

# MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad



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### *La Cancion Criolla*

With the death of the famous Peruvian Criolla musician, Arturo "Zambo" Cavero, at the beginning of October and *el día de la canción criolla* (the day of Criolla song) occurring on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, it seems only right to look at this topic this month. While *Criolla* music is not for all tastes, and its popularity is not so strong these days, with other musical styles having become more popular, it is nevertheless an important part of Peruvian music history and the development of its entertainment industry.

*Musica criolla* is one of many musical styles found in Peru today, and combines African, Spanish and Andean influences.



Throughout Spanish America the term 'creole' or *criolla* originally referred to the descendants of Spanish settlers, but it subsequently came to define that which was distinctively local. In the case of Peru, it designates the people and culture of the coastal region (as opposed to the Andean highlands) and of Lima in particular. It was on the coast that the Spaniards founded their capital, where most of their settlements were concentrated, and where their culture took deepest root. For a work force they imported black slaves and, in the colonial period, blacks constituted the single biggest sector of Lima's population. Out of the intermingling of Hispanic and Afro-Peruvian traditions there evolved a distinctive creole culture, of which one of the manifestations is the *canción criolla*.

Though its roots go further back, the *canción criolla* enjoyed its heyday between the mid-1930s and the mid-1970s, most particularly in the 1940s and 1950s. Performers such as singers Jesús Vásquez and Lucha Reyes, the group 'Los Morochucos', guitarist Oscar Avilés, and composer-singer Chabuca Granda were national celebrities. At the level of the state it received official recognition, as the government inaugurated an annual *Día de la Canción Criolla* in 1944, as groups were invited to play at the presidential palace and as the country's highest honours were conferred on top artists.



The *canción criolla*'s big breakthrough came due to the emergence of broadcast radio, as stations began to feature it on their programmes and it caught on with the listening general public. Songwriters and performers became professionals earning a living from their work, and not only were they now reaching a mass audience at home, but top names exported their work abroad through record sales and concert tours. This period saw the adoption of the *canción criolla* by Lima's middle classes, who found in it an expression of their sense of themselves as Peruvians.

However, the first criolla music grew out of festivities in lower-class neighbourhoods and was composed and performed by musicians who were usually workmen or artisans without formal training. Composer-songwriters did not bother to register authorship of their work, since at that time it had no commercial outlet and many songs of the period which remain classics to this day, like 'La Pasionaria' and 'Estrella de amor', are of unknown authorship.

Criolla music comprises of various genres. Of these the oldest is the marinera whose origins go back to colonial times. It epitomises the emergence of a creole culture with roots in both African and Hispanic traditions. However, the genre that came to be virtually synonymous with the canción criolla was the vals. As Lima modernised, the elites looked to Europe as the model to be emulated. European architecture as well as cultural fashions were adopted by the upper classes. In this environment, the vals renovated the local popular musical tradition by appropriating the rhythm of the Viennese waltz, adapting it to local instruments and styles and putting lyrics to it. This type of music includes elaborate Spanish-influenced guitar work accompanied in recent years by cajón and castanets, with lyrics that talk about love, social dilemmas and nostalgia.

The era of the canción criolla is long past, and other forms of creole music have emerged since its heyday. But that is not to say that it is dying out. It still has its enthusiasts, festivals are still held and new songwriters and singers are still emerging, but it is a type of music that is now a minority interest, as new musical styles have emerged and gained popularity. However, its importance continues as the President of Peru, Alan García honoured the recently deceased Arturo "Zambo" Cavero with the presentation of the sol de oro and his music will continue to be remembered by Peruvians for years to come:

*Cosechando mis mares, sembrando mis tierras*

*Yo quiero más a mi Patria*

*Mi nación que luchando rompió las cadenas de la esclavitud*

*Es la tierra del Inca que el sol ilumina*

*Porque dios lo manda*

*Y es que dios a la gloria cambio de nombre y le puso Perú*

*Atesoran sus playas las riquezas pesqueras de mi mar soberano*

*Y en la sierra bravía la nieve perpetua es bandera del Paz*

*La montaña en sus venas guardan el petróleo de nuestro mañana*

*Y la tierra serrana nos da manos llenas el acero y el pan...*

*Y se llama Perú*

*Con P de la Patria, la E del ejemplo*

*La R de rifle, La U de la Union*

## Project Updates

### *What's New?*



The first **Teaching** workshop took place in the office this month on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, with other weekly workshops following.

