

# The Marimba Workshop

## Marimba Monthly

We are almost at the end of a crazy year. As a company we hope that everyone in the marimba and music education community are finally starting to relax and take some socially distanced time off.

We are excited to share some fabulous marimba news with you in this month's newsletter including an amazing throwback journey of our marimbas 2 years ago as well as our marimbas being featured in a few different media publications. We are also featuring the great work done by the Westville Girl's High School Marimba Band nicknamed: The Griffin Girls.

We hope you have a restful and safe month ahead during this festive season and would love to hear how your marimba year has been (good or bad, we always offer a marimba shoulder to give advice on). Please drop us an email on:  
[Bradley@MarimbaWorkshop.co.za](mailto:Bradley@MarimbaWorkshop.co.za)

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

We have a range of Marimba Music books available. With a wide variety to choose from, we can ensure that your every need will be catered for in these 5 books!



**“MARIMBA MAGIC” BOOK 1: 9 traditional African songs arranged for classroom marimbas** written by Joan Lithgow and published in 2006 provides a wonderful **resource for teachers** who are starting out on the magical journey of marimba playing. This book not only provides **instant music** to play on marimbas but also excellent **advice on teaching marimbas in the classroom**, how to use **dummy keyboards** effectively, **memory joggers**, **basic technique** used to play marimbas, **care of marimbas** as well as **“teaching notes”** on each of the 9 pieces.

**“MARIMBA MAGIC” BOOK 2: A Selection of South African folk songs and original music arranged for classroom marimbas** by Joan Lithgow and published in 2008 is yet another resource that is being used world-wide in the teaching of marimbas.

**“MARIMBA MAGIC” BOOK 3: A SELECTION OF CHRISTIAN SONGS SUITABLE FOR ASSEMBLIES ARRANGED FOR EASY CLASSROOM MARIMBAS** by Joan Lithgow and published in 2013 is the latest in the **MARIMBA MAGIC SERIES** and is proving to be a favourite amongst marimba teachers. The arrangements are easy but very effective.

**“33 MARIMBA ARRANGEMENTS CELEBRATING SOUTH AFRICA’S 11 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES”** by Joan Lithgow published in 2014. This book is the perfect compendium of South African Songs celebrating South Africa’s rich music heritage.

**“SHAYA MARIMBA SERIES BOOK 1”** By Bradley Lithgow contains 5 traditional pieces of African music that have originated from a Unique Marimba Band Culture found in many schools throughout South Africa of “composing out of a jam.” These pieces have been developed over a number of school student generations into what they now are. The pieces in this book use complex rhythmical hand patterns in many of the parts that are sure to take your bands technical playing ability to the next level. The book comes with teaching tips on each piece and ideas on how to make the pieces your own.

Follow us on Social Media for regular updates about our products, workshops and more:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMarimbaWorkshop/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChnuvBUhgZvFojc1bbYZHhg>



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# THROWBACK FEATURE



King David Primary School Linksfield Marimba Band to Jerusalem 2018

In this month's throwback we go back to 2 years ago when Joan took the King David Primary School Linksfield Marimba Band to Jerusalem. They did a number of performances and workshops in Israel spreading the South African Marimba Vibes throughout the capital city. Here are some pictures from the tour.



Did you spot our marimbas in the latest edition of the ISASA (Independent Schools Association Of South Africa) magazine?  
See the article feature below!

● teaching and learning

## The Future Comprehensive School staff goes above and beyond, despite lockdown

BY CHRISTOPHER DZAMBI

The Future Comprehensive School (TFCS) is a co-educational independent boarding school situated in Ga-Masemola, in rural Sekhukhune, Limpopo.



meant to empower learners and teachers with 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning skills, using a BYOD approach. BYOD simply means 'Bring your own device'. Teachers were assisted to acquire laptops and other information and communication technology (ICT) tools, whilst learners had to buy a specific brand of 2-in-1 laptop<sup>1</sup> to allow a seamless implementation of



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# LOOK MOM, WE ARE FAMOUS!



