



**REPORT ON
THE EDUCATION AFRICA
4TH INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL
2015**

EMBRACING AFRICA

**225 performances; 65 fringe events and over 1600 participants in
this amazing event!**

The largest festival of its kind in the world!



Education Africa in partnership with **St. Benedict's College** and in association with the **High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago** was the host of this prestigious event. This year we were delighted to announce the wonderful sponsorship from **The Department of Arts and Culture**. Once again we were very proud to welcome as our patrons the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency, **Harry Partap** who donated a beautiful trophy as well as R3000 for the best steel band performance of the Festival and **Andy Narell**, friend of Education Africa and an extraordinary musician and humanitarian. We were also excited to once again be in this fantastic partnership with St Benedict's College for our 4th Festival. A BIG thank-you to **Mr. Andre Oosthuizen**, headmaster of St. Benedict's College and the St. Benedict's Board of Directors as well as **Janet Chalmers**, director of Music, for their cooperation and support.



Thank you to each and every person who attended the festival! For a festival of this magnitude to work successfully we need: participants, an audience, teachers, crew, cleaners, management, volunteers, caterers, stall holders, sponsors, security, workshop presenters, adjudicators and loads of passion, dedication and commitment from everyone mentioned above. Thank you to everyone for their passion, dedication and commitment that was evident in every aspect of the festival.

Top of the list for me has to be the **TEACHERS** who not only train their bands but see this festival as something worthy to participate in and to put the extra effort in to organise their pupils to come to the festival. A particular tribute must be made this year to the following local schools: ST DOMINIC'S BOKSBURG: Tessa Olivier brought 79 pupils; REDHILL: Locx Mmileng brought 84 pupils; KINGSMEAD: Belinda de Villiers and Wian Joubert brought 87 pupils. Then from schools further afield: Zeni Williams-Jones and Anne McLaren from MERRIFIELD COLLEGE who brought a party of 60 people to the festival all the way from East London! Thank you! Thank you also to the TOSVII Steel Band from Nigeria who travelled the furthest to come to the festival. They undoubtedly were one of the cutest bands at the festival! And then there are those teachers who spend an entire year fundraising to ensure that their pupils come to the festival each year. I would also like to pay tribute to Andelene Ross from AQUA VISTA who has already started fundraising for 2016. Her tenacity and enthusiasm for the festival and for marimbas has made a difference in so many lives of her pupils. We appreciate the support!

The Festival is known for its special spirit! This has become the magical ingredient that sets us apart from all other festivals of this kind around the world!

Our theme for this year was EMBRACING AFRICA and we had several amazing partnerships with advantaged and disadvantaged communities to show how through music, social cohesion in our country and on our continent is possible. Thank you to King David, Linksfield, Ithute Primary, John Wesley Community Centre and Walk of the Beat for being the leaders in this field. We would like to encourage ALL our bands to find ways to make a difference in our country.

Mentally and physically challenged bands competed alongside their able-bodied counterparts. This is one of the very few opportunities where these marginalised groups of people are able to compete and win competitions in an all-encompassing festival! We are so proud of our fully inclusive policy!

Marimbas and steelpans started arriving at the festival from early Friday 31st August. The massive marquee in the beautiful grounds of St Benedict's College soon filled up with marimbas and steelpans from all over Southern Africa as well as all the way from Nigeria.

There were over 250 marimbas and steelpan on the floor when the Festival began on Saturday morning!

Participants from most of our nine provinces of South Africa as well as Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Nigeria and Lesotho attended. In addition we had 6 adjudicators: 3 from South Africa and one each from Zimbabwe, France and the USA. All were here to be part of the 4th Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival held in South Africa. 70 Institutions participated in 225 competition entries!

The festival has two main components: THE MAIN event and the FRINGE events.

At the main event in the marquee, marimba and steelpan competitions took place throughout the two days where bands in different sections and age categories competed for the much coveted trophies and many, many prizes.

As the festival grows from strength to strength so we have adapted our model to suit the needs of the festival. This year we had 6 adjudicators who were put in 2 teams and alternated between adjudicating and giving lecture-demonstrations and performances. This worked extremely well as it allowed the participants the opportunity to see the calibre of the adjudicators and created a renewed respect for them!

