

# The Marimba Workshop

## Marimba Monthly

This July has been a relatively busy month for our company. It has been great to get back to a busy “normal”. We are obviously all under strain at the moment, both as a music education sector and in general as a country. We would really like to applaud the teachers and schools that have been able to continue with their marimba band classes, as well as those who have continued to support the arts and music education industries. In particular I would like to thank the schools that have taken advantage of our Winter Tuning Special and the couple of schools who have been able to squeeze their even tighter budgets to purchase new sets of marimbas for when their students are able to get back to school. It is all of the above teachers and schools that are helping to keep the marimba sector and community alive!

In this month’s newsletter we are excited to highlight the fantastic work done at MCK Special Needs School from Lenasia who truly embrace the slogan of “Marimbas4All.” There have also been a number of creative projects that have taken place this month in our company, such as The Visual Sound Series and a Blu Earth Marimba Band gig. You can read more about these further down. We, as a marimba family and company wish you health, safety and good marimba vibes for the month ahead.

For more information please visit our website or contact us directly via email.

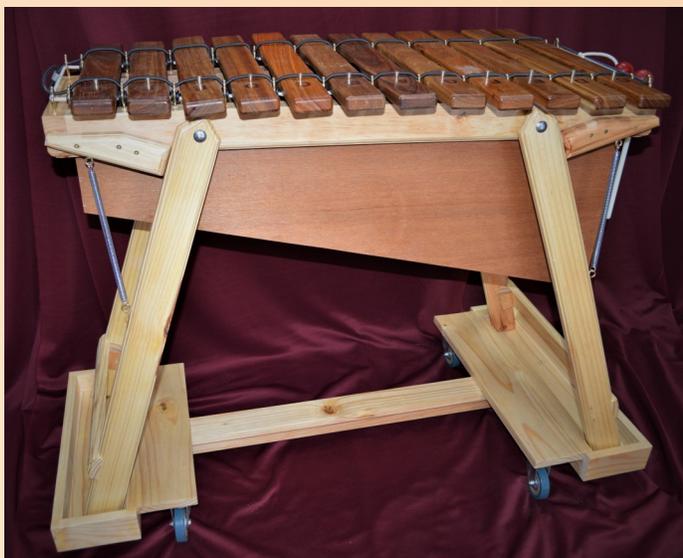
[www.marimbaworkshop.co.za/](http://www.marimbaworkshop.co.za/)  
[info@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:info@marimbaworkshop.co.za)



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## — Product Highlight —

In this month's products highlight we are featuring our uniquely designed trolleys. These can be purchased for all ranges of our marimbas and allow for easy movement of the instruments across your classroom or school hall. Each side of the trolley is fitted with brakes on the wheels to secure your instruments when positioned in place. They are the ideal solution for when you need to store your instruments in the back of the classroom and want to only wheel them out for your marimba lessons. You can now move your marimbas **WITHOUT** the help of others!



### THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP (Pty) Ltd STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Name: Amy-Sue Lithgow

Amy-Sue Lithgow is a recent graduate of the Wits Theatre and Performance Department where she majored in directing and design. She is a freelancing Stage Manager and set designer with a love for theatre and an inherited love for music and all things Marimba related.

She works in admin in the company designing graphics, photographing our products and working on the overall look and feel of the company. We are proud to have her on board.



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# Throwback Feature

In this month's throwback, we go back to 2006 for one of our first workshops in the Empangeni/Richards Bay area of KwaZulu-Natal. Since then we have done a number of workshops in that area, and we are so thrilled with the amazing teachers who have done incredible things with the marimba bands at their schools in Empangeni and Richards Bay. To watch highlights of that workshop click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81WcL4jCuTA&feature=youtu.be>



## Look Mom, I am Famous!

In 2010 Joan took the St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls Boksburg High School Marimba Band to Vienna in Austria to perform at a huge AIDS fundraising concert called: Life Ball. They performed the last movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with a full orchestra, choir and various other "traditional" music ensembles from around the world. The event was broadcast throughout Europe on National and International television stations. You can watch a brief highlight of that event on our YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



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The  
Marimba Workshop (PTY) Ltd  
[www.marimbaworkshop.co.za](http://www.marimbaworkshop.co.za)



# Tuning special

Available immediately until the end of August 2020

**As we enter into a 'new normal' and we welcome our students back to school, now is the best time to get your instruments serviced and tuned...**



We are running a special on both tuning and servicing of your instruments. We have a new "Cord Eye" system that can be fitted on to your existing marimbas. This stops the black elastic from wearing quickly and guarantees that your new white cord and black elastic will last for much longer without constant maintenance and replacing.

