

# The Marimba Workshop (PTY) LTD



**BEAT IT!**

April 2021

Edition 16

## Marimba Monthly

We would like to take this month's edition to wish everyone in the Marimba Community a very happy Freedom Day in South Africa. The value of marimba playing across all economic, social and racial lines in South Africa is immense and we think it is a great symbol and metaphor to really show how far we have come in South Africa since our first democratic elections Day 27 years ago!

We have some exciting things to share in this newsletter including the upcoming Sounds of Celebration concert which can be watched virtually throughout the world. We are also highlighting the fantastic work done by the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Africa and how they have used marimbas as real tools for social and educational upliftment. As our South African schools' calendar seems to be as chaotic as ever, we would like to wish you all good luck for this next term as you come back from your holidays! Make it a MARIMBA TERM!

We would love to hear from you, please drop us an email on [info@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:info@marimbaworkshop.co.za)

Yours in music, The Marimba Workshop Team

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

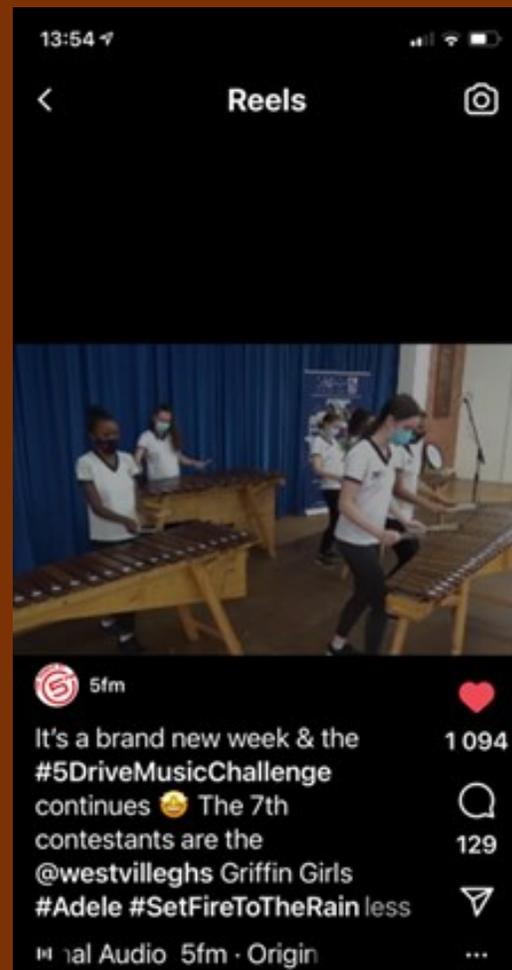
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheMarimbaWorkshop>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHnuvBUhgZvF0jc1bbYZHhg>



# Marimba news

We would like to congratulate Westville Griffon Girls from Westville Girls' High School (featured in November 2020 issue) in Durban for making it into the final round of the 5fm #5DriveMusicChallenge. You represented the entire Marimba community very admirably and it was amazing to hear some marimbas being played on a national radio broadcaster like 5fm. To view their performances visit 5fm's social media channels.



If you missed out on a newsletter, you can still access the older editions on our website:

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



Brad, Joan and the Education Africa team were involved in a professional recording session for an exciting upcoming project.

## ATTENTION DURBAN CLIENTS

We have recently reached out to many of our Durban clients about arranging a tuning and marimba maintenance trip. If you have not received an email from us please send an email to [bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za) and we will send you more details.

**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)

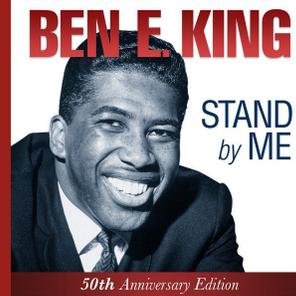


If you played in your school marimba band or are a music/marimba teacher who wants to play in a community marimba band we would love to hear from you. This band DOES require previous marimba band experience.

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](mailto:Bradley@marimbaworkshop.co.za) or a whatsapp message to 0761272593 and more information will be communicated to you.