The six esteemed adjudicators were **Andy Narell from France, Prof. Mark Stone from Michigan, Charles Nota from Zimbabwe, Dr. Susan Harrop-Allin from Gauteng, Dr. Sibongile Khumalo from Gauteng and Candice Parkin from Port Elizabeth.**

Andy Narell is one of our patrons and also a special friend of the Festival. Andy is a steelpan performer who performs worldwide and was able to demonstrate to the public what a great musician he is through his performances on the Fringe.

Prof. Mark Stone is a professor of world music at Oaklands University in Michigan. He is not only amongst many other talents a marimba player but also a steelpan player which made him a great choice to have as an adjudicator this year. Mark is also an outstanding teacher. This was evident when he gave two lecture-demonstrations at the Fringe.

Charles Nota has been playing marimbas since a youngster and is now involved in his doctoral studies in marimba pedagogy. At the Fringe Charles gave two workshops for teachers on how to compose and arrange for the marimba ensemble.

Dr. Susan Harrop-Allin is a lecturer at the Wits School of Music in the community music programme. This made her a perfect choice as one of the adjudicators for this festival. In addition she also gave teachers workshops at the Fringe on the importance of games in the classroom.

Dr Sibongile Khumalo is no stranger to the South African Music Scene. She is an extraordinary musician and South Africa's very own SONGBIRD. She proved to be an extremely valued member of the adjudication panel. At the Fringe she gave two masterclasses to young singers who were so excited to get the opportunity to sing for her.

Candice Parkin is well known in the steelpan industry in South Africa. Her husband makes steelpans and she is a teacher of steelpans in Port Elizabeth. Her enthusiasm for pans and

marimbas was infectious! She proved herself as an excellent teacher at the beginner steelpan workshops she conducted on the Fringe.

The **Fringe** events have become an integral part of the festival with people queuing for the possibility of getting into a marimba or djembe workshop. Everyone who entered the gates could take part in a number of **open workshops** which were part of the fringe events: these included gumboot dancing from **Durban Prep High School** in KZN; Tswana and Sotho dancing by **Greg Lediga**; Indian dancing by **Rashika Naidoo**; steelpan workshops by **Dave Reynolds**; Afrikaans singing games by **Margriet van Zyl**; drum clinics by **Danno Petersen** the 12 year old drumkit sensation; boomwhacker workshops by **Bonny Philips**; lecture-demonstration by **Annette Briscoe** on gumboot dancing; the various workshops as mentioned above by the adjudicators; the massed djembe event by **Gontse Segona** and the massed marimba event given by **Joan Lithgow**. In addition there were a number of workshops that required the public to book for. These included marimbas workshops at various levels given by **Michael Sibanda** and **Lox Mmileng** and djembe workshops given by **Bonny Philips** and **Gontse Segona**. This year we added extra marimba and djembe workshops as these have proved to be really popular in the past. There were 64 fringe events at the festival!



The **SAMRO** commissioned work: **AFTER THE RAIN** composed by **WALDO MALAN** for steelpan and a chromatic bass marimba has added a new combination of instruments to the world music repertoire. Thank you to the **SAMRO FOUNDATION** for commissioning this work for our Festival. Thank you to the performers of this work: **Dave Reynolds** on pans and **Bradley Lithgow** on bass marimba.



One of the highlights of the Festival was the massed marimba and steelpan experience where a composition entitled: **BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF AFRICA**, composed by **Joan Lithgow** for the Festival to celebrate social cohesion and **EMBRACING AFRICA**, the theme for our festival, was taught by the composer to all participants en masse in 40 minutes!



In addition to the competitions that were playing out in the Marquee there was also a **COMPOSITION COMPETITION** in three age categories that was fully sponsored by **THE SAMRO FOUNDATION**. The erudite adjudicators for this competition were: **Andy Narell, Dave Reynolds** and **Prof. Mark Stone**.

There were only 6 entries in total received: 3 entries in the adult section and 3 in the school-going section. The adjudicators were impressed with the standard of most of the compositions. The winners were: **Dr Waldo Malan** in the adult section and **Arabela Chilwane** in the school section. These compositions were judged “blind” so the adjudicators had no idea who they were judging!