**Contact us today to find out more!**

**[info@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:info@marimbaworkshop.co.za)**

We are slowly increasing our footprint on social media. We now have a Facebook page. We will be posting regular information about our company as well as the wider Marimba Community.

Please give us a Like: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMarimbaWorkshop>

## NEW MUSIC FOR SALE

We have a number of Pop Music Marimba arrangements for legal sale on Sheet Music Plus. This month we are highlighting Dark Horse by Katy Perry.



You can purchase the music on this link: <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/dark-horse-katy-perry-arranged-for-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-in-4-parts-digital-sheet-music/21802764>



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## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

**School:** MC Kharbai

**Teachers:** Matumelo Mothupi

**Location:** Lenasia, Johannesburg

We started the MCK Marimba band in 2012 after five of our educators attended a workshop with Joan Lithgow of Education Africa. The school's psychologist at the time was Madam Adele Pullen and she used this skill in her group therapy, taking learners in the vocational section of the school. The aim was to build their self esteem as these learners had been broken down so many times because of their academic challenges. They also learnt the skills of working as a team. This allowed the learners to shine elsewhere as they struggled academically. Marimba gave them hope, a sense of achievement and belonging.

Marimba also formed part of the extra mural activities. Now learners had marimba as an option to choose from. From here the band was born. Those learners who had challenges with drug abuse were encouraged to join the group, too. The band set rules in place to uphold its integrity. One of the rules was that they had to remain drug free. If they tested positive, misbehaved or didn't do their homework, they would then not be allowed to perform in public but could still continue to practise. Once they were on track they could play again.

We entered our first Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival competition in 2013 and have continued to do so every year thereafter. Madam Adele also took the band on an annual camp that she arranged within her community (it's Christian based) and three learners who were red flag learners (having drug and behavioural problems) would also be taken to camp; this intervention was to build their self-esteem and morale as they were made leaders at the camp; this helped to build their team spirit.

We then started teaching the Deaf learners. Madam Jennifer (who is a Deaf teacher assistant) later came on board to assist in teaching the Deaf how to play the marimba. In 2015 we performed at the Festival with one Deaf learner in our band. To date, we have seven Deaf learners in our junior band. We also have five teachers who are committed to teaching learners across the school (Deaf and hearing) and have recently started teaching learners in the Foundation Phase.

In 2014 after having performed at the Festival, we had the privilege of playing for a corporate company where the last survivor of the Holocaust in Germany was honoured. In the same year we performed for Prince Edward. I started teaching the band in 2018 together with Madam Adele and it has been an honour and a great privilege to share my love for music and the arts at large with our learners. Thank you to Joan and her team at Education Africa for helping us make a difference in the lives of our learners through music.



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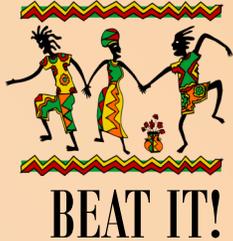
# The Visual Sound Series



Brad has collaborated with South African Born, Ireland based visual artist: Julia Williams on an exciting arts collaboration called: The Visual Sound Series. As part of the series they recently did an African Marimba Piece. For more information on this “Live Artistic Collaboration” visit: <https://www.williamswatercolours.com/post/the->

## Blu Earth Marimba Band Feature

After many months of lockdown we are very excited that our official company band, Blu Earth Marimba Band, did their first gig. All safety protocols were in place during the rehearsal and performance. The amount of mental good this did for the players and the listeners at the event was huge! We would love to see videos or pictures of your bands getting back into action!



# Upcoming Events

The Education Africa **Virtual** International Marimba and Steelpan Festival will be taking place on Facebook and various other social media platforms between 1 December and 13 December 2020. Please visit the dedicated website for all the details: <https://www.internationalmarimbanfestival.org/virtual/index.asp#openModal>

Not only are there marimba and steelpan band competitions in various sections and categories but there are also solo marimba, solo xylophone, solo vibraphone and solo steelpan competitions as well!

The closing dates are as follows:

Closing date for the registration for the **composition** competition: 7 August

Closing date for the registration for the **solo** competitions: 4 September

Closing date for the registration for **marimba and steelpan band** competitions: 4 September

There are limited numbers for each of the competitions so please ensure that you register timeously!



You are able to submit **ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE** for the festival. Please visit the website for guidelines.



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