

The Marimba Workshop

Marimba Monthly

Welcome to the second edition of The Marimba Workshop newsletter. Thank you to everyone who emailed back with such kind words in response to the first edition.

We are well into the new year with the mad January school rush now over. We hope all our teacher colleagues and clients have started their year off in the best marimba way possible! Education Africa's **Sounds of Celebration Concert** occurred this month and made use of The Marimba Workshop instruments in a variety of interesting ways, combining marimbas with Steelpans, Guitars and Singers. We have a few new products and projects in the pipeline this year, beginning with the **All Stars Marimba Band**, a community marimba band for university students and marimba teachers. You will find the poster at the end of the newsletter.

For more information please visit our website or contact us directly via email.
www.marimbaworkshop.co.za/
info@marimbaworkshop.co.za



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Product Highlight

Did you know that we currently have two ranges of marimbas that we manufacture:
The Signature Range and the Traditional Range

Signature Range

The Signature Range comprises of a 3 1/2 Octave Combination marimba (made for 3 players) and the 2 Octave Bass Marimba (made for 2 players). These are normally played in sets of three, 2 combinations and one bass, this can accommodate up to 8 players playing at once.



Traditional Range

The Traditional Range includes the Piccolo, Soprano, Tenor and Bass marimba as 4 separate instruments. This can accommodate 4 players playing at a time.



The Marimba Workshop is the only Marimba manufacturing company in the country that supplies marimbas with removable notes. Every Marimba Workshop marimba comes standard with F#s and Bs allowing you to play in various keys from your very first purchase of the instrument.



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THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Petrus Hali
Age: 27

Petrus has been building marimbas and tuning notes for the Marimba Workshop for over 7 years. He is a highly skilled and meticulous craftsman and is part of the team responsible for tuning notes and making sure all our marimbas sound as good as they look. Petrus is a laid-back person who is incredible to work with and when not building marimbas or tuning notes, he is a big fan of the EDM (electronic dance music) and the trance music scene, and he regularly attends concerts and festivals. Petrus is a highly valued member of the Marimba Workshop team.

Marimba Maintenance Tips

- Always remember this is a musical instrument and so respect and look after it as such.
- When removing the notes always use both hands: to remove the notes off the frame: one hand on either side of the length of the bar. If you don't do this you may bend the pins that hold the notes in place!
- Always use the correct beaters to play your instrument.
- Polish the notes with a good aerosol furniture polish at least four times a year. This will keep the wood in good condition and scratch-free.
- Do not ever leave your instruments in the sun. When you play outdoors always play in the shade. Your instruments may go out of tune if they have direct sunlight on them.
- Do not let your instruments ever get wet. The notes could warp and will go out of tune.

We have recently made an internal business switch to a new accounting program. This will speed up our delivery on invoices, quotes and other administrative functions for our company.



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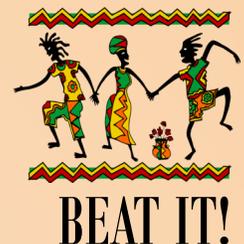
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

The Dominican School for Deaf Children

Teacher: Rose Moloji

Location: Hammanskraal, Gauteng

The Dominican School For Deaf Children Marimba Band in Hammanskraal, is one of Education Africa's Marimba Hubs projects. What is unique about this band is that every member in the band is deaf. The band performs both at school functions and on invitation at social events outside the school environment. This talented prestige Marimba Band together with the MCK Marimba Band represented the special needs schools at the Sounds of Celebration Concert VII held at The Theatre of Marcellus in Emperors Palace in 2019. This band, taught by Rose Moloji, has proven that playing music is an activity that is available to both hearing and non-hearing individuals.





Marimba News in the UK

A report written by Jim Bernadin, owner of World Music Workshops UK

The African marimba movement in the UK is, in my view, a little volcano just waiting to erupt. Unlike other culturally diverse percussion ensembles such as Steel bands, Djembe and Samba groups and Gamelan orchestras, the Southern African marimba genre is still a largely undiscovered gem in Britain. That said, small pockets of activity are happening and one such location is the International School of Cobham in Surrey, led by my Head of Music, Simon Cook. Anyone in the vicinity on Saturday 8th February would surely have felt the feel-good tremors emanating from the school grounds in the form of around twenty marimbas being joyously played throughout the day by a large number of enthusiastic students. Workshops led by host and organiser Simon, and London-based marimba and mbira specialist Otto Gumaelius (www.ottogumaelius.com), lead to an end of day concert and celebration, leaving participants weary but elated.

Three of the marimbas being used were made by your very own Marimba Workshop and loaned on the day by freelance world music teacher Jim Bernadin (www.worldmusicworkshops.co.uk). Jim and three other members of his Worthing Steel band (Vikki, Laura, Anne, plus Anne's daughter Millie) also took part. This day is the second Marimba Workshop Day hosted by Simon and ACS International school and it is hoped by no means the last. Jim and friends now plan to set up a band and offer workshops at a local level in the Worthing area to increase the profile of these amazing instruments. Watch this space!



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Pictures from the recent Sounds of Celebration VII Concert



Upcoming Events

THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP WILL BE HOSTING TWO WORKSHOPS ON SATURDAY THE 7TH MARCH IN GAUTENG AT ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN BOKSBURG

A **beginners workshop** for teachers from 8am – 1pm and an **Intermediate workshop** for teachers who have attended one of our beginners workshop from 1pm – 5pm.

Please contact joan@marimbaworkshop.co.za for more details.

Don't forget that registrations for the Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival close in March, visit the website on: <https://www.internationalmarimbafestival.org>



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