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** goes to **all the crew** who worked at the Festival and especially to the volunteers from St Benedict’s College. Under the phenomenal leadership of **Janet Chalmers**, together with her music staff these volunteers gave of their time and service to help run the Festival. We are so very grateful to all of them. Thank you to **Thami Ngwenya** and his crew for managing the floor so efficiently and seemingly effortlessly and to **Kgotso Motaung** and his crew for his calm demeanour and ensuring that everyone’s sound needs were met! Thank you to **Bradley Lithgow** who not only co-hosted the festival this year but has been a support and sounding board throughout the year and through his vision many new changes were implemented this year. A particular thank you must go to **Richard Wilson** from **St. Benedict’s College** for all his help! Thank you to **Pastor Barbara Underhill** who gave a very meaningful dedication just before the prize-giving.

Thank-you to **Vanessa Perumal, Sinenthemba Dywili** and the **JT Comms** team for all the publicity they generated around the event. The Festival was covered by a number of print media companies as well as a number of TV programmes.

Thank you to **BEYERS CHOCOLATES** for the chocolate awards which have become an integral part of the festival.



The beautiful trophies were made by **Ian Lithgow** who also donated the Alport Mhlanga Memorial Floating Trophy to the Festival for the Best marimba band performance of the Festival!

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following sponsors/donors who supported our Festival:



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headline Sponsor
ABI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drinks for the under-resourced bands
AFRICA-TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO STEELPAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tenor steelpan as a lucky draw prize • donation of steelpans to be used at future festivals in the steelpan workshops
ANDY NARELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDs and DVDs as prizes
AUDIOLOGIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discounted prices on hiring of equipment
BEYERS CHOCOLATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 Chocolates used for the chocolate awards
BRIAN WILLSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDs and DVDs for prizes
CASIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Casio keyboard used for a prize
CHIP 'N DIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prize
D'ADDARIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • category prizes • lanyards
DAVE REYNOLDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDs for prizes
FYRE INTERACTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discounted rates on our amazing interactive website
IAN HOLLOWAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • books for prizes
JOAN LITHGOW MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • books for prizes
LANG PERCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • side drum used as a prize
LOVEMORE MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set of congas • R2000 gift voucher
MARIMBAONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets of mallets used for prizes
MARSHALL MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cajon drum and a percussion kit used for prizes
MUSICAL GIFTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prize

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship for a child
SAMRO FOUNDATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cash prizes for the composition competitions • fees for the composition adjudicators • sponsorship of under-resourced bands to get to the festival
SWISS CHRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books used for category prizes
T.O.M.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paiste cymbals • 24 X hand drums • 2 X sets bongos • 2 X guiros • drumkit • Medena keyboard
THE HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trophy for the Best Steelpan performance at the Festival as well as R3000 in cash
THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination marimba as a lucky draw prize • the Alport Mhlanga Memorial Trophy for best marimba band performance at the Festival
TRADELIUS MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 acoustic guitars

**PRIZE WINNERS
2015
EDUCATION AFRICA
INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL**



ADULT COMPOSITION	DR WALDO MALAN: R2500
SCHOOL GOING COMPOSITION	ARABELA CHILWANE: R2500
PS1 1ST	THEMBELISHA (SWAZILAND)
PS1 2 ND	ACACIA PRIMARY (BOTSWANA)
PS1 3 RD	SELBORNE (EAST LONDON) AND JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE (GAUTENG)
PS2 1ST	SELBORNE (EAST LONDON)
PS2 2 ND	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON) AND ST BENEDICT'S (GAUTENG)
PS2 3 RD	KING DAVID (GAUTENG)
PS3 1ST	KLEINMOND (WESTERN CAPE) AND COWAN

