

The Marimba Workshop

(PTY) LTD



BEAT IT!

May 2021

Edition 17

Marimba Monthly

As we celebrated Africa Day on the 25th of May and this past month being recognised as Africa Month, we could not think of a more distinctly South African musical sound than that of Marimbas. While marimbas are not necessarily a “traditional” instrument, the “South African Marimba Band” culture present in many schools and community centres is remarkable! We must not forget our many non-South African clients who we know are spreading the South African

Marimba Fever throughout the world. We are pleased to share this month’s newsletter with you, filled with many pictures of all the marimba happenings our company has been part of this month. We would also like to congratulate all of our new marimba clients: welcome to the Marimba Workshop Family. We would love to hear from you. If you read this newsletter, please get in contact by emailing info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

If you would like further information about any of our products or want to start your own marimba program at your school or community centre, please visit our website on:

www.marimbaworkshop.co.za

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

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

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



Product Highlight

As part of our add-on products, we also sell Djembe Drums. Djembe Drums make for perfect accompaniments to marimba bands as well as in their own capacity in drum circles. Our drums are produced in Ghana and come in 2 sizes.



TEACHING AND PLAYING TIPS

Always attempt to alternate your hands when you play. Never try to play two notes one after the other with the same hand. This way, you will be able to play much faster, and you will also be developing both sides of your brain!



Attention Durban Marimba teachers and schools

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 and we will send you more details. We are also planning on doing a series of “teacher training workshops” (See below for more details) and “Upskilling your A-Team band” workshops. If you would like Brad to come and work intensely with your marimba band or if you are interested in attending either a beginners or intermediate “Teacher Training” workshop, please contact us, and we will send you more information.

“Thanks for the update, the newsletter is so inspiring and motivating to do more of my community work.” — Philile

Rwaxa

New Music

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

Ocean Eyes by Billie Eilish

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/ocean-eyes-for-african-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/21997448>



Cleaning and Disinfecting your Marimbas

As we enter the unfortunate but inevitable 3rd wave of Covid infections in South Africa, we have once again seen many schools quickly begin the disinfection process of classrooms. From our May 2020 Newsletter, please see the below article with tips on how to clean and disinfect your marimbas

As schools are beginning to open, they are no doubt going to begin disinfecting classrooms and band rooms. We have heard from a couple of our clients asking for tips on how to ensure that their marimbas remain safe and are not negatively affected by the cleaning process. It appears there will be a “smoking” or “spraying” of disinfectant taking place as well as a wiping down of all surfaces. Some things to remember:

- *Smoking and spraying of classrooms will not negatively affect the tuning of the instruments provided that you wipe down the marimba and, in particular, the notes of the instrument. Ideally, you do not want liquid or droplets to sit on the instrument's notes for any extended period of time.*
- *Ensure you wipe and disinfect the beaters, as this is where the majority of human contact comes from in terms of the instruments. Marimba Workshop Nylon Beater handles are designed to be easily wiped down and cleaned without having any impact on the integrity of the beaters shaft or ball. It is however not advisable to let the beaters soak in liquid for a long period of time, this will negatively affect the integrity of the plastic materials used to bind the shaft and ball of the beater together. A simple wipe is good enough.*

We have been so delighted to see so many Marimba Schools carrying on their lessons while wearing their masks. Marimba Band is one of the safest extramural school activities you can do! Do not let the adverse effects of unsafe sports practices affect the very safe activity of marimba-playing at your school!

What sets us apart

The Marimba Workshop is one of the only marimba manufacturing companies that provides hands-on marimba teacher training and assistance throughout your marimba journey. We are always at hand to help and give tips over the phone for both teaching and marimba maintenance. We pride ourselves in our After-Sales Service.

Community Music Project/School Highlight

School: St Benedict's Prep School

Teacher: Stephanie Fouche

Location: Gauteng, South Africa

With St Benedict's being an all-boys school, the focus of class music is for the boys to experience music and to practically play instruments. An effective and enjoyable way of doing just that has been to make use of our marimbas. It is the perfect way to differentiate between the boy's different skill levels: the boys that do not have as much rhythm playing basic crotchet notes, while the boys that are more skilled, usually playing the melody parts.



The boys are so passionate about the marimbas; they are in the classroom at break times practising their parts and, if they were allowed before and after school, they would be there too. The popularity for marimbas has grown so much. We have four different marimba bands as part of the cultural clubs after school. We have two grade 4 & 5 bands, and two grade 6 & 7 bands. These bands are so in demand that we have to audition the boys, and there are always more boys eager and enthusiastic to participate.

Any ensemble is an amazing way for children to learn to play as a cohesive 'team', just as they would in any sport. They learn to listen to each other, when to play softer and louder, as well as helping each other when they are struggling. One of the wonderful elements of playing marimbas is that the children do not have to have any prior experience with music and they do not need to play an instrument to know how to play; it is something everyone can do.

We even had a staff marimba band at one stage! The staff absolutely loved playing, found it very therapeutic and it contributed to the 'wellness of their week. It is certainly proof that no one is too young or old to learn how to play marimbas.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=898730524286493&external_log_id=826ae30d-61d7-421f-902b-5b4998ad703d&q=st%20benedict%27s%20college%20bedfordview

"Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars — grade 6 & 7 Marimba Band

https://www.facebook.com/watch?ref=search&v=1198311377178041&external_log_id=c052haf4-9c3e-4384-8cce-34b7fed67f66&q=st%20benedict%27s%20college%20bedfordview

"Dance Monkey" Tones and I - grade 4-7 Marimba Band

https://www.facebook.com/watch?ref=search&v=182374476038633&external_log_id=a894b69f-3961-43e0-a459-8caa86400fea&q=st%20benedict%27s%20college%20bedfordview

"Natural" by Imagine Dragons - grade 4-7 Marimba Band



https://www.facebook.com/watch?ref=search&v=726806447998977&external_log_id=a8942278-4648-4165-8e7a-a689ef134c97&q=st%20benedict%27s%20college%20bedfordview

"Waterloo" by Abba — Staff band



Upcoming Events

Registrations for the Education Africa Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan are currently open. For more information on this exciting festival visit:

www.internationalmarimbafestival.org



EDUCATION
AFRICA

We will be hosting a beginners and intermediate teacher training workshop at Westville Senior Primary School on the 14th of July.

Contact us for more details:
info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

Highlights from the recent Sounds of Celebration Concert



This past Marimba Month in pictures



The All-Stars Umlilo Community Marimba Band continues to work hard and have fun at rehearsals.



We have been busy this month recording an updated Pre-school Marimba Program that we are hoping to launch in the next few months.

It has been another busy month of Blu Earth Marimba Weddings.