Sessions are in full swing with this band and the progress and fun had at each session is remarkable. If you are a music teacher or post-matric marimba-playing student and would still like to join please get in contact with us. We would appreciate it if you could send this poster to all your ex-marimba students.



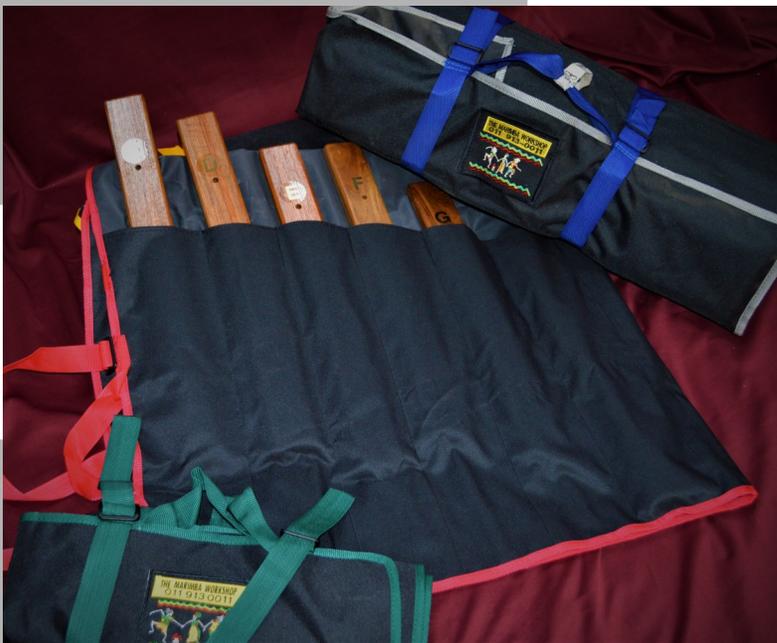
New music  
for sale:  
Stand by Me

[https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/  
title/stand-by-me-arranged-by-bradley-  
lithgow-for-marimba-band-diatonic-in-  
c-digital-sheet-music/21811666](https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/stand-by-me-arranged-by-bradley-lithgow-for-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/21811666)

## 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.



# Community Music Project/School Highlight

School: Boys and Girls Club of South Africa

Teacher: Various

Location: Gauteng, South Africa

Marimba is a great musical activity for after school Clubs such as ours as, unlike instruments like guitar and piano, it gives an opportunity for a large group of kids to participate. As the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Africa (BGCSA), we have been very fortunate to have started our Marimba journey in 2017 at our Protea Glen Club. Today at Protea Glen we have a staff band and Club band. The skilled staff teach our budding musical artists how to play the Marimba, and occasionally these bands are invited to external performances.

Our Marimba program is crucial in ensuring that we offer holistic and well-rounded opportunities for kids to learn. We have seen positive results in our Club Members' academics and overall attitude and outlook on life. Playing in the BGCSA Marimba band is not a free for all, Club Members need to ensure that their academics don't waver and that they are active participants in the club. If they

are well engaged and doing their work, they are allowed to participate in performances. By doing this we see that it gives our Club Members a goal to work towards, and be a part of. Marimba teaches discipline and leadership, which the kids have adopted into their everyday lives.

Our Marimba bands, both staff and children, have had the exciting honour to perform at many events including the International Marimba and Steelpan Festivals and Sounds of Celebration concerts. They have also had the opportunity to tour London, UK in 2018 with Education Africa. Travelling abroad was a first for most of our club members and needless to say they were very excited about this opportunity! Since then, our band has been able to win many categories at the International Marimba and Steelpan Festival, these also included winning prizes and gaining certificates for participation.

Our Marimba bands have the creative freedom to decide what they want to learn to play. A great example is our Vrededorp Marimba team that has perfected the melodic tunes of Master KG's hit single Jerusalema. You can see them play this jamming tune on our BGCSA social media.

Follow us on Facebook: @Boys & Girls Clubs of South Africa

And on Instagram at @bgcsa

We are very glad that we get to explore this instrument, as we believe we can impact the children's lives by invoking a love for music through the marimba instrument.