We are super excited to have had our marimbas and one of our newsletter featured schools (July Newsletter) MCK Special School on Expresso Morning Show on SABC 3 for promotion for the Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

Watch the insert here: <https://www.facebook.com/171979126149990/videos/1286701268366430>

## WE ARE WINNERS!

We are so excited to announce that we were the WINNERS of the BASA (Business and Arts South Africa) Award for SMME Business partnerships with NPO's for our continued partnership with Education Africa at the International Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

### SMME

Awarded for vital support given to the arts by a micro, small or medium enterprise with up to 200 hundred full-time employees and an annual turnover of no more than R10 million.

Winner: The Marimba Workshop (Pty) Ltd / Education Africa for International Marimba and Steelpan Festival



## SAD!!! By XXXtentacion

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/sad-by-xxxtentacion-arranged-by-bradley-lithgow-for-african-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/21805539>

**NEW MUSIC!!**

Hi Bradley, well done on yet another lovely newsletter! -  
Retha Delpont, Resonanze Project Music School



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## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

School: Westville Girls' High School

Teacher: Calvin Human

Location: Westville, Kwa-Zulu Natal

The Westville Griffin Girls are a marimba band from Durban known for their extreme acrobatics and high energy performances.

Following their formation in 2016, these students from Westville Girls' High School have quickly become one of the top bands in the country. Under the training of Calvin Human, the band has seen success over the years at various local and national competitions, with their performance of Justin Bieber's "Despacito" winning the national orchestra and marching band festival in 2017.



The Griffins consist of grade 10 to 12 learners, rehearsing up to 5 hours a week after school. Outside of the school the girls share a close family bond and are often seen together doing team activities in their spare time. They have had opportunities to perform around their city at both local book fairs and high profile fundraisers.

Each year, they strive to take their musical, technical and performance skills to the next level and defend their reputation as the benchmark of marimba excellence.

This year marks the first year that the Griffin Girls are competing in the Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival and the excitement of preparing for it has been just what we needed after the lockdown to lift our spirits and start playing again after months off.

Some years ago the learners of Westville adopted the phrase "Dignity in Diversity" to represent the ethos of the school. Diverse cultures, religions, learning styles, interests and abilities are all respected with dignity. This is true of the Griffins, as they are often seen marrying a range of musical styles and cultures into their infamous "mashups".

The girls can often be heard mixing western classical tunes with local South African artists music- from Vivaldi to BTS to Jeremy Loops to Coldplay, the girls are always looking for local artists to work alongside to grow the footprint of marimbas in South Africa.

**We are looking to schedule some teacher and student workshops around South Africa in the new year. Please contact us should you want to participate or host one of these workshops at your school. Please email: [info@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:info@marimbaworkshop.co.za)**



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We are going to be starting up this project again next year (Covid dependent). Please pass this on to your current marimba band matric students who will be finished with school next year. Unfortunately only in Gauteng for now.

# ALL STARS Marimba Band



A Community Music project initiated by The Marimba Workshop (PTY) LTD in collaboration with the Johannesburg Youth Orchestra Company (NPC)

If you played in your school marimba band or are a music/marimba teacher who wants to play in a community marimba band we would love to hear from you. This band DOES require previous marimba band experience.

This is a community (ie. not for profit or to make money as a player) marimba band. There will be weekly evening rehearsals at UJ or WITS (TBC). A small admin fee will be charged to be part of this band.

The band will be coached and managed by professional marimba player and teacher: Bradley Lithgow. If you know of someone or you yourself are interested in joining please send an email to [Bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:Bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za) or a whatsapp message to 0761272593 and more information will be communicated to you.



## Upcoming Events

We are very excited for the first ever upcoming Education Africa Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival. It will be officially broadcast on the Education Africa YouTube channel and The festival's Facebook page

Check out the advert for the festival here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufn3By76Iq8>

**Last chance to take advantage of our 2020 prices.** We are trying to keep our product price increases as low as possible next year but are largely dependent on raw material costs from suppliers. We have a policy where if you place your order this year but for delivery and payment in 2021 we will still honour our 2020 prices. (terms and conditions apply)

### 1st Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Virtual Festival

1 - 13 DECEMBER 2020



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