This month on the **Care & Community** programme also saw their first workshop in the new office. We also have a workshop on Special Needs Education in Cusco in the beginning of November as well as a network meeting planned for the middle of next month. For more on these see the next month's newsletter.



The **Inca Project** archeology lessons have continued this month with our on site archeologist Jhon giving lessons on Inca religion & Manco Inca, Vitcos and Vilcabamba. A visit to Vitcos palace and the white rock (Yurak Rumi) took place this month. Volunteers also got to visit ruins at Alfamayo, Inkatambo & Wamanmarka.



Work on the Capillayok site with the I.N.C. (National Institute of Culture) has included a small excavation to determine the original foundation location, scale mapping, clearing vegetation, pointing the joints on newly laid reconstruction work and there was also a small "ceremony" at the laying of the first stone which involved some chicha and coca leaves. Clay was also transported from Establo to Capillayok to help the I.N.C. with reconstruction materials.

Some volunteers have been working on stencils and making signs to be placed around the archaeology site Choquequirao. Volunteers will also soon have the chance to visit Choquequirao again this month, more on this in next months newsletter. Community work this month included painting of the school in Alfamayo. In Establo work has continued with the digging of holes and the planting of sachainchi beans was also carried out. Land for corn is being prepared, Concrete silos are being cleaned out, the compost is up and running and reforestation should be up and running again later this month. Spots have also continued with volleyball games.

### Warachikuy

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In mid September, the annual reenactment of an Incan tradition took place in Cusco – that of the festival of Warachikuy, known by the Spaniards as the "party in order to arm gentlemen". It was something like an "initiation" ceremony in which young men got their first *wara* (breechcloth). In order to get the *wara* the young men had to pass different athletic tests and sham battles; after successfully passing all tests they got their citizenship and the permission to get married and go to war.

Every year at the age of 13 boys belonging to the Inca Empire underwent this initiation ceremony to celebrate the coming of age and the greater responsibility they would now have within the family and empire as a whole. The ceremony took the form of different contests, not simply to prove bravery, but also to test skills such as building, drawing, management and command skills, arts and other disciplines.



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### Día del estudiante celebrations

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The 23rd September was an annual day for students throughout Peru, which is also known as the *día de la juventud* (Youth day). Each school carries out activities or events for their students including trips to visit local sites, or watch a play created for them by their teachers amongst other activities.



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### Volunteer Social Activities

Tessa Okell

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The September Social saw volunteers strutting their stuff with a 2 hour salsa lesson courtesy of Salseros Cusco. Volunteers mastered five 'basic' steps before moving on to a routine encompassing some more advanced moves! After some much needed refreshment of pizza and lemonade volunteers put their moves into practice on the dance floors of the clubs of Cusco (although I'm not sure how many volunteers remembered the intricacies of the 'enchufle doble' routine!).



Volunteers from Urubamba, Pisac and Calca also participated in an afternoon of sport in Calca. After three eventful games of basketball, volleyball and football the score was diplomatically decided to be a draw despite Martin's obvious talent (height) for basketball and my two skilled goals during the football match (not flukes I assure you)! Thanks to Mireia for her recommendation and organisation of a great afternoon.

Ulrike's cafe in Pisac was the location for the 'Tea and Torta' afternoon (should be renamed 'Smoothie and Cookies'?) where volunteers had a chance to meet new arrivals. Thanks to Sharmila for bringing along her DVD collection, consisting of *'Public Enemies'*, which was then screened upstairs.

The Pub Quiz in Urubamba on Wednesdays continues going strong. The past few weeks have included a treasure hunt, skipping rope competition, wheelbarrow race and some very unusual questions!! Well done to all the Quizmasters and here's to plenty more evenings of fun in The Muse.

Our October Social will be a Halloween themed fancy dress and reverse trick or treat with a traditional lechòn and tamal dinner. Look out for photos in next month's newsletter!

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### September Social Photos

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The September social took place in Cusco on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and was the first organised by our new Social Manager Tess. Volunteers first enjoyed a two hour Salsa class with the Salseros Salsa school before heading to Tomassinos for a Pizza dinner. See below for pictures!





