

The Marimba Workshop

(PTY) LTD



BEAT IT!

The Marimba Workshop (PTY) Ltd is a manufacturer of African Marimbas and Marimba related educational equipment. We are one of the few marimba manufacturers that puts Music Education at the fore-front of what we stand for.

March 2021

Edition 15

Marimba Monthly

We are excited to present to you a jam-packed newsletter this month. It can only be a sign of good things and lives returning to a Covid-Safe normality! We are truly blessed to be in an industry where mask-wearing-marimba-playing may be one of the safest group music making and community-building activities possible. With that said we are very pleased to share the fantastic work done by the Community Music Project: Music Voyage, run by Katherine McClelland in the KZN Midlands. In addition we are sharing some interesting marimba performances Blu Earth has been part of amongst many other things in this edition. As we are just coming out of the Easter Long Weekend we hope you have had a relaxing and safe time with friends and family and want to thank you all for your continued support of our company, the work we do but more importantly being role players in the fantastic community of Marimba Players and Teachers that we all participate in. We would love to hear how you are doing please drop us an email on

info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

All the best, The Marimba Workshop Team

Follow us on Social Media for regular updates and exciting news:

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHnuwBUhgZvF0jc1bbYZHhg>



Products Highlight

Marimba Covers

As part of our added products range we manufacture specially designed and fitted covers for all ranges of our Marimba instruments. The covers are made with special water-resistant material on the outside, and soft material on the inside to prevent scratches and marks. If you already own these covers we would recommend using them during the cleaning and spraying process of your classrooms. We currently do have covers in stock and are able to courier them around the country if you would like to get some for your existing marimbas. The covers are able to be branded with your school logo or name if required.



For more information about our products visit our website!

www.marimbaworkshop.co.za

We have always prided ourselves in our after-sales service. We are always at hand to provide quick, efficient service and advice should you need it. Please do not hesitate to contact us to repair, service or inspect any of your Marimba Workshop instruments no matter how old they are. We try to keep our turn-around time on emails and products as short as possible so you can be Marimbaring 24/7!

NEW MUSIC

This and all the arrangements we sell on Sheet Music Plus are fully licenced and all copyright royalties are paid through the website.

Unforgettable by French Montana

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/unforgettable-french-montana-arranged-by-bradley-lithgow-for-african-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/21804508>



**WOW thank you Bradley a very inspirational newsletter.
Keep up this incredible work! - Kind regards Jean-Pierre Verster**

NEWS



EDUCATION AFRICA

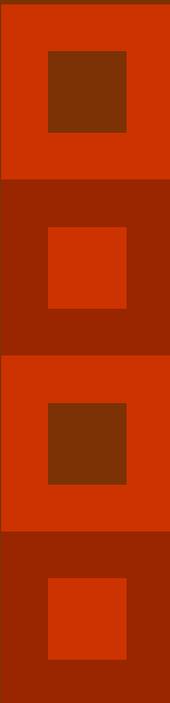
We are excited to let you know that Education Africa has launched their new website for the 2021 Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

For more information visit: www.internationalmarimbafestival.org

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and the roll out of vaccines around the world Education Africa has decided to only host once again a Virtual Festival this year. Please register early as there are a limited number of bands that we can accommodate.

We would like to recommend that ALL marimba bands which are operational at the moment start to video every piece that their band can play. (See the guidelines for recording on the Virtual Festival Website). Whether you take part in the Festival or not you will have lots of video footage which you can use for virtual concerts, prize-giving ceremonies etc. However, if you do decide to take part in the Virtual Festival and for whatever the reason, you are unable to record your band performing nearer the submission date you will still have videos that you can send in to participate. Remember the scout's motto: BE PREPARED!

Earlier this month Bradley Lithgow and Kyle Allens from Blu Earth Marimba Band participated in the "Arts Protest" going on at the National Arts Council offices in Newtown, Johannesburg. It has been so amazing to see how artists protest; no need for stones and violence when you can have giant puppets, dancing, visual murals, live music and MARIMBAS playing as a protest and call for action. For more information on the situation going on at the National Arts Council visit the "I'm4thearts" Facebook page.



