



Ludwig Pesch  
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Ludwig Pesch is best known as musicologist and educator committed to intercultural dialogue through music.<sup>1</sup>

After studies in Freiburg and Chennai he researched alternatives to the conceptions on learning and teaching prevailing at that time. He succeeded in charting out paths of his own whereby continuous *learning from and with one another* has always stood central.

His books<sup>2</sup> “are among the most widely consulted books on Indian music in English [written] in a style that does not intimidate the lay reader”.<sup>3</sup> Since then he was invited to contribute to exhibition catalogues, reference works, educational material and scholarly journals.

In 1995 he settled in Amsterdam – a city known not just for its cultural diversity but also for the way it facilitates an exploration of the very meaning of *progress*.

Since then he has been invited to share his experiences in many countries: contributing to museum exhibitions,<sup>4</sup> school events, as guest lecturer (universities, conservatories and teacher training programmes), and during international conferences.<sup>5</sup>

As guest lecturer and curator he contributed to major festivals (e.g. Festivals of India in Brussel and Amsterdam, Salzburger Festspiele).<sup>6</sup>

Among his not-for-profit commitments are two educational websites.<sup>7</sup>

*No doubt, a price has to be paid for anything worth while:  
to redirect technology so that it serves man instead of destroying him  
requires primarily an effort of the imagination  
and an abandonment of fear.*

E.F. Schumacher<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Awards: *Rabindranath Tagore Kulturpreis & Cross of the Order of Merit* conferred for outstanding contributions to cultural relations between India and Germany

<sup>2</sup> “The most thorough study of Carnatic music is by Ludwig Pesch.” – Historian of religions and musicologist Guy L. Beck in *Hinduism and Music* (OXFORD HANDBOOKS ONLINE , 2014); for details, see [worldcat.org](http://worldcat.org) and [archive.org](http://archive.org)

<sup>3</sup> S.R. Ramakrishna, [themusicmagazine.com](http://themusicmagazine.com), Bangalore, July 2003. For details, see his publications on [worldcat.org](http://worldcat.org). His reference work The Oxford Illustrated Companion to South Indian Classical Music has found readers all over the world on account of its “lucid style ... fine sensitivity to subtleties”.

<sup>4</sup> Round and About India:“(Tropenmuseum); LinkedIn feedback: “Ludwig is a detail-oriented ethnomusicologist who has the capacity to think outside the limits of science. He is dedicated to true but also entertaining education methods, and has eye for the combination of science and pleasure.” – Collection researcher Daan van Dartel

<sup>5</sup> e.g. International Society for Music Education; feedback Paul Christiansen (School of Music, University of Southern Maine) on a lecture recital co-presented at the International Congress Music | Musics. Structures and Processes at Goettingen University: “Your collaboration is, I think, an inspiration to many. The presentation you both gave was the highlight of the conference for me.”

<sup>6</sup> Tropenmuseum Amsterdam, Museum Rietberg Zürich, Festivals of India in Brussels (Paleis voor Schone Kunsten Bozar), Amsterdam (Concertgebouw) and “Raum für Ideen? Zeit zum Spiel! Zum Sinn eines unbefangenen Umgangs mit der klassischen Musik Indiens” for Ouverture Spirituelle der Salzburger Festspiele 2015

<sup>7</sup> Carnaticstudent.org – e-learning “for students and music lovers of Carnatic music” (originally developed in collaboration with Lueneburg University in Germany, since then also in the service of *lifelong learning*); and Indiantribalheritage.org “Showcasing new initiatives in education” (inspired by a fundamental commitment to *human rights* by India’s founding fathers); an interdisciplinary and collaborative effort given the multiple challenges of *climate change* and *biodiversity loss* faced by both, rural and urban communities all over the world: “We need indigenous communities for a better world” – Unesco International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2023[

<sup>8</sup> *Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered* (concluding remarks, ch. “Technology with a Human Face”)