



# The Marimba Workshop (PTY) Ltd.

A U T U M N   N E W S L E T T E R  
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It has been a busy marimba season as it starts to get very cold in South Africa. We would love to hear from you, please do get in touch and let us know how your marimba band is going! Drop us an email on [info@marimbaworkshop.co.za](mailto:info@marimbaworkshop.co.za)

Grab a warm hot chocolate and enjoy reading this season's edition of The Marimba Workshop Newsletter.

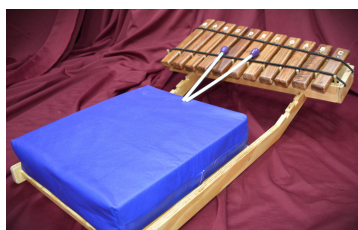
## Did you know?

We offer one of the widest range of teacher resources for the marimba band community of South Africa and abroad.

Contact us for a full catalogue of music, marimba specialist books, teacher training and fun workshops, as well as our fabulous array of marimba instruments.

We have designed specialist instruments for Marching Bands, Orff ensembles, Wheelchair Accessible Marimbas, Sit-On Marimbas for students who have low mobility and standing difficulties, Specially-designed preschool Marimbas (and a full step-by-step preschool programme in 4 modules), and of course our ever popular Signature Marimba Sets and Traditional Marimba Sets used by schools and professional marimba bands across the world.

We are one of South Africa's leading suppliers of Marimba Instruments and additional educational and marimba- related material.





## New Music Catalogue

Are you looking for new music of Pop song arrangements for your marimba bands? We have a large number of South African and International Pop Music Arrangements written specifically by Marimba Teachers For South African School Marimba Bands. Contact us for the full catalogue.

## Workshops:

We are planning a number of Teacher Training workshops for the 2nd half of this year, if you would like to host one (particularly if you are in a smaller town and outside of a major city), please get in touch with us so we can start planning. Our teacher training workshops offer a holistic methodology to teaching marimba students and are not only just about having fun playing marimbas, but offer a real crafted step-by-step methodology to starting and blossoming your marimba programme at your school.

We also offer a number of team-building and “upskilling your A-Team Band” intensive workshops for your students. Brad had a great time last month working with the band from

The Girls High School in Potchefstroom. For more information on any of our workshops please send us an email on

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



The LIVE Education Africa International Marimba & Steelpan Festival is coming up on the 29th and 30th of July in Gauteng. We are excited to connect with many of our clients who are participating this year. Even if your school is not performing in the competition aspect of the festival, we would encourage you to bring some of your students to watch the other bands at the festival. It is one of the best learning curves for marimba bands, to be able to witness what other schools are doing and to learn and interact with other like-minded students from around South Africa. In addition, there are 90 interactive workshops at the Festival that you and your students can attend for a full weekend passport of R300 per person.

Tickets for spectators will be available at the door and on TicketPro before the event. (We will be sending out another reminder email closer to the time).

## Extra Resources

We have an array of resources, teaching tips and advice within our newsletters, which are all accessible on our website's home page: [www.marimbaworkshop.co.za](http://www.marimbaworkshop.co.za). They are also filled with inspirational stories from teachers around South Africa who use Marimba Workshop instruments to change their school and students' lives on a daily basis.

Follow us on Facebook: we regularly share very useful information on marimba playing and teaching. We also love to share the fantastic performances many schools and bands share on their own Facebook pages. You only need to spend 5 minutes on our Facebook page to see why we are the preferred marimba supplier for so many schools across South Africa



# School Highlight

**St Mary's DSG Kloof**

**Location:** Kloof Durban

**Teacher:** Tarisai Muchineripi

## **The Magical Marimba!**

"Ms. M, Ms. M, I can't wait to join the marimba band." These words were eagerly spoken by a Grade 2 pupil every time she saw me walking in the corridors. It filled my heart with joy, but also a touch of sadness, knowing that not all the school children longing to join the band would have the opportunity, as the marimba program is initially only available from Grade 6 onwards. The demand was, and continues to be incredibly high. Despite these challenges, our marimba program has blossomed from a single band of 16 girls into six bands, with just over 120 primary and high school girls who gather each week for rehearsals in their respective bands.

