pedro has produced slide and tape programmes on various African instruments, which show in detail how the instruments are constructed by traditional crafts-people, and how and where they are played. These programmes are designed to support displays of African instruments in museums, and copies of these audio-visuals have been purchased by several museums in South Africa.

**THE NGOMA DRUM** — This programme documents the making of one of these very important and beautiful drums from Venda.

**THE TIMBILA XYLOPHONE** — This programme shows the making of one of these exquisitely crafted xylophones, which are used in big ensembles by the Chopi in Mocambique.

**THE XIZAMBI BOW** — This programme illustrates one of Africa's most versatile and powerful mouth-resonated bows, made and played by the Shangaan people.

*A fourth programme deals with a non-musical subject:*

**THE POTTERS OF MASHAMBA** — The road running through the Mashamba village in Venda is lined with pyramids of traditional pots. This programme offers a profile of one of the oldest potters in the village, Sarah Mpolayeni. It shows her art from the first step to the last.

**BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES TO :**

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