



SOUTH AFRICA

→ PAN JAZZ PROJECT

➔ In March 2008, 45 musicians travelled to Cape Town, South Africa to give music performances as part of The South Africa Panjazz Project. **This unique project brings together musicians from Portchester and Brookfield schools in Hampshire, UK, Portchester Panyard and Sounds of Steel, Art Asia, and four schools in the Western Cape, South Africa.** Tutors from the UK set up music projects in 2007, including a panyard in the Western Cape, and the 2008 tour saw 100 singers, steel pan players and jazz musicians performing together at 12 venues in the Western Cape for the first time. Our South African partners

come from a number of Townships, and professional South African musicians also performed with the project. The South Africa Panjazz Project comprises three music groups - an International steel orchestra, jazz orchestra, and the fusion of these genres - Panjazz.

The project has been able to develop further, since Art Asia took a keen interest in late 2007. The support, enthusiasm and expertise of tabla maestro, Sanju Sahai, Sarod player, Dr Rajeeb Chakraborty and Vinod Desai have added a vital ingredient to the project. Our Bollywood performances in the Southampton Mela festival are

testament to this new partnership.

So what of the future? We hope to further develop our relationship with communities in the townships, and are looking to return to Cape Town in 2010 for the World Cup finals and then to the UK in 2012 for the Olympic games. Panjazz can bring International communities together through high-quality music making, a powerful vehicle for change and community development. Look at our website: www.sapanjazz.org to find out more.

By Pete Beadell



PORTCHESTER INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2008

➔ Every year in July, Portchester Community School near Portsmouth hosts its International Arts Festival. Portchester is a Performing Arts College, home to Portchester Panyard and Sounds of Steel. Over 200 community members use Portchester for steel pan classes on a weekly basis throughout the year. The Arts Festival offers an opportunity for performances and workshops by our Junior, Secondary, Adult education and Community steel bands. As well as providing a pan centre for the local community, Portchester is also an outreach facility, employing pan tutors to work in schools throughout the region. Regular festival days

afford the opportunity for school steel bands to work and learn together.

We have been really fortunate this year to host an 8-day visit by musicians from Graeme College, South Africa. Sixteen pan players from Graeme College worked with members of Portchester Panyard, Sounds of Steel and Shirelands Collegiate Academy in Birmingham giving 8 performances in 6 days, as part of the South Africa Panjazz Project. The final festival community concert on Friday 11 July, in front of a capacity audience of 700, saw performances by over 100 members of Portchester Panyard in 6 different pan groups. Sounds of Steel joined forces with



a 130 strong festival choir including the Graeme College group for a performance of "Shosholoza", a real "tour de force". The partnership with South Africa continues

to grow and there are now plans for a new partnership between Art Asia, Sounds of Steel and projects in India.

By Pete Beadell