

HENNIE BEKKER ~ A LIFELONG JOURNEY OF TIMELESS MUSICAL EXPRESSION

The musical genius of Hennie Bekker deeply reflects the diverse facets of New Age Music with the release of his newest album entitled ***Spectrum – An Anthology of Relaxing Instrumental Music***. ***Spectrum*** encompasses some of Bekker's most significant instrumental works, embodying a melodic array of various musical genres. This epic compilation truly showcases Bekker's strength as a multi-genre artist, featuring fourteen soothing tracks from eleven of his memorable New Age inspired albums. From echoing soundscapes of the mystical African jungle, to romantic piano and modern ambient sounds, ***Spectrum*** shines as a colorful celebration of Bekker's lifelong journey of timeless musical expression.

Hennie Bekker is an award-winning, multi-platinum-selling musician, master composer and arranger whose international career spans decades, cultures, generations and genres. Bekker is best known for his New Age sound on Dan Gibson's ***Solitudes – Exploring Nature with Music*** series, and his own ***Kaleidoscopes***, ***African Tapestries***, and ***Hennie Bekker's Tranquility*** album series. He was also a creative force behind BKS, one of Canada's most successful techno/dance bands.

Bekker was raised in Mufulira, a Zambian copper mining town 10 miles south of the Congo border. His young spirit was captivated by the symphonic sounds of the African wilderness, the haunting harmonies of tribal chanting, and the rhythmic dialogue of drummers communicating between mining camps at sundown. Bekker began playing music at a very young age and spent eight years performing with various bands throughout Zambia, South Africa, Congo and Zimbabwe, finally settling in Johannesburg, South Africa.

There he formed several bands bearing his name, and his success as a musician and bandleader elevated him to become a musical director for Gallo Record Company, and later for Teal (a Polygram company). Bekker went on to produce and arrange countless works for many well-known South African artists. He also released a handful of solo albums on various labels including His Master's Voice, EMI, and Gallo.

Having successfully established himself in South Africa's flourishing music industry, Bekker, looking for new challenges, took his skills to England to further explore his thriving musical career. There, along with producer Emil Zoghby, Bekker arranged, conducted and co-produced albums for such notable artists as Freddie Cole, Magna Carta and legendary British pianist Stanley Black. In 1980 Bekker returned to South Africa, adding film scores, music for television, radio and hundreds of commercials to his discography.

In 1987, Bekker immigrated to Canada. A steady stream of commercial and stock-music work eventually led him to ***Solitudes***[™], where he composed ambient melodies to compliment Dan Gibson's nature sounds. Bekker and Gibson collaborated on the first fourteen ***Solitudes - Exploring Nature With Music*** albums, many of which have since sold gold, platinum, double and triple platinum volumes.

Having established himself as a top Environmental / New Age composer, Bekker went on to compose, arrange and produce several solo series of soothing, meditative, nature-inspired albums. In his ***Kaleidoscopes*** and ***Tranquility*** series, he applied his signature style to original songs, capturing the essence of moods, memories and seasons, and incorporated his unique interpretations of familiar classics, carols and lullabies on various albums. Bekker's renowned ***African Tapestries*** series pays homage to his homeland and is a masterful fusion of New Age and World music interwoven with the diverse sounds of the African wilderness.

Bekker's versatility was demonstrated yet again by his innovative techno work with the band BKS, which produced a string of progressive hits popular in the contemporary club scene. Collaborating with Greg Kavanagh and Chris Sheppard, Bekker and his electronic wizardry struck a chord with DJs and the youth market as they toured North America and climbed the Billboard dance charts. Among other accolades, BKS's ***Astroplane*** won the 1997 Juno award for Best Dance Recording.

Bekker's impressive discography encompasses over sixty albums and over a thousand works he has either composed or arranged, or to which he has contributed his musical genius. He is a master of musical technology, using the full resources of his state-of-the-art studio to blend, stretch, layer and enhance his core sounds. Bekker is a prolific professional who is constantly creating, exploring and recording auditory portraits that captivate a wide audience. Be it a solo or collaborative effort, an original or interpretive piece, a conventional or inventive track, Bekker's artistry will continue to inspire worldwide.

Promotion by:

Ed & Stacey Bonk

LAZZ Promotions

lazzpromotions@rogers.com

Tel: 1.905.470.1230 | Fax: 1.905.470.7771

henniebekker.com