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## Señor de los Milagros

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During October processions are held in honour of Señor de los Milagros in Cusco. In Lima, however, this is an especially important procession, which first took place in Lima after an earthquake on 20th October 1687. After a second earthquake on 28th October 1746, the Señor de los Milagros became accustomed to leave its resting place on 28th October visiting streets, monasteries, churches and city neighbourhoods. Throughout the month people wear purple clothing to show their devotion to the Señor. Many people take to the streets to view or follow the procession. Turrón de Doña Pepa (see right) is associated with the city of Lima and its Señor de los Milagros festival. Doña Pepa was an African slave who is thought to have received the recipe in a dream after being cured of paralysis in her arms.





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**PERU, OH PERU**  
**Sharmila Poppe - Teaching**  
***IEMx Señor de Torrechayoc, Yanahuara***

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There is so much beauty in Peru and I have only seen one, if not less, than a section of it. Peru has much to offer this includes hospitality, affordability and conformability. The sites have much to attract tourists (like Projects Abroad volunteers), while also being capable of extracting more money than any one bargained for (so be careful, and always have exact change!)

Some of the must sees that I have ticked off my list are Machu Picchu (which must be walked up, as it is amazingly satisfying!), Lake Titicaca (from both sides: Peru & Bolivia), "Sexy Woman" better known as Saqsaywaman (walk up to Cristo Blanco), Moray and Salineras (few tourists in the morning, so a plus), Ollantaytambo and Písaq market and ruins (don't walk up, walk down!).



Not that I've had much problems with it, but if you have sweet blood you will experience bites on top of bites (fleas, mosquitoes, whatever variety of blood sucking insects there are!) I am sorry to say that I have not yet had the privilege to be pictured with a llama so my November resolution is to do so!

I have yet to run out of things to do, as getting lost, attempting to salsa in a Cusqueña night clubs, and tasting the variety of cuisine has kept me well entertained!

Teaching is amazingly tiring but very rewarding. Children vary (like in most countries) however have high spirits (even with lack of money) and that inspires me to keep on teaching. I have much to write but fear that I will bore you, so will detain from writing anymore.

Peru, oh, Peru... 'til next time, adios!





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## Tristan Cox – Care IEI Nuestra Señora de Carmen, Písaq

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Before sojourning to Peru I was a useless husk of a man, working full time behind the desk of a local hardware store while my graduation photo laughed at me inside its gilt-edged frame. Whenever one of the hardware store drones lumbered up to me in the paint aisle and asked why I was going to Peru, I'd say 'I need an excuse to leave the house' and then I'd go hide in the toilet until home time. It was true. I lacked any kind of motivation. So, determined I was going to have a life-altering epiphany on top of a mountain somewhere, I clipped on my bumbag and jetted off to Latin America, leaving the old Tristan to wander around Heathrow and think about what he's done. It was quite a journey. By the end of it my eyes looked like tinned tomatoes and I could barely see where I was going. Thankfully I met another fellow Englishman who looked equally vexed and we rode together for the rest of the way (unfortunately for him the Brazilian authorities managed to lose his luggage in Sao Paulo and he had to venture into the Amazon with only one pair of pants and an egg sandwich- but that is neither here nor there.) Once in Cusco I was picked up by a delightful member of the Projects Abroad team who did her best to keep conversation flowing while I day-slept my way through a number of harrowing scenes that I couldn't quite comprehend. You see, upon returning to England I realised that my month away was simply a string of moments that, at the time, weren't particularly fun, but in retrospect are actually a poignant reminder of why I left England in the first place. Most of these moments happened during that first journey. Through the window of the careening, belt-less taxi I saw:

- an elderly lady in a big hat unloading a basket of severed cow heads
- numerous children peeing all over the road
- a feral dog straying from the pack and then finding itself rammed under the wheels of an oncoming vehicle
- many smiling faces- a number of which being directed squarely at the whimpering dog under the wheels of the vehicle

Naturally, I was horrified but as time went on I understood why these people took pleasure from seeing a dog being hit by a car. (It survived by the way) I was up all that first night listening to those wild beasts howling outside my window, and then, when they had mercifully quietened down a crazed drunk woman marched past, screaming and hollering about something I was glad not to understand and set all the dogs off again. I fell asleep with my ipod in.