	HOUSE (KZN)
PS3 2 ND	WESTVILLE PRIMARY (KZN)
PS3 3 RD	TOM NEWBY (GAUTENG)
PL1 1ST	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
PL1 2 ND	REDHILL 1 (GAUTENG)
PL1 3 RD	MOTHEONG (TSHWANE)
PL2 1ST	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
PL2 2 ND	REDHILL 1 (GAUTENG)
PL2 3 RD	REDHILL 2 (GAUTENG)
PL3 1ST	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON) AND PRETORIA OOS (TSHWANE)
PL3 2 ND	CLIFTON NOTTINGHAM ROAD (KZN)
PL3 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
HS1 1ST	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE (GAUTENG)
HS1 2 ND	MICHAELHOUSE (KZN)
HS1 3 RD	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE (GAUTENG)
HS2 1ST	MICHAELHOUSE (KZN)
HS2 2 ND	OPRAH WINFREY ACADEMY (GAUTENG)
HS2 3 RD	CAPE WHALERS (WESTERN CAPE)
HS3 1ST	EPWORTH GIRLS (KZN) AND MICHAELHOUSE (KZN)
HS3 2 ND	CAPE WHALERS (WESTERN CAPE)
HS3 3 RD	STONERIDGE (GAUTENG)
HL1 1ST	REDHILL (GAUTENG)
HL1 2 ND	PARKTOWN GIRLS (GAUTENG) AND HEIDEVELD (WESTERN CAPE)
HL1 3 RD	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON)
HL2 1ST	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON)
HL2 2 ND	REDHILL (GAUTENG)
HL2 3 RD	THOMAS MORE COLLEGE (KZN)
HL3 1ST	THOMAS MORE COLLEGE (KZN)
HL3 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
HL3 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
OS1 1ST	TSEPONG (LIMPOPO)
OS1 2 ND	TAMBARIMBA (ZIMBABWE)
OS1 3 RD	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE (GAUTENG)
OS2 1ST	FRIENDLY DRUMMERS (GAUTENG)
OS2 2 ND	TAMBARIMBA (ZIMBABWE) AND CAPE WHALERS (WESTERN CAPE)
OS2 3 RD	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE (GAUTENG)
OS3 1ST	FRIENDLY DRUMMERS (GAUTENG)
OS3 2 ND	WALK OF THE BEAT (EAST LONDON)
OS3 3 RD	CAPE WHALERS (WESTERN CAPE) AND NINGIZIMU SPECIAL SCHOOL (KZN)
OL1 1ST	HILTON COLLEGE (KZN)
OL1 2 ND	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON) AND PRETORIA-OOS (TSHWANE)
OL1 3 RD	KITHU KIDS (GAUTENG)
OL2 1ST	HILTON COLLEGE (KZN)
OL2 2 ND	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE (GAUTENG)
OL2 3 RD	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON)
OL3 1ST	HILTON COLLEGE (KZN) AND THE JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE / KING DAVID COLLABORATION (GAUTENG)
OL3 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
OL3 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
P4 1ST	THEMBELISHA (SWAZILAND)
P4 2 ND	KLEINMOND (WESTERN CAPE)
P4 3 RD	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
H4 1ST	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

	(GAUTENG) AND MICHAELHOUSE (KZN)
H4 2 ND	PARKTOWN GIRLS (GAUTENG)
H4 3 RD	SACRED HEART COLLEGE (GAUTENG)
O4 1ST	ZIMBABWE COLLEGE OF MUSIC (ZIMBABWE)
O4 2 ND	FRIENDLY DRUMMERS (GAUTENG)
O4 3 RD	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE (GAUTENG)
Best steelpan performance of the Festival	HEIDEVELD (WESTERN CAPE)
Best marimba band performance of the Festival	ZIMBABWE COLLEGE OF MUSIC (ZIMBABWE)
BEST MARIMBA HUB: 1ST	GOEDEHOOP PRIMARY (GAUTENG)
2 ND	ITHUTE PRIMARY (GAUTENG)
3 RD	ZAMA MONTESSORI (GAUTENG)
BEST SPECIAL SCHOOLS: 1ST	NINGIZIMU SPECIAL SCHOOL (KZN)
2 nd	MC KHARBAI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (LENASIA GAUTENG)
3 rd	JISWA SPECIAL SCHOOL (LENASIA GAUTENG)
1 X MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBA: LUCKY DRAW	MZOMTSHA PRIMARY (PORT ELIZABETH)
1 X AFRICA-TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO STEELPAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY STEELPAN: LUCKY DRAW	HILLBROW OUTREACH (GAUTENG)

The 5th Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival will take place on the **30TH AND 31ST JULY 2016**. If you did not attend this year's Festival make sure you do so next year. This is an event not to be missed!

It has been our pleasure serving you and we look forward to welcoming you to the 5th International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2016!

**The Education Africa Festival Committee
August 2015**