There is an undeniable magic to the marimba. From the sound it produces to the bonds it forges among players, this instrument has the power to create everlasting relationships and foster teamwork. It is an instrument that every soul should have the chance to play and experience.

In 2015, our first marimba band was created, and the girls have taken delight in sharing their music with others. We perform at various school functions, shopping malls, carnivals, churches, competitions in KZN and Gauteng, outdoor expos, festivals, and even at weddings. One of the highlights is witnessing the girls involve the audience, teaching them a thing or two during their performances.

I firmly believe that every human being should be afforded the opportunity to encounter and play the marimba at some point in their lifetime. In line with this belief, we have offered engaging marimba workshops, including staff development sessions, parent fun workshops, sessions for principals across KZN, and Christmas dinners for staff, boarders and students around the community. The joy expressed by everyone who engages with this instrument is truly something remarkable.

Each year, we eagerly anticipate the international marimba and steelpan festivals. Our first attendance in 2016 was an unforgettable experience. The girls enjoyed the opportunity to meet other players, learn from them, and perform at such a prestigious event. A treasured memory was during the prize-giving ceremony when our school was called out for first position in one of the categories. Initially doubting if they were referring to us, we looked at each other puzzled, as we kept getting called, until one of the girls hurried up to collect our prize. It was a moment that truly boosted our spirits and confidence in our playing.

Lastly, in a world where the digital realm thrives, and many individuals still feel isolated, let us remember that we possess a powerful tool that can help change this. With this beautiful and magical instrument, we can bring children, parents, teachers, and our communities together, allowing them to experience the love and joy that arises from playing our instrument.

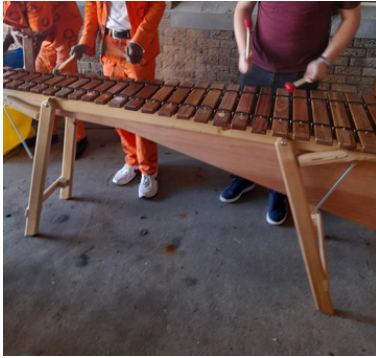
It is a testament to the impact of this instrument that the Grade 2 pupil who eagerly expressed her desire to join the band has now become an integral part of our Grade 10 band, even choosing music as one of her subjects. Her journey is a shining example of the transformative power of this magical instrument - the marimba!







# AUTUMN GALLERY



Apart from a number of school deliveries, we delivered marimbas to an exciting project at Polsmoor Prison in Cape Town, where we had a bit of a jam session with the prisoners and taught them a bit about teaching methodology and how they can use the marimbas going forward within the prison rehab programme.  
#Marimba4All

An exciting week-long musical collaboration called: "Sisu Meets Ubuntu" between young musicians and teachers from Finland and the Education Africa Alumni Marimba Band, that culminated in a 5-school concert tour and a gala event at the Finland Embassy in Pretoria. For more information on this project watch this video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YNTdezkgEg>



A number of marimba bands performed on 947 radio station for their "school's takeover".



Our marimbas got the stamp of approval from Comedian Kevin Hart at Masibambane College.





# AUTUMN GALLERY



Our company band: Blu Earth Marimba Band have had a very busy few months, performing at multiple weddings and corporate events around Gauteng and the North West Province.

As part of our partnership with NPO Education Africa we are happy to have aided one of the Alumni Students, Lungile Nkabinde to publish her first Marimba Arrangement of the classic South African Piece: Via Orlando by Dr Malinga.

You can purchase the score here:  
<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/via-orlando-remake-score-only-digital-sheet-music/22490063>



Education Africa held their 40-hour intensive week-long teacher training course for a number of their new marimba hubs. Over 60 new teachers were trained.