

TEKEE MEDIA INC.



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MAIN AIMS OF TEKEE MEDIA

“Our program asks, indirectly, fundamental questions about power, privilege and human rights”.

- The performance and presentation of serious art music in a multi-media concert format which also delivers a message, particularly with regard to Social Justice. The works are apolitical, setting the human rights issues in relief, and are aimed at having strong general appeal and empathy with the issues raised.
- Through the concerts, to promote discussion of major conflicts, thus contributing to the service of peace.

- To continue to work within the educational environment at primary, secondary and tertiary levels in

Australia, and around the World, to promote cross-cultural and social awareness, understanding and appreciation amongst young people in particular.

BACKGROUND:

Tekee Media is primarily a music-based organisation whose members internationally-renowned composer: Martin Wesley-Smith and clarinettist Ros Dunlop - have travelled and performed extensively on the international concert circuit. The concerts have a central focus around social justice and human rights issues, and are multimedia performances.

In the course of this work, they travelled to and presented concerts twice in East Timor in 2002, and this project is a product of those memorable trips. They are now committed to helping the East Timorese revive their indigenous music and to put it to practical contemporary use through the education system in East Timor, and in schools presentations throughout Australia, creating cultural exchanges and exploiting existing historical bonds between the two countries.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE MUSIC RECOVERY PROJECT “TEKEE TOKEE TOMAK” (Let’s All Get Together!)

Timor has had an exceptional musical tradition which was damaged by the repression of occupation. It is a source of identity, for the spiritual and cultural growth of the new nation.

This project is about finding, recording and transcribing the traditional music of East Timor; creating musical programmes for use within Timorese schools based on this traditional music, promoting the players of traditional music and nursing a living link with the past which is a precious resource not only for

East Timor but for nations across the Pacific region with this common heritage.

This project will fulfil identified needs amongst both the Timorese and the Australian schools’ communities. East Timor is Australia’s closest and poorest neighbour. There is a long history between the two countries and much interest in the Australian community about East Timor. Research and preliminary work has unearthed a desire and a need in curricula in East Timorese (and Australian) primary and secondary schools to develop a cultural program about East Timor, particularly in relation to the music, songs and associated folklore.

THE OVERARCHING AIMS OF THE PROJECT “TEKEE TOKEE TOMAK” ARE:

- To assist the people of East Timor in their quest for nation-building, particularly with regard to the recovery of their music culture and history, both of which were repressed during the 25 years of Indonesian occupation.
- To contribute to the rediscovery of, and to record, the traditional songs, stories and music of East Timor,
- To create awareness and enrich the educational life of young Timorese through the development of a sustainable music curriculum based on the traditional music of East Timor.
- Development of film documentaries on the music and related stories from all 13 districts for screening to communities throughout East Timor.

Tekee Media Inc has also been collecting and restoring musical instruments for the Timorese over the past 4 years and has amassed over 40 violins and guitars which are now with musicians and educators in East Timor. They continue to do this.

The genesis for this project came about in the course of Tekee Media's first tour of East Timor in 2002. Using Ros' personal experience of developing and running children's musical classes in Australia and of working closely with the Mary McKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies, Ros initially developed a programme of western children's songs translated into Tetum (first language of East Timor).

However, it quickly became apparent that the indigenous songs, music and folklore must form a large part of the material being developed for schools. Therefore, and on a preliminary basis, Tekee Media – in partnership with various individuals and organisations in East Timor – embarked on the first stages of researching, sourcing, recording and transcribing some of the indigenous songs of East Timor.

In Australia, some of the material recorded has been presented to various education interest groups and there has been considerable interest and praise for this achievement, with many commenting that it is especially timely (if not overdue) considering that East Timor is such a close neighbour of Australia and a dispossessed nation for so long. There is particular interest from Australian educators in the subject material as it is pertinent to curriculum in geography and HSIE in Secondary and primary education.



THE BENEFICIARIES

The principal beneficiaries are

- * The East Timorese, (musicians, music teachers, school children and the general community); and
- * Young Australians (particularly school-aged students), their teachers, and the broader educational community.

The main partner in this project on the East Timor side is CAMSTL (Cento Audiovisual Max Stahl Timor Leste) the Max Stahl Active Archive & Cultural Resource Centre, which provides research in East Timor, translations and transcriptions of material discovered, professional directorial and audiovisual expertise, materials and guidance, and logistical / production management.

Education organisations including the Ministries of Education and Culture in Timor Leste, the Catholic Teachers' College in Baucau, the Baucau Directorate of Education, Caritas in Oeucussi, the Mary Mackillop Institute of East Timorese Studies; Bishop Riccardo of Dili, and cultural community leaders from the 13 districts.

MEMBERS OF TEKEE MEDIA INC:

Ros Dunlop is one of Australia's leading clarinetists, especially of contemporary repertoire, and she is a strong advocate for the cause of new music for the clarinet for most of her professional life. She has premiered many new compositions for clarinet and has had many written especially for her. She has performed throughout Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, East Timor and the USA. Her solo CDs are internationally acclaimed. With composer Martin Wesley-Smith she has toured many times internationally performing predominantly Australian compositions. She teaches clarinet at the

Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She gives cultural presentations in schools in Australia about East Timor.

Martin Wesley-Smith is one of Australia's best-known composers and multimedia artists. He is an eclectic composer, at home in a diverse range of idioms. Like Ros, Martin's work has been seen and heard throughout the world. Two main themes dominate his music: the life, work and ideas of Lewis Carroll (e.g. the chamber piece Snark-Hunting, the choral piece Songs for Snark-Hunters, and the full-length choral music theatre piece [Boojum!](#)); and the plight of the people of East Timor (e.g. Kdadalak For the Children of Timor and VENCEREMOS!). One of his pieces - for Marimba & Tape - is the most-performed piece of Australian so-called "serious art-music". For many years Director of the Electronic Music Studio at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Wesley-Smith is now a full-time composer.

