

The Marimba Workshop

Marimba Monthly

Welcome to the first edition of the Marimba Workshop Newsletter for 2021. We hope you all had a superb festive season filled with love, hope and safety! We have a number of interesting inserts in this month's newsletter with some of the marimba activities that happened in the last month of 2020. We would love to hear from you (compliments, complaints, advice) or if you would like any help with starting a marimba project at your institution or school. Please drop us an email on info@marimbaworkshop.co.za

Have a safe and marimba filled start to the year. I leave you with this: You may have heard of "ELF ON THE SHELF" but have you heard of "SIMBA ON THE MARIMBA"?

Bradley and the rest of the Marimba Workshop Team!



Great feeling Bradley. Like them (newsletters)" – Prosper



WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO USE THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBAS

1. Hand-made with quality materials by experienced craftsmen.
2. Tuned electronically by experienced tuners.
3. Designed by Orff specialists who understand music teaching in the classroom.
4. The only marimbas manufactured in South Africa where the bars may be interchanged to change keys. All other marimbas manufactured can only play in C and G.
5. Excellent after-sales service.
6. The instruments are durable and easily stored and transported.
7. Bags may be bought to store the notes when not in use or to transport them when the band plays at functions.
8. Covers are available to keep the marimbas in tip-top shape.
9. Regular marimba courses are offered by an experienced marimba teacher.
10. These marimbas are incredibly user-friendly and can be used in classrooms from grade 0 to grade 12.
11. A pre-school programme using these marimbas is available.
12. Three children can play on one combination instrument at the same time. Two children can play on the bass at the same time. This cuts down on space required.
13. Dummy keyboards are available to engage all the children in the lesson at the same time.
14. There are over 800 marimbas made by the Marimba Workshop around the world.



New Music

Stitches by Shawn Mendes

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/stitches-shawn-mendes-arranged-by-bradley-lithgow-for-african-marimba-band-diatonic-in-c-digital-sheet-music/21812730>



BEAT IT!



At the end of the year, Joan received an award from the South African Society Of Music Teachers and was featured in the annual magazine.



Joan Lithgow

Trained as a classical musician, Joan Lithgow's "journey with marimbas" started in 1974, when she studied percussion as a second instrument at the University of Witwatersrand. Lithgow was one of the founding members of the Marimba Education Foundation. Under the auspices of this foundation she organised six highly successful National Marimba Festivals and started several marimba programmes in schools around the country. Late in 2011, Lithgow joined Education Africa as marimba specialist and has subsequently been running four highly successful projects: (i) She is Festival Director for the Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festivals which, in 2019, drew 2000 performers from all over South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Nigeria; (ii) She is the driving force behind the establishment of 18 Marimba Hubs in townships across Gauteng and one Hub in De Aar in the Northern Cape. This programme includes a deaf school in Hammanskraal, and schools for Mildly and Severely Intellectually Disabled pupils in Lenasia; (iii) She is music director of the annual "Sounds of Celebration" Concert at Emperor's Palace, which is marked by its celebration of musical diversity; (iv) funds permitting, she also takes 10 players from the marimba hubs on an annual international tour.

As we start the new year
with new hope and new budgets
now is the time to take advantage!
We will be keeping our 2020 prices
for JANUARY 2021!
Place your marimba orders now
in January and take
advantage
of the 2020 prices.



Over the holiday period we received a few marimba note sets and instruments to be repaired and refurbished. We were very surprised and pleased to see one of the original marimbas that Ian had hand-made himself nearly 17 years ago when we started the company. The marimba is still in perfect working condition and only has a few minor scratches and wear and tear. A true testament to Ian's perfectionist craftsmanship! This craftsmanship still remains with our newer instruments that have gone through many changes since this original marimba.



BEAT IT!

The First Ever Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival

Last year we were part of a worldwide event that took place virtually (on YouTube and Facebook) over 2 weekends in December. We are very proud of the Education Africa Team who put this fantastic event together. We are also equally proud of all the marimba bands who participated. In particular we would like to highlight all our Marimba Workshop Clients who pulled off some amazing performances during the festival. Below is the list of marimba bands who performed on Marimba Workshop Instruments:

