

The Marimba Workshop

(PTY) LTD



BEAT IT!

July 2021

Edition 19

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 forefront of what we stand for.

Marimba Monthly

Welcome to the July edition of the Marimba Workshop newsletter. After a crazy month in South Africa we are pleased to hear the sounds of marimbas back in rehearsals now that schools are back. In this edition we feature the amazing work done by Janet Merrow-Smith in the UK with her marimba bands. It is always great to feature South African Marimbas doing big things internationally!

We have fortunately been able to reschedule our workshops in Durban! For more information please drop us an email.

Stay safe and healthy

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/UCHnuwBUhgZvF0je1bbYZHhg>

If you are reading this newsletter regularly or semi-regularly we would love to hear your thoughts. Please send an email to: info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Our unique beaters/mallets are specifically designed for the Marimba Workshop Marimbas. Our beaters are made with uniquely designed handles and heads made with very durable materials. The beaters are guaranteed to last far longer than normal wooden-handled beaters without losing too much of the authentic touch and feel you get from wooden handles. The materials also make them very easy to clean and wipe down with a wet cloth. They come in 4 different densities and colours each individually tailored to suit the Marimba Workshop instruments.



Videos going Viral

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQu79EMVEJw>



Care and Maintenance tips

Do not let stagnant water or liquid sit on the notes of your marimbas. Try and wipe it down as quick as possible to not allow the liquid to seep into the wood and cause the note to go out of tune.

Teaching and Playing Tips

The best sound on your marimbas will be produced when you play in the middle of the notes with the head of the beater. If you want an alternate sound you can also play with the back of the beater on the ends of the note (This will, however, scratch and damage the notes).



Stunning newsletter as always, Bradley!! So glad to see that the world of Marimbas keeps going and that it flourishes! – Retha Delpoit

WORKSHOPS

Introductory Marimba Workshop in Durban:

Date: Saturday the 7th of August 2021

Place: Westville Senior Primary School (Westville Rd, Westville, 3629, Durban, KZN)

Time: 8:00 (registration), 8:30-13:00

Cost: R550 per person (including tea/coffee, refreshments and teaching material covered during the workshop).

Contact: Joan Lithgow on 082 2664229 (office hours only) or email: joan@marimbaworkshop.co.za

Limited number of participants, please book before the 4th of August.

All Covid protocols will be observed, mask-wearing will be mandatory.



Intermediate Marimba Workshop in Durban:

Date: Saturday the 7th of August 2021

Place: Westville Senior Primary School (Westville Rd, Westville, 3629, Durban, KZN)

Time: 13:00 (registration), 13:30-16:30

Cost: R550 per person (including tea/coffee, refreshments and teaching material covered during the workshop).

Contact: Joan Lithgow on 082 2664229 (office hours only) or email: joan@marimbaworkshop.co.za

Limited number of participants, please book before the 7th of July.

All Covid protocols will be observed and mask-wearing will be mandatory.

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

The Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

Although registrations are officially closed you may still be able to register.

Contact joan@educationafrica.org if you would still like to register. We are looking forward to watching the event in November!



EDUCATION
A F R I C A

Community Music Project/School Highlight

School: Chinnor Marimbas

Teacher: Janet Merrow-Smith

Location: United Kingdom

I'm Jan, and I have a small part-time marimba business/hobby in the UK. Five years ago I decided to make time to focus on some marimba teaching and started running an after-school marimba club in my local village primary school, and an evening group for older/adult players. We don't particularly seek performing opportunities but have played for local events, participated in a benefit concert for BEFSA (Borien Educational Foundation for Southern Africa) and were very excited to enter the 2020 Virtual Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

African marimbas are almost unknown in the UK so I can feel somewhat isolated at times, having no local marimba network or a cultural context to work within. Consequently it was great to connect with 2 other groups in the south of England (Simon at ACS International School, Cobham, and Jim of Worthing Steel Band), and Otto Gumaelius, a Batswana living in the UK who now teaches and runs a professional performing group in London. Thanks guys for all your friendship and encouragement!

One of my joys is being able to deliver workshops to other schools and to community groups such as:

- Parkinsons' support group
- Care home for the elderly
- Support group for those with Alzheimer's
- Women's Institute meetings
- Adult Education workshop



This is a wonderful way to get people together, building a sense of team-work and helping in a variety of areas such as learning new skills, reinforcing memory patterns, developing and restoring gross motor skills and co-ordination etc. Often this is coupled with a talk/demonstration that generates a lot of discussion. In addition, being able to handle some gourd and seed-pod shakers, ornaments, bead jewellery and simple metal toys brought back from Africa, adds context and interest. I've found that most adults, and men in particular, are fascinated by the construction of the marimbas and this leads them to want to try playing. My original bass and baritone marimbas have the fibreglass resonators moulded from large gourds, and this again is another talking point when compared to the wooden-framed resonators.

Most recently, our evening group hosted a short social event, inviting family members and friends to get together and have a go. Such a lovely evening and everyone had a great time from the very youngest (pre-school), to the self-proclaimed non-musician! This really demonstrates how accessible the marimbas are to people with a wide range of abilities and ages, so I hope you will enjoy the resulting videos linked here. Bearing in mind that the 1-hour session included a short demo by the regular players, some social time and about 30 minutes for everyone to learn and have a go together, I think it was a highly successful event and a great achievement by all!

As a little aside, I have found that colour-coding the notes in chords C, F and G (thank you Jim) really helps young, musically inexperienced and those with various learning challenges to achieve in a very short time frame. This explains the colour references you may hear in the videos!

https://fb.watch/6_09o1Snhq/

https://fb.watch/v/1_ts-jYau/

https://fb.watch/6_04elmFyI/



Music Voyage Going On Tour

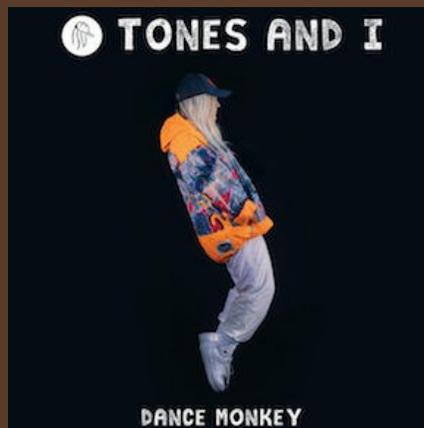
If you are able to financially contribute or assist this fantastic NPO please get in contact with them through the details on the poster below!



New Music

Dance Monkey by Tones and I

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/dance-monkey-digital-sheet-music/22067033>



This and all the arrangements we sell on Sheet Music Plus are fully licensed, and all copyright royalties are paid through the website. For our full list of Pop Song Arrangements please drop us an email.

Some tips for filming your marimba band

- Try and get above your marimba band (stand on a chair), this way you will be able to capture all performers
- Do not be too close to the band and try to not let the band play too loudly as this may distort the sound on the camera speaker
- Try and play outdoors or in a big room. Small rooms tend to accentuate the percussive nature of the instruments and you may lose some of the rich resonance.



For video guidelines for The International Marimba and Steelpan Festival please visit their website:
www.internationalmarimbanfestival.org/virtual