## Blu Earth Marimba Band news

Our professional company marimba band has been knee-deep in wedding season. Thank you to all our brides and grooms for keeping the live music industry alive during this pandemic!



We would like to congratulate all the NEW marimba schools (private, public, rural and urban) who have joined the Marimba Workshop family. We are so pleased to have you as part of a large community of schools who are using marimbas to make educational and social change!

## How cool are these?

A few years ago Ian the founder of The Marimba Workshop who is a meticulous craftsman created these adorable mini-marimba ornaments. They are perfect, to scale replicas of our Signature Range of instruments.



Thank you for the latest edition of the newsletter, It is a great resource — Jill Jacobs

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Education Africa  
in partnership with  
Sydenham Shul of Johannesburg, South Africa  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

"Simunye - We are One"

## SOUNDS of CELEBRATION VIII

A global online concert of Social Cohesion, featuring internationally acclaimed performers and musicians from all over the world. From Grammy winners to award winning artists, this is one concert you don't want to miss!

You can purchase a ticket and watch this very special concert from anywhere in the world!

**Sunday 23 May 2021**  
**17h00 CAT**  
**TICKET PRICE: R85**

To book go to:  
[www.educationafrica.org](http://www.educationafrica.org)  
[www.heroticket.co.za](http://www.heroticket.co.za)

Following the broadcast, the concert will be available for a further 7 days as a 'video on demand', allowing for viewing on a date & time convenient to you!

**Featuring:**  
Ladysmith Black Mambazo (South Africa),  
Wouter Kellerman (South Africa),  
The Vienna Boys' Choir (Austria), Nina Oud (UAE),  
Gad Elbaz (USA), The Solomon Brothers (Israel),  
Gregory Maqoma (South Africa),  
Pops Mohamed (South Africa), Justin Wilman (UK)

**Special Appearances by:**  
The Syrian Peace Choir (Germany),  
The Queen Victoria School Pipe Band (Scotland),  
The Peace Drums Project (Israel),  
The Urdang Academy (UK)

**Performances by South Africa's very own:**  
Chani G, Yudi Cohen & Neville Smith

with  
Education Africa Marimba Hub Bands from Goede Hoop,  
Masibambana College, John Wesley Community Centre and  
The Dominican School for the Deaf performing alongside King David  
Linksfield & The St Dominic's Boksburg Steel Band

**Hosted by:**  
David Bloch (Johannesburg, South Africa) &  
Layla Kardan (Dubai, UAE)

ESCON ARTS BECK FAMILY ELIJAH L. FIBRELL JACOBS FOUNDATION HERO TICKET

The Education Africa **Sounds of Celebration** online concert is coming up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 5pm and will be available for on demand viewing until the 30<sup>th</sup> May.

David Bloch, an award-winning artistic Director is the director of this first online Sounds of Celebration Concert.

The Marimba Workshop marimbas are featured in 10 items in this concert including collaborations with Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Wouter Kellerman, Choni G, Justin Wilman, The Vienna Boys Choir and The Peace Drums project.

The Marimba Workshop Family is well-represented in this concert with Joan as the Music Director, Bradley as the assistant Music Director and Amy-Sue as the Stage Manager.

Tickets are available world-wide at the very reasonable price of R85.00. This really is a concert not to be missed.

Please get your family, friends and all your marimba pupils to purchase a ticket. Not only will you be highly entertained by this incredible cast of performers but you will also be helping Education Africa sustain their Marimba Hubs programme which has 1000 disadvantaged young South Africans learning to play marimbas and experiencing the incredible joy of being a marimba player!

Registrations for the Education Africa Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan are currently open. For more information on this exciting festival visit:  
[www.internationalmarimbanfestival.org](http://www.internationalmarimbanfestival.org)



EDUCATION  
AFRICA

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Marimba Workshop marimbas are the only marimbas manufactured in the country where the bars may be interchanged to change keys. All other marimbas manufactured can only play in C and G.

If you would like to advertise your marimba related event in our newsletter please send an email to

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