- BEAULIEU COLLEGE (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF BERTRAMS (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ALEXANDRA (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MARAISBURG (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF PIMVILLE (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF PROTEA GLEN (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF VREDEDORP (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- CHINNOR MARIMBA GROUP (OXFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM)
- CURRO HILLCREST (KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA)
- DOMINICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- DURBAN PREP. (KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA)
- JEPPE HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- JISWA SCHOOL (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- KYALAMI PREPARATORY SCHOOL (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- MALLET OF HOPE (NORTH WEST, SOUTH AFRICA)
- MASIBAMBANE COLLEGE (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- MCK SPECIAL SCHOOL (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- MERRIFIELD COLLEGE (EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA)
- MUSIC VOYAGE (KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA)
- SEKAMPANENG PRIMARY SCHOOL (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- ST. CHARLES COLLEGE (KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA)
- ST. PAULUS PRIMARY SCHOOL (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- TOM NEWBY SCHOOL (GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA)
- WESTVILLE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL (KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA)
- WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL (KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA)
- WORTHING STEELBAND (WEST SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM)



Out of the 46 Institutions from around the world we are proud that more than 60% percent of the bands are part of The Marimba Workshop Family. In particular we would like to highlight the following bands who won category awards at the Virtual Festival, showing that The Marimba Workshop instruments stand out both musically and educationally above the rest!



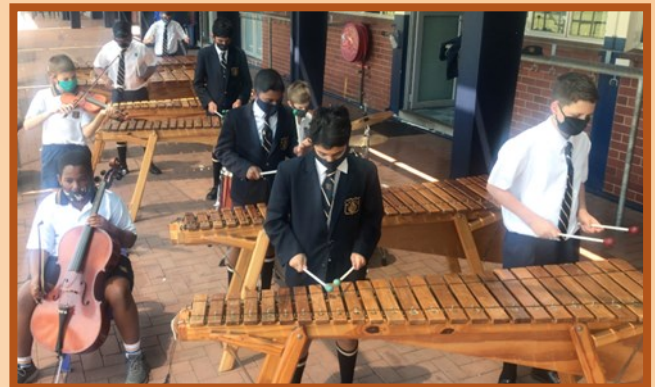
Boys and Girls Club Pimville



John Wesley Community Centre



Sekampaneng Primary School



Durban Prep



Curro Hillcrest

We are also delighted to have sponsored a BRAND NEW Signature 3.5 Octave Combination Marimba Prize which went to MCK Special School. We could not think of a more deserving school for this prize to go to!



BEAT IT!

WORKSHOPS!

With new level 3 restrictions coming into place in South Africa we are being cautious about setting any workshops in place in the first half of the year. We are, however, still planning for some workshops in the latter half of the year and depending on how the COVID situation progresses we may slot in a few in the first half of the year. Please contact us if you are interested in attending a teacher training workshop or getting Brad or Joan to come and do an upskilling of your marimba band workshop (more details about this workshop offering next month).

The Marimba Workshop remembers Gill and Rob Allan.

Gill and Joan both attended piano lessons in Primrose, Germiston with Mrs. Winnifred Reynolds about 50 years ago where they met and where a life-long friendship began. Gill then attended the newly opened Art, Ballet and Music School and Joan followed the next year.

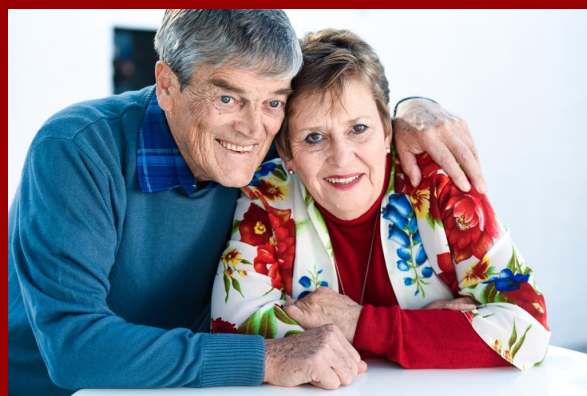
Gill met Rob as a young man who boarded with Gill's family. As long as Joan has known Gill she has known Rob who eventually became Gill's husband. Soon after the Marimba Workshop was established in 2004 Robbie started tuning the Marimba Workshop marimbas and continued to do so until a few years ago when the Marimba Workshop decided to keep all the various operations under one roof.

Many of our clients will remember with fondness Rob and Gill travelling around the country tuning marimbas.

Just before lockdown in March Gill passed away due to cancer and then early in November Robbie passed away. Our sincere condolences go to their children, Kirsty, Stacey and Wesley and their grandchildren.

Many of our clients are still playing on marimbas that were initially tuned by Robbie. We thank them for their service to the marimba community at large in South Africa and pay tribute to the wonderful friendship we shared with them.

May their departed souls rest in peace.



BEAT IT!