



HENNIE BEKKER | BIOGRAPHY - www.henniebekker.com

From a copper mining town in Zambia to the urban metropolis of Toronto, Hennie Bekker's music is as diverse as the places of his past. The Juno Award winner and multi-platinum-selling artist's eclectic career spans decades, continents, generations and genres - from world music to electronica and smooth jazz to relaxation. His musical evolution led him to become a leading composer and arranger for film and television, as well as one of the most respected figures in South African music. Bekker is the pioneer in the combination of nature sounds with music and a master of ambient and New Age.

Hennie's journey through life plays like an epic silver screen adventure. His musical career began at age 15, when he -- a self-taught pianist -- debuted on the jazz club circuit in Southern Africa, and then quickly became the leading figure on the fusion-jazz scene. Over the next decade, he traveled throughout the Congo, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, performing with various bands. Bekker eventually settled in Johannesburg, becoming the musical director for one of Africa's largest record companies.

The trans-global journey continued, and in the early 80s, Hennie moved to London, England, where he produced, composed and arranged for artists such as Freddie Cole, Magna Carta and Stanley Black. Fueled by the need to be re-inspired by his surroundings, Bekker and his family moved in the late 80s to Toronto, Canada, where his career as a recording artist truly took flight.

Drawing on his expansive musical skills, Hennie became the sound behind Solitudes' multi-platinum music series - "Exploring Nature with Music". Later, driven by his unquenchable creative thirst, Bekker composed "Spring Rain", the first of his "Kaleidoscopes" series, in which he weaves a musical tapestry from within the majestic rhythms of the four seasons. Releasing the "Tranquility" series, he solidified his position as one of the most prolific relaxation and electronic composers in the world. But his roots still had to emerge through his music, and they did with the best-selling "Temba", a musical journey through Southern Africa. With beautiful melodies, haunting drums and tribal rhythms, "Temba" would lay the foundation for the highly successful "African Tapestries" series - his tribute to his homeland, which includes "The Smoke That Thunders", "Kusasa" "Jabula" and "Amani".

Hennie's natural ability to make music that calms the soul and lifts the listener to a state of relaxation shone through in many of his albums. This was an obvious stepping-stone to compose stress relief music, with the "Classical Tapestries" series featuring "Relaxing Pachelbel", "The Four Seasons" and "The Classics". Continuing his evolution, he released "Spa", a benchmark for the genre. "Exotic Spa", raising the bar even higher, followed.

Abbeywood recording artist Hennie Bekker continues to be inspired by what surrounds him, composing new releases for 2009 to add to his catalogue of over 45 albums, which includes 10 platinum and six gold CD's, and a top ten single - Juno Award for Best Dance Recording - with the innovative, chart topping techno/house group, BKS. Getting back to the live stage is Bekker's next adventure, bringing the sights and sounds of his world of music directly to his audience.