

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.

July 2022

Edition 27

Marimba Monthly

This is the July Edition of the Marimba Workshop newsletter. We are one of the leading manufacturers 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. We are pleased to highlight *St Catherine's School, Germiston* in this month's edition and hope you find the content of this newsletter interesting and informative.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us for any marimba related advice or if you would like to start using the educational and social power of marimbas at you school! Drop us an email on info@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/>





PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Did you know all our new marimbas have the option of castors, to make them travel around your classroom with ease!

We can also fit these to your existing marimbas. Contact us for more information.

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

Teaching and playing tips

Encourage your students to improvise, remix and use their aural skills to figure out new songs. This will result in the students becoming more involved and taking ownership of the pieces they play. You will also be developing many other musical and life skills by allowing them the space and freedom to do this.

Tips on care and maintenance

Always use old pillows and blankets when transporting your marimbas in a trailer or vehicle. This will protect your instruments from scratches and bumps that may occur when being transported. Always remember to take your notes off (and put them in our specially created bags) and take out the bass boxes and fold the legs. If you do this, then your marimbas will last many years looking as good as new!



Supplier Appreciation

Many of our suppliers have worked with Ian and Joan since the company began over 18 years ago! We thank them for their loyalty, kindness and friendship and hope they know they are highly valued members of the Marimba Workshop Family.



New sheet music arrangements

Bella Ciao for Marimba Band

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/bella-ciao-for-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/22066485>

Contact us for a full catalogue of our Pop Marimba Band Arrangements or for information on our marimba books.



This month Bradley was on a television shoot where he taught marimbas to Somizi and Kwaito legends: Mdu Masilela and Thebe Mogane for the next season of "Downtime with Somizi"

A note on tuning

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 around once a year depending on how often they are used. Please send us an email should you want to book your Marimba Workshop notes in for tuning.

School Highlight

School: St. Catherine's School

Teacher: Abri Venter

Location: Germiston, Gauteng

Dear fellow Marimba Enthusiasts

I was introduced to marimbas in 1999 when I attended a marimba workshop in Johannesburg. The vibrant sound of the marimbas, the joy of ensemble playing and the sheer joy and enthusiasm that I experienced that day, got me hooked on marimbas for life. Through my teaching career I have had the pleasure of helping hundreds of children to also fall in love with these beautiful instruments.

I joined St. Catherine's in the middle of 2020 and was very excited to see that there were indeed already marimbas at the school: Three combinations and two basses. I immediately started marketing for two bands at the school: One for the Preparatory School and one for the Senior school. By the end of the year I had so many pupils that were interested in joining that I bought another Combination Marimba. In 2021, although hampered by COVID, I started with a Junior Band in the Preparatory School and a Prestige Band in the Senior School. The interest kept growing and at the end of 2021, the only way I could see to accommodate more players, was to introduce djembe drums to play with the bands. I was fortunate to be able to persuade the very talented Mr Jon-Jon Hess, to oversee the drumline that we use in conjunction with the marimbas.



Now, in 2022, there are 8 bands at the school and about 100 players in total! We also use our marimbas during Class Music lessons in the Primary School. The excitement on the children's faces when they succeed in putting a song together is priceless.

The versatility of the marimba makes it such a popular choice of instrument. You can literally perform any genre of music on a marimba — from House, to Jazz, to Classical and obviously our own indigenous music. Furthermore, you can teach the simplest musical patterns and rhythms to beginner players, and achieve a very satisfying end-result. The more advanced the learners become, the more complex rhythms and harmonies can be introduced to the children - the sky is the limit. I have also found that children love to experiment with improvisation because it gives them a sense of achievement when they do something that they do from their heart, and not necessarily what they have been taught. The results are sometimes astounding.

I am looking forward to making (marimba) music with the children of St. Catherine's for many more years to come. I want to end off by thanking the Marimba Workshop and Education Africa for everything they are doing to promote marimbas in South Africa and abroad. The service I get from them is always excellent and delivery is always with a smile. Keep up the good work!

Yours in Marimba

Abri Venter



The registration for the Education Africa Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival is closed and all 275 videos have been received and are being processed. The Festival will be on YouTube and Facebook on 8/9/15/16 October 2022.

Watch this space for more information in next month's newsletter!

This month in pictures

It has been a busy month for our marimba band as well as with all the teachers workshops and individual school workshops we have done.



The Marimba Workshop (PTY) Ltd



50th Celebration Conference

Performing Arts Education



A four-day celebration filled with performing arts workshops from both local and international presenters.

Our very own Pedro "The Music Man" Mbanga and Thobekile "Ntomb'Yelanga" Mbanga, as well as Shirley Salmon (Austria), Sarah Brooke (Australia), Elisa Seppanen (Finland), Tero Pajunen (Finland) and Rob Amchin (USA) are some of the wonderful presenters.

Join us as we celebrate the past 50 years of elemental performing arts education together. We would love to see you there! 6-9th August 2022



WESTERING HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

WOOD & STEEL FESTIVAL

Friday, 12 August 2022
18:00
P.A. Blackbeard Hall, Westering High School

STEELBANDS
LAWSON BROWN "DA STEEL FEEL" | "PANTASTIX" |
WESTERING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR STEELBAND

MARIMBA BANDS
SUMMERWOOD PROTEAS | SUNRIDGE BEAT WAVES |
WESTERING HIGH DOBLE RITMOS MARIMBAS

TICKETS: R50 ADULTS | R30 SCHOLAR/STUDENT/PENSIONER
CONTACT MRS NIEMAND ON 041 360 7805 OR yniemand@westeringhigh.co.za