

# 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 forefront of what we stand for.

October 2021

Edition 21

## Marimba Monthly

It has been a very busy Marimba-filled 2 months. We have highlighted some of this in this newsletter and on our social media. We are excited to share the fantastic work done at Thomas More College in KZN. We are also very excited about the upcoming Education Africa Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival that will be broadcast in November, more information below. We would particularly like to wish all the schools with Marimba Workshop instruments well for the Virtual Festival and are excited to see the brilliant work done by all the teachers around the country and world.

As the year is drawing to a close we would encourage all schools to try and take advantage of our tuning special and 10 year loyalty discount that has been emailed to our clients. We are trying to keep our increase in prices as low as possible for next year but would encourage all of those thinking of starting or adding to their marimba sets in the near future to get in contact with us before the year- end.

Wishing you all a blessed month ahead

— 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/UCHnuwBUhgZwF0jc1bbYZHhg>

# Products



At the end of 2019 we launched an update to our current marimba range. Through uniquely designed brass eyes we have managed to lessen the general wear and tear of the black elastic that stops the marimba notes from bouncing off the top of the pins. This, together with the 2018 improvement of grommets in the eyes, ensures that both the white and the black chord that support the notes on all our new marimbas will last a significantly longer time without having to be replaced or serviced. All new marimbas across our range now come standard with this new fitting. The new thicker black elastic still allows for easy note and key changes to occur. This is one of the signature features of the Marimba Workshop Marimbas.



Always play with the correct beaters for your marimbas. Our marimba beaters are specially designed for our own instruments. The black beaters are for bass, the red are for the tenor, the blue for the soprano and the green for the piccolo. If you play with beaters that are too hard on the wrong notes it may damage or break the notes.

There are many children who may be very interested in having their own marimba from Santa. As much as marimbas are normally based at schools, we do have many clients who have purchased marimbas for their children and family and have started a family band. Do you want the joyous sounds of marimbas in your home this Christmas? Send us an email for more information to ensure we can get them manufactured before Christmas!



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



# Tuning Special

## 10% OFF your marimba tuning from now until the end of the year!

Note tuning, like piano tuning, is an ongoing maintenance procedure one needs to do to all models of African marimbas. Wood is a living entity and will expand in the heat and contract in the cold. If your marimbas are used regularly and exposed to various elements, your notes will eventually need to be tuned. We recommend that our clients get their notes retuned once a year depending on how often they are used.

### Terms and Conditions

- This special only applies to tuning of Marimba Workshop Instruments
- The 10% does not include courier fees to us or back to your school
- Tuning can only be done at our factory in Gauteng
- The 10% DOES apply to replaced notes if needed, during the tuning process
- Notes need to be received before the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, our factory closes on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December



Send an email to [info@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:info@marimbaworkshop.co.za) for more information

## NEW MUSIC

### Good 4 U by Olivia Rodrigo

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/good-4-u-by-olivia-rodrigo-for-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/22069162>



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)

## We are closing on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

Last chance to take advantage of our 2021 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 2021 prices. (terms and conditions apply)

# Community Music Project/School Highlight

**School: Thomas More College**

**Teacher: Meg Logan**

**Location : Kwa-Zulu Natal**

Marimbas have been an integral part of the fabric of Thomas More College for well over a decade. After attending a teacher's conference and seeing marimbas for the first time, Music teacher Sheila Chiles convinced the then headmaster of the senior primary that marimbas would be an excellent addition to the class music curriculum.



Beginning with just two combos and one bass in about 2009, marimbas gained popularity very quickly. The need to expand this musical experience into the extra mural space was evident, and thanks to the generous donations of a few more instruments, this became a possibility. In a considerably short space of time, the senior primary marimba bands grew from strength to strength until they were ready to participate in the Education African International Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

Understandably, when the senior primary pupils moved into the high school, they did not want to give up playing marimbas and it was in 2013 that marimbas were introduced to the high school. Ever since, the senior marimba band in the high school has participated in the Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival. Thomas More College now has six combos and three bass instruments that are played by four bands with up to 25 members in each band (two in the senior primary and two in the high school).

Both senior primary bands get to rehearse for one hour a week under the guidance of Mr Anele Mnguni. This affords every interested learner an opportunity to play in an ensemble. We believe that youth band experiences are crucial for those pupils who wish to become professional musicians one day. We use marimbas to expand music knowledge of our pupils in terms of dynamics, harmony, intervals and their general aural development. When working together young musicians learn to adapt in order to create perfect harmony. Additionally, marimbas provide young band members a platform for them to showcase their talent. Through the use of marimbas, our pupils not only improve their skills, but they also learn to become committed, and dedicated members of the band. We promote love for learning while also instilling teamwork and discipline while building confidence in our learners. These valuable lessons are vital for the future of our pupils. To keep both marimba bands enthusiastic, we introduce our children to various music genres.

