

The Marimba Workshop

Marimba Monthly

This is the 4th edition of the Marimba Workshop newsletter. We, as a company and marimba community, have had a very quiet month of April. As a company, it has given us time to reflect and look back on some of the amazing work done not only by us but also the greater South African Marimba Community over the years. We are thus inserting a new “Throwback” feature into the newsletter. If you would like to contribute to this section please drop an email to Bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za.

We, as I am sure the rest of the nation, are eager to come out of the lockdown and begin establishing a semi-normal sense of life. We obviously know this will not be the case in a number of sectors and in particular the greater arts sector and closer to home, the marimba sector. We are all just as eager to get back into the band rooms and have a big marimba jam together, but we must obviously be cautious as we proceed! The beauty of Marimba Bands is the great social aspect. We feel the marimba and greater musical ensemble community will have an enormous role to play in the future months coming out of this lockdown!

In closing, I encourage everyone to turn to platforms such as YouTube and look out for some amazingly inspiring marimba performances to keep your mood up! With that said, we are also pleased to launch The Marimba Workshop’s official YouTube page (more info further down). We wish you all a safe and happy month coming up! – The Marimba Workshop Team

It appears that there are many people who are not receiving these newsletters despite being on our mailing list. If you enjoyed reading this newsletter please reach out with a thumbs up or an acknowledgement that you have received this newsletter so we can update our mailing list accordingly.



BEAT IT!



Product Highlight

Do you regularly perform outside of your school/institution and are regularly transporting your instruments?

The Marimba Workshop sells custom made note bags for all our ranges of marimbas. Each bag has individual slots for the marimba notes. This ensures you will not lose a note when taking them off your marimba. They are also made of a durable but soft material that will ensure your notes do not get scratched when being transported. The note bags roll up with straps to allow them to be tied and kept as compact as possible. Our small chromatic bags can also be attached to the marimba to allow for easy changing of chromatic notes. Contact us today to find out more about our marimba note transportation bags.

The Launch of the Marimba Workshop YouTube Channel

We are pleased to announce the launch our official Marimba Workshop YouTube Page. We will be uploading important Marimba Workshop tutorials as well as some Marimba performances we think are uplifting and inspirational. Please subscribe to our channel to keep up to date with all of our new video content. If you have any videos you would like published on our YouTube page please get in touch!

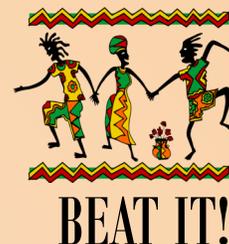
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHnuvBUhgZvFojc1bbYZHhg>



BEAT IT!

Some Tips on Transporting your Marimbas

- The marimbas can be carried short distances by two people holding the frame on both ends of each instrument.
- If the marimbas are being transported a far distance in a vehicle, you must remove all the notes off the marimba and place them in a soft/scratch free bag.
- DO NOT transport the bass marimba without removing the boxes out of the frame.
- When folding the legs, ensure the small legs go into the big legs, place an elastic band at the end of the leg and over a brass eye, this will stop the legs opening up during transportation (do not forget to unclip the spring before folding the legs).
- Always fold the legs up when transporting the marimbas, do not place them with the legs open on the back of a trailer, this will weaken the structural integrity of the instruments.
- Try and use blankets or old pillows to put around the marimba frames when being transported to stop unnecessary scratches or scuff marks from occurring.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

School: Christ Church Preparatory School and College

Teacher: Mariki and Elissa Lessing

Location: Gauteng

While teaching at a previous school, I fell in love with the sound of marimbas, as well as all the teaching/learning possibilities, and the positive socializing that comes alongside. In 2007, we had a choir festival at Christ Church Prep & College. St Mary's Waverley were one of our guest choirs and as we knew that they had a Marimba Band, we invited their band to join us as a special item at our Choir Festival. This marimba band shook up the whole auditorium and before long, people were dancing and singing in the isles!

Parents began calling in, asking what they could do to assist in us buying our own marimbas. And then the Parent Committee donated a whole year's fundraisings and we could buy our first 4 marimbas (two basic sets).

Soon we were on the road, taking part in Eisteddfods, festivals, and many other performances. And everywhere we went, we just felt this special vibe all the time! The marimbas were winning hearts all the way! And amazingly, marimba groups across the spectrum, support each other! Lovely camaraderie! Since the second International Marimba and Steelpan Festival, our marimba bands have been participating every year, and have been category winners from time to time. Our three Prep bands (teacher-coach Mariki Lessing), and 4 College bands (teacher-coach Elissa Lessing) all participate yearly in this festival, as we wish to have all of them experience the wonderful marimba vibes and flavours, as well as build up teamwork, memories and confidence.

Additionally, during Class Music lessons all the children in the Pre- and Prep Schools get regularly opportunities to experience playing the marimbas. We've been using the dummy keyboards since 2008 as an approach to teaching larger groups. The kids are all just crazy about playing the marimbas! No discipline problems ever, because they all want a turn. An excellent disciplinary tool, MARIMBAS!

Check out one of Christ Church's Marimba Bands playing here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2067621190204955>



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THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP
STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Wesley Manthe

Age: 24

Wesley has been building marimbas and tuning notes for The Marimba Workshop since 2013. Together with Petrus, they run the tuning section of the company. He is passionate about fitness, EDM music and ensuring your marimbas sound as good as they look. He also regularly works with Ian in the development of new products and innovations within the company. We are very proud and pleased to have Wes in the Marimba Workshop family.



A recent Zoom meeting with teachers and members of the greater Marimba Community

We are all missing playing marimbas as much as you are! We particularly sympathise with this little girl from a marimba project in Bronkhorstspuit who seems to miss her marimba lessons just as much.
<https://www.youtube.com/>



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THROWBACK FEATURE



Back in 2007 Joan Lithgow, together with Wendy Young and Sharon Malan worked on developing a marimba preschool programme with children as young as 3. We will be highlighting this program in future newsletters. Check out this video of the children from St Francis School in Benoni in 2011 who would now be young adults during this marimba lesson. The group went on to compete at the National Marimba Festival. This is proof that Marimbas really are for everyone no matter the age!

Here is the link: https://youtu.be/N15LA_TWu-8



What sets Marimba Workshop
apart from our competitors:

Marimba workshop instruments are the best designed for preschool, with the ability to have short legs and remove the notes that are not needed.



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Marimba Workshop Across the World

In the past month we have been doing a lot of reflection and collating of things we have always put off in the company. We have been taking a look at our previous customers over our 16 years of existence as a company. We have been pleasantly surprised to find where all our marimbas are scattered across the world. We thought we would share that with you.



For more information or if you would like to contribute to our newsletter please visit our website or contact us directly via email.

info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

<https://marimbaworkshop.co.za/>



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