

Putumayo World Music Profile

Putumayo World Music was established in 1993 to introduce people to the music of the world's cultures. The label grew out of the Putumayo clothing company, founded by Dan Storper in 1975 and sold in 1997. In the past fifteen years, the record label has become known primarily for its upbeat and melodic compilations of great international music characterized by the company's motto: "guaranteed to make you feel good!"

Putumayo's CD covers feature the distinctive art of **Nicola Heindl**, whose colorful, folkloric style represents one of the company's goals: to connect the traditional and the contemporary. By combining appealing music and visuals with creative retail marketing, Putumayo has developed a unique brand identity, a rarity in today's artist-based music industry.

Putumayo is considered a pioneer and leader in developing the non-traditional market. A large portion of its target audience consists of "**Cultural Creatives**," a sociological term for 50 million North Americans and millions more around the world with an interest in culture, travel and the arts. To reach these consumers, Putumayo has built a proprietary network of more than 3,000 book, gift, clothing, coffee and other specialty retailers in the US and thousands more internationally that play and sell its CDs, in addition to maintaining a strong presence in record stores.

Dan Storper's vision of establishing a global company and lifestyle brand is being furthered by CD distribution in more than 100 countries. The opening of **Putumayo Europe** in the Netherlands in 2000 enabled the company to connect with the European music and retail scene. The expansion of **Putumayo International** has also extended the label's presence in South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The company now has offices in 10 countries around the world.

The **Putumayo Kids** division was created to introduce children to other cultures through fun, upbeat world music. Since the release of the best-selling **World Playground** CD in 1999, Putumayo Kids has established itself as one of the leading children's record labels in the world, winning critical acclaim and honors from **Parents' Choice Awards**, the **National Parenting Publications Association** and others. With its growing collection of albums and multicultural activity kits, Putumayo Kids provides children with upbeat, melodic and culturally authentic music, enhanced by educational liner notes.

Putumayo also launched the **Putumayo World Music Hour** in 2000. The first commercially-syndicated world music radio show, it is now heard internationally on more than 150 commercial and non-commercial stations. Periodically, Putumayo presents thematic tours in conjunction with its CD releases. **Acoustic Africa**, a CD and successful international tour in 2006 featured **Habib Koité**, **Vusi Mahlasela** and **Dobet Gnahoré**. Putumayo Kids has produced several thematic tours between 2006 and 2010.

The company's commitment to helping communities in the countries where the music originates has led to the label contributing more than \$1 million dollars to worthwhile non-profit organizations around the world. Charitable recipients include **Coffee Kids**, **Oxfam**, **Mercy Corps**, **Amnesty International** and many more.

As international markets and consumer awareness of world music grow, Putumayo continues to develop creative ways to present exciting music from around the world that is underexposed in the mainstream media. Please visit **www.putumayo.com** for more information, news and updates on Putumayo World Music, its releases and events.

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