The morning was much brighter. I opened my bedroom window and saw swaths of snowy mountains and blue skies and then I went to the back



of the house and opened that window and saw a raging blue river with yet more mountains and blue skies. There was even a litter of kittens tucked in the corner. I stood there for a few minutes and exhaled dramatically, and then I went in for breakfast. After ploughing through my eggy carb breakfast with convincing enthusiasm I was picked up by another delightful Projects Abroad lady and taken to my Projects Abroad project base. I think this is where I had my epiphany. I don't know where or when it happened because I was having too much fun to notice, but if a kindergarten teacher, for some reason or other, approaches me on an English street and insists that his class is the cutest damned class in the world I would call him a bald-faced liar.

My class was unbelievable. I didn't understand a word their little mouths were saying but it matters not when all they want to do is laugh. So each day I had to interact with the children on a purely physical basis. I picked them up, span them around, fell through chairs, ran after imaginary flies with a fly squatter and dressed up in a full, sweaty Barney the Dinosaur costume and danced 'till dinner. I'd stumble home drenched in sweat and aching from limb to limb. I never felt more alive! I know most of the children forgot about me the second they said goodbye (some even thought my name was Tarzan) but I'll remember them for at least another decade. So to cut a heart-rendering success story short the whole new Tristan is back in England, with a whole new perspective, a whole new career path (childcare!) and a much greater appreciation for breakfast cereal.





This month's must see hot spot is Ica, a place on the Peruvian southern coast which is often visited by Projects Abroad volunteers on their way to Lima.

Ica is the capital of its department and boasts a thriving wine and pisco industry, attractive colonial churches, an excellent museum and various annual fiestas. It is also a good place from which you can visit other locations in the area. The order depending on if you travel from Lima to Cusco or vice versa.

The history of human settlement in Ica appears to date back some 10,000 years, with less-advanced cultures being replaced by more advanced cultures, such as the Nazca and Paracas. For insight into the past cultures of the Ica region, a visit to the Ica Regional Museum is a good place to start. The museum has a collection of artifacts from the Pacaras, Nazca and Inca cultures, including weavings, ceramics, mummies accompanied by interesting displays. Ica had a fairly quiet history in terms of notable goings-ons, until in the 1400's when the area came under the rule of the Incas. However, the Inca hold would not last long, as Spanish conquistadors re-founded the city in 1563. Agricultural pursuits were part of what the Spanish were most interested in Ica, as the area was a good place to cultivate both cotton and grapevines. Visiting the Ica bodegas where the first vineyards of the New World were planted is an interesting getaway for wine enthusiasts. Peruvians often refer to the Ica region as, "the land of the sun", and other agricultural produce from here includes asparagus and olives. Spanish occupation of Ica can be noted in the surviving colonial architecture, among the most impressive of which is the Cathedral.

October is a good time to visit as you will be able to see the religious pilgrimage of Señor de Luren which culminates in a procession that goes on all night. From Ica it is possible to see the famous Nazca lines (though its cheaper to go from Nazca itself), go sand boarding in nearby Huacachina Oasis, sample some Ican wine or Pisco, or travel north in order to visit the Paracas Nature reserve where you can enjoy all kinds of wildlife, even combining a trip to the Islas Ballestas or the "Poorman's Galapagos" and see sea lions, penguins, pelicans and if you are lucky, dolphins.



## Feliz Cumpleaños !!

**Birthdays have filled the past month, so we would like to wish a HUGE Happy Birthday to the following staff and volunteers who celebrated their birthdays in Peru...**



- Sara Costello, who arrived the beginning of last month, celebrated her birthday here in Cusco on the 19<sup>th</sup> September.
- Edith Szena celebrated her birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- Assistant Manager Jorge Espinoza celebrated his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- In Huyro, Carl Naumann celebrated his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday Inca style on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup> October our Desk Officer Hannah Partis also celebrated her 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Care volunteer Emma Hershey also celebrated her birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- Finally, Medicine volunteer Sofia Kennedy celebrated her birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

This month's specialty is fitting with the Creole theme of this month's newsletter...



