Jaco Kruger has been studying the musical culture of the Venda people of the Vhembe district of South Africa’s Limpopo Province since 1983. He completed a M.Mus dissertation under the supervision of Deirdre Hansen (UCT) in 1985 on Venda musical bows and the xylophone, and a doctoral thesis on Venda guitar music in 1993 under the guidance of Andrew Tracey (Rhodes).


Jaco is dedicated towards developing a new music curriculum for South Africa. To this end he makes regular contributions towards The Talking Drum (PASMAE, in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal). Jaco currently specialises in the preservation and analysis of Venda musical arts of precolonial origin, and has edited three collections of Venda ngano song stories, namely Venda lashu: Tshivenda songs, song stories and musical games (North-West University, 2004), The flamboyant rooster and other Tshivenda song stories (North-West University, 2007) and The girls in the baobab: Venda stories from the Limpopo Valley (North-West University, 2013).