

ZUNZUN PRESS RELEASE

ZunZun is a performing arts group that celebrates the environments and cultures of the Americas through music. They are multi-instrumentalists, who during their performance use as many as **25 different instruments**. Most of the instruments are of Latin American origin. Their performances translate well into a vast array of theaters, festivals, schools and other venues, always creating an inspirational atmosphere for all ages. They are available as a duo or backed by a three-piece rhythm section.

Their performance style is unique in that each performance utilizes physical comedy, audience participation and their fine musicianship. This makes for a very lively show that involves the audience immediately. Audiences everywhere give ZunZun the highest acclaim for its integrity, energy and artistic quality. They write much of their own music and have made 6 recordings. Their first two albums, “Flabbergasted” and “Sea Land and Sky” made specifically for families, have **won international awards** such as Best Multilingual Album- Children’s Music Web 1999 and Best Album for older Children 2001- Children’s Music Web. In 2003 two new recordings “Hammock Songs” and “Water Music” will be released. All recordings are in English and Spanish.

ZunZun has been very active in the environmental field, specifically in environmental education. They have created shows about water pollution, recycling, rainforests, watersheds, oceans, endangered animals and water conservation. They have worked with World Wildlife Fund, United States Peace Corps, Watershed Watch, The Recycling group (TRG), Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and County water districts and solid waste departments throughout California.

ZunZun received the Calabash Award in Santa Cruz county for excellence in the multicultural arts in 2001 and in 1997 was co-recipient of Bravo television’s national “Arts For Change Award” for their residency work with the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council “Community Youth Arts Project.” They are featured performers with the California Arts Council, Music Center of Los Angeles, Young Audiences of Silicon Valley, Young Audiences of the Bay Area, Arts Northwest, Western Arts Alliance and many Cultural Councils throughout California. They have performed on international television and radio.

They have been keynote speakers and presented seminars for numerous environmental and educational conferences throughout the Americas emphasizing their work in the environment, multicultural education and music education. They have taught classes in pre-school through high school, and have taught Latin American music classes at the University of California Santa Cruz. They have teaching credentials and Masters Degrees in Education.

ZunZun Information

- Performed in 14 countries
- Play over twenty-five instruments
- Touring Roster for California Arts Council
- 3 nationally distributed recordings.
- Won international “Children’s Music Web Awards” in 2001(Best Album For Older Children) and 1998(Best Multilingual Album)
- Winner of Calabash Excellence in Multicultural Arts Award 2001
- Winner of “Bravo Arts For Change Award” 1997

Residencies and Workshops

ZunZun, Stephen Snyder and Gwynne Snyder Cropsey, are professional musicians and credentialed teachers with over ten years residency experience, specifically in environmental education and music. We have worked as artists in residence for all ages, from elementary age to university age, and have taught Latin American musical ensembles at University California Santa Cruz. We have performed and taught in thirteen Latin American countries, and Stephen has a master in Environmental Education.

Panpipe-Zampona

ZunZun does single day workshop and multi-day residencies in the teaching of panpipes or *Zampona* playing. These residencies are for up to thirty people and will be in technique and performance of original and Andean songs. Percussion instruments will be included in workshop song construction, and **emphasis is on final performance** of songs in a public space (School, retirement community, community park).

Recycled Instruments-Basura Batucada

Out of everyday materials we construct instruments of Brazilian origin to perform a *Batucada* percussion song. This is a two-hour workshop and will include materials found at the workshop site. Can be done in conjunction with a “clean up” activity in a park, beach, stream etc.

Environmental Songs-La Tierra Canta

This workshop or residency emphasizes the use of instruments to evoke environmental landscapes. Using a wide variety of instruments from throughout the world, as well as voice, we will demonstrate how to create songs that capture elements of the environment (rain, wind, animal sounds) that will enhance any environmental themed song.

No musical Experience is required for these programs!!!

ZunZun Tech Requirements

Performance Space-20 feet length (minimum)
10 feet width (minimum)

Electrical outlets
1 small table
bottle of water for each performer

If we do not provide our own sound system, which we can provide for smaller venues we will need;

Duo
3 vocal microphones
3 instrument microphones
1 direct line

5-piece band
3 vocal microphones
2 direct lines
7 instrument microphones

We bring our own self-supporting backdrop, which are 12 feet long and 6 feet high.

ZunZun Shows

Music of the America-*Musica De Las Americas*

ZunZun takes the audience on a musical journey through diverse environments and cultures of the Americas. Performing on over twenty-five instruments, ZunZun brings to life the rich traditions of Africa, Europe and Native Americans, which came together in the Americas to create unique musical illustrations of the diverse landscapes encountered there. Heavy on audience participation, this is our most popular show. Music in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Songs of the Sea- *Canta El Mar*

ZunZun brings to life landscapes of the sea, through musical creations utilizing a wide variety of folkloric instruments from the Americas. Topics include sea turtles, ocean pollution, salmon, octopus, tide pools and lives of fisher people. Like the migrating whales, we travel along the coast of the Americas celebrating our ocean planet.

The Musical Rainforest- *La Selva Musical*

ZunZun has spent many years in the rainforests of the Americas and brought back stories and songs about the incredible diversity of life encountered there. Utilizing such instruments as authentic birdcalls from the Amazon, percussion instruments from Brazil, and panpipes from the Andes, ZunZun creates with the help of the audience, the sights and sounds of the Rainforests .

Recycled Music-*Basura Batucada*

This show emphasizes the importance of recycling. ZunZun performs on instruments of the Americas created in their native cultures with recycled materials, such as the steel drum (Trinidad) and the *marimbula* (Cuba). Audiences participate in creating a “batucada” or samba band using recycled garbage, and are encouraged to become innovative in their perspectives on recycling.

Watersongs-A Journey through Watersheds-*Musica del Agua*

The purpose of this show is to familiarize young audiences with the interconnectedness of waterways. From their neighborhoods storm drains to the local creeks and eventually to the sea, this show will cover such topics as conservation, water pollution, habitat and recycling. This show is very active, fun and as always filled with music on a variety of instruments from around the world.

All shows can be done bilingually (Spanish-English)

All shows rely on audience participation

Study guides are available for all programs