### SOPA CRIOLLA / Creole Soup

#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb 4 oz (500 g) beef, finely chopped
- Vegetable oil
- 1 ½ medium size onions, finely chopped or shredded
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 5 tomatoes, peeled and seeded, shredded
- 1 ½ tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 whole [sundried yellow aji](#) ,roasted
- 8 cups beef stock
- 3 oz (80 g) angel hair spaghetti
- ½ cup undiluted evaporated milk
- 4 – 6 eggs (1 for each serving)
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- Salt & Pepper
- Oregano

#### Preparation:

- Season beef with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a skillet until hot.
- Add meat and cook for 2 minutes. Stir in onion and garlic and cook until tender and slightly golden. Add tomatoes and whole sundried yellow aji. Continue cooking until liquid has almost evaporated.
- Stir in tomato paste. Add beef stock and bring to a boil. Add angel hair pasta and continue boiling until pasta is cooked. Stir in milk.
- Heat before serving.
- Before serving poach eggs in simmering water with salt and vinegar.
- Serve soup in a soup bowl or plate and place 1 poached egg per serving.
- Sprinkle over with dry oregano.

4 to 6 servings

## Introducing...

## ...New Volunteers

**In November we are welcoming 11 new volunteers to the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Huyro...**

<b>Volunteer Name</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Town / Placement</b>	
Alessia Pignatti Morano	01	Teaching	Pisac	Ccorao
Cyril Gaillard	02	Sports	Calca	Apu Pitusiray
Hans Kamer	02	Sports	Calca	Apu Pitusiray
Maya Wertheim	12	Care	Urubamba	Cuna Jardin
Isabella Clader	11	Teaching	Calca	Lamay
Pascale Varin-Vignes	14	Medicine	Cusco	San Juan de Dios
Rasmus Amtoft	15	Inca	Huyro	
Alicia Templeton	15	Inca	Huyro	
Nelius Irungu	21	Medicine	Cusco	Ttio
Emma Pedersen	24	Inca	Huyro	
Norbert Kaehler	27	Inca	Huyro	

**Changing Projects** this month is Edith Perrey-Kuhn who shall be joining the Care programme and working in IEI Jardin Integrado N°50592 - Yucay.

**Thanks** to all our leaving volunteers for all your help during your stay here in Peru:

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### End of September:

- Stephany Verstrepen (Care)
- Nao Ikegaya (Inca)
- Katy Wagner (Medicine)
- Courtney Kerckhoff (Medicine)
- Alexis Blanchard (Inca)
- Edith Szena (Teaching)
- Elizabeth Skelding (Teaching)
- Tristan Cox (Care)
- Stef van Kessel (Spanish)
- Sidsel Frisch (Teaching)
- Camilla Zawadzki (Teaching)
- Hanna Schulz (Inca)

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### Beginning of October:

- Anne Rechter (Inca)
  - Aya Matsushige (Inca)
  - Lillian Colley (Care)
  - Simon Faircliff (Inca)
  - Christopher McDonald (Teaching)
  - William Tanner (Care)
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## What's happening in November?

Festival	Description	Place	Date
Dia de los Santos & Dia de los Difuntos  (All Saint's Day & Day of the Dead)	Dedicated to the memory of the dead, All Saints Day and Day of the Dead see Peruvians honouring the dead with Mass, the bringing of flowers to the cemetery and sharing food with the dead. This tradition stems back to pre-Hispanic times in Peru. Typical food around this time includes, pan wawa (bread shaped as babies), as well as tamales and lechon (oven baked pork).	Peru	November 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Representation of the rise of the mythic couple	Festival which celebrates the legend of the mythical Incan couple Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo's rise from Lake Titicaca	Puno	November 5 <sup>th</sup>
Dia de Urubamba	Marching bands and dances will fill the main plaza in celebration of Urubamba's anniversary.	Urubamba	November 9 <sup>th</sup>

## Announcements

- There are new visa regulations that have been passed by the Peruvian government. If your tourist visa is to expire it is no longer possible to extend this in Cusco. You will need to make arrangements to travel to Bolivia or Chile, for example, and re-enter the country, where the immigration official will give you another stamp for further days.
- Please can all new arrivals be aware that you need to pick up your luggage in Lima when arriving from an international flight as it is not forwarded directly onto Cusco. Lima is the first point of entry into the country and you need to pass customs with your luggage.
- Please be aware that you need to **always** carry your passport or a legalised photocopy of your passport (which has been signed by a notary) with you if you are traveling within Peru, whether to your placement, Cusco or a long weekend in Puno. You may be asked by a police officer for proof of identification and you should be able to present this to them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask in the office.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped bring about this month's issue of *Musuq Chaski*. If you would like to contribute your experiences, stories, photos or anything else to the next edition then please send them to: [hannahpartis@projects-abroad.org](mailto:hannahpartis@projects-abroad.org)