In the high school, Mrs Meg Logan coaches the junior band for one 90-minute practice per week, and the senior band for two 90-minute practices per week. The camaraderie in the bands is something special to behold. Different grades are able to mix with one another and firm friendships are formed. The bands are afforded many performance opportunities such as Prize-Givings, Open Days,



Country Fair, our Musical Showcase evening, various assemblies as well as the annual competition in Johannesburg. Last year, just before Covid hit, we also managed to participate in the Felixton Marimba Jamboree. In the high school, pupils are encouraged to arrange pieces themselves and there is a strong legacy of pupils guiding one another through this process, building upon their skills from year to year. We have had excellent role models come through the ranks, and a powerful sense of unity is felt in all the bands. We honestly could not imagine the school without marimbas as the joy they bring is incomparable.

<https://youtu.be/4Ppnn6MxWRo>

# Upcoming Events

**KwaZulu-Natal**  
**Heritage Series** with Julie Griffiths & Featuring Guest Artist Thobekile Mtomb'Yelanga

Join us in a music workshop for Primary School teachers that celebrates our heritage through songs, art, movement, and music from our guest artist.

**NEW DATE: 6 November 2021**  
 08:30 - 12:30  
 at  
 Penzance Primary School

**POSTPONED DUE TO ELECTIONS**

**IEG**

**Bookings**  
 Wendy Harling:  
 harlingw@penzance.co.za  
 083 761 5866  
 cost R350

**ORFF**  
 SCHULWERK SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
 orffinfo@gmail.com www.orff.co.za

**GAUTENG**  
**Heritage Series** with Margriet van Zyl & Bronwyn Pieters George Potgieter

Join us in a music workshop for Primary School teachers that celebrates our heritage through songs, art, movement and music from our presenters.

**6 November 2021**  
 08h30 - 12h30  
 at  
 St Mary's School  
 55 Athol St, Waverley, Johannesburg  
 Senior Primary Hall  
 cost R350

**Bookings**  
 George Potgieter:  
 George.potgieter@stmary.co.za

**ORFF**  
 orffinfo@gmail.com www.orff.co.za

Education Africa  
 Virtual International  
 Marimba and Steelpan  
 Festival 2021

13, 14, 20 AND 21 NOVEMBER 2021

**EDUCATION AFRICA**

**TIMES OF THE PREMIERE VIEWINGS OF  
 THE EDUCATION AFRICA VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL 2021**

There are 12 episodes (most are less than 2 hours in length) which can be viewed on:

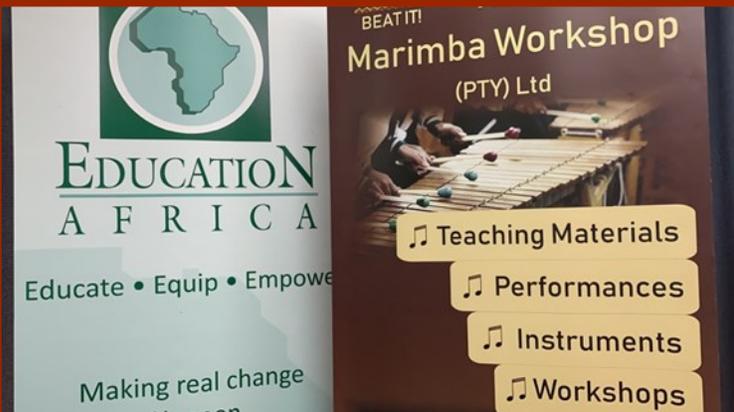
The Virtual Festival Facebook page:

**“Education Africa’s Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival”**

and

The Education Africa YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsei0CNAvqGHNElek4P5rg>



We are proud to have sponsored a Signature 3.5 Octave Combination Marimba for the Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival. The winner will be announced in the prize-giving episodes of the Festival on the 21<sup>st</sup> November.

The note tuning process is a complex one. This month we found a very rare note where the grain, density and cut of the wood matched the tuning of the note perfectly without any additional cuts needing to be made. This is a very rare occurrence that can only happen with small upper register notes.



Our company band performed two SAMRO commissioned works for the Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival along with Magdalena de Vries on Solo Orchestral Marimba



Our company band: Blu Earth Marimba Band played at a couple of weddings



We conducted a workshop at the Japanese International School of Johannesburg