

SOUNDS OF THE EARTH FROM PARAGUAY

[Sonidos de la Tierra](#) is an outstanding education music program, created and directed by the master of music [Luis Szarán](#) and which develops in Paraguay. In ten years of operation, the program has managed to involve 14 000 children and youth from 172 communities of Paraguay.

In the program, annually 4,000 young people also refine their musical talents in music schools and philharmonic associations. Youth who show an interest and ability are addressed to special academic programs through a system of grants in formal conservatories. Young people who have participated in *Sonidos de la Tierra* program now cover the 30 % of the seats in the symphony orchestra of Paraguay.



Sonidos de la Tierra was created in 2002 as a program of social integration through music. It aims to combat youth violence enabling young people to access new opportunities to start a career as musicians. The program operates by creating schools of music, choral and orchestral groups, cultural organizations, lutherie workshops and providing musical leaders fellowships.

On the web site of *Sonidos de la Tierra* there is a [videos review](#) featuring different aspects of this innovative program.

Another extraordinary aspect of this initiative is promoting the participation of a large numbers of young people to the program, taking into account the high cost of conventional instruments and providing musical instruments made by local craftsmen with solid waste. Soda cans, canning and oil, old pipes, pans and funnels: any solid residue is useful in the manufacture of soundboards, pipes, bridges. The workshop *Sonidos de la Tierra* has more than 700 pieces of lutherie between flutes, guitars, violins, cellos, double basses and percussion instruments, while providing an activity for parents and children in manufacturing instruments and supplying musicologists and technical advice.

Luis Szaran describes the beginning of the project: “....*The initial idea was to keep the kids busy so they would be the shortest time possible in this highly contaminated (by garbage) environment. We had many children playing in the orchestra of the place but missing musical instruments. In parallel we organized a workshop about building guitars from wooden packaging that exists on the site and that is deposited by large import companies. With these woods hundreds of guitars were made and sent to different farmer towns (more than 20% of the total project instruments are produced in the country). As we had no money to buy violins,*



one day Don Kola came with one made from an old pan, a fork and other organic wastes. We all laughed because it seemed like a joke. However, the music teacher said: at the moment it can be useful in the first violin lessons! And he tried it...

The cultural associations in *Sonidos de la Tierra* Network cover more than 50 % of the annual budget of the program. The difference is fed by donations from international organizations and sponsorship of private companies.

Sonidos de la Tierra has received several prestigious awards. Luis Szarán, for example, was named [Social Entrepreneur by the Skoll Foundation](#) in 2005. In June 2013, the Senate of the Republic of Paraguay gave the Sounds of Earth a "Medal for Innovation, Creativity and Scientific Research".

The wonderful promotional campaign *When there's music history changes* launched in Paraguay, with its striking murals and pictures, is approaching always more younger to the program.

The Orchestra of *Sonidos de la Tierra* has also raised considerable international interest and has been invited to musical performances in Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Czech Republic and Panama. The program has also been replicated in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Germany and India.

To know more

[Sitio web de Sonidos de la Tierra](#)

[Sitio web del Maestro Szarán](#)

[Sonidos de la Tierra en youtube](#)

[Video Sonidos de la Tierra en youtube](#)

[Video Sonidos de la Tierra CNN Paraguay](#)

[Artículo en la web Skoll Foundation](#)

[Artículo en Nanduti](#)

[Artículo en Laberintos Musicales](#)

[Artículo en radiotvsanmiguel](#)

[Artículo en la revista argexpress](#)

[Artículo en lamula.pe](#)