Our company's professional marimba band: Blu Earth Marimba Band is also busy with quite a few weddings at the

moment. Here is a picture of a recent wedding they did this past month. If you are looking for a professional marimba band for your event please get in contact with us on

info@marimbaworkshop.co.za



As school holidays are now upon us for many schools we have had an influx of notes in for tuning. We still have spaces open for booking your notes in for tuning while you are not using your marimbas in the holiday. To enquire about our tuning and repair services please drop us an email on info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

Community Music Highlight

Organisation: Music Voyage

Teacher: Katherine McClelland

Location: Kwa-Zulu Natal South Africa



Music Voyage develops positive values and invests in the self-worth of individuals through the provision of music education. It enables life changing and lasting differences in communities through the inspiration, beauty and discipline of music. Founded in 2009, the beneficiaries of Music Voyage (children living in rural areas of the KZN Midlands) started learning to read music and play instruments; saxophone, recorder, violin, flute, keyboard etc. To add to that, we partnered with rural schools, assisting them with their arts curriculum by teaching class music and creating school choirs.

In 2015 we embarked on a new and exciting venture...Marimba! This gave the project a new dimension and fast forward to 2021, when we now have an experienced, performing marimba band! What started as a few kids from Mpophomeni trying their hand at a new hobby has become as important to this group of children as going to school. Picture Sthembiso Mbhense (the band leader), a 17-year-old boy from Mpophomeni, an informal settlement in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, confidently translating any song he hears into something that he can bang out on the Marimbas, inspiring his community and proving every day that there is the possibility to be more and live beyond what his circumstances dictate.

Katherine McClelland, Director of Music Voyage says, "Being part of a community where this kind of life-changing experience is possible brings me enormous joy and the deep-seated knowledge that what we do at Music Voyage is right, and our commitment to these children's lives must continue". The tours and workshops, the consistent weekly band practices, the growth, and national reach of the band- these all contribute to legitimising Music Voyage within the communities it serves. Parents and guardians are happy, they are collaborative and cooperative with the whole approach as was clearly evident in the recent interviews and filming of families and teachers from their neighbourhood.

We are proud of our achievements:

Marimba band featured on SABC news

Marimba band took second place in Ballito Marimba festival

Marimba band provided a team building workshop for the N3TC end of year function

Marimba band invited to play at Michaelhouse

School Choirs performed at Howick School concert

Violinists invited to play at Hilton College for an AGM

Saxophone students accepted and active members of the KZN Youth Orchestra

We believe that people build their livelihoods on their skills, activities, experiences

and emotional spirit. The Music Voyage project is so much more than learning to play an instrument. Our education interventions enable individuals to develop themselves and to take responsibility for their own lives, equipping them with skills and enabling success in community and in life.



Music Voyage

Katherine McClelland

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katherine@musicvoyage.co.za

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

Workshops

We run a number of different workshops from teachers' training workshops to interactive school workshops. Here is a picture of a recent workshop Brad facilitated at St Benedict's College last week.



We are looking at doing a Beginners and Intermediate teachers' training workshop in Johannesburg in the next two months. If you are interested in attending one of these please could you get in touch with us on info@marimbaworkshop.co.za If we have enough positive responses we will go ahead with the planning and date setting of the workshop.

The "All Stars Umlilo" 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 bi-monthly evening rehearsals at UJ Bunting Road Campus. A schedule will be sent to you. 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 or a whatsapp message to 0761272593 and more information will be communicated to you.

We are very excited to have relaunched the All Stars Umlilo Marimba Band. A community marimba band designed for post matric marimba-playing students as well as marimba and music teachers. The band meets twice a month for a session of learning new music, having fun and sharing in the power of marimbas to bring people of all walks of life together. For more information on the band send an email to Bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za



We are so excited to have seen schools' social media pages buzzing with the start of their marimba bands this year. Here are a few pictures from various schools' social media pages. How is your marimba band going at your school? We would love to hear from you!



Should you want your Marimba Workshop-related event or concert published in our newsletter, please email bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za
Please note: all incoming adverts are subject to company policies.