



**REPORT ON
THE FIRST EVER
EDUCATION AFRICA
INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL
2012**

Education Africa in partnership with Bishop Bavin School and in association with the High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago hosted this prestigious event. We were very proud to welcome as our patron the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Harry Partap who donated a beautiful trophy for the best steel band of the Festival. We were also extremely proud to be in this meaningful partnership with Bishop Bavin School in our first Festival. A BIG thank-you to Mr. Dippenaar, headmaster of Bishop Bavin and the Bishop Bavin Board of Directors for their cooperation and support.

To say that we were blown away by the unbelievable spirit, enthusiasm, musicality and dedication that was so evident at the Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival held at Bishop Bavin School in Bedfordview on 4/5 August 2012 would be a gross understatement!

It was an event that will stay in our minds forever! Thank-you to absolutely everyone who attended: whether you worked, played or observed: you helped make this an event of the year!

From Friday 3 August people of all shapes and sizes started bringing marimbas and steelpans of all shapes and sizes to the massive marquee in the beautiful grounds of Bishop Bavin School, the venue for this exciting event. There were just on 200 marimbas and steelpans on the floor when the Festival began on Saturday morning!

Participants from all nine provinces of South Africa as well as Swaziland, Lesotho and as far afield as Seattle in the USA and Germany descended upon Bedfordview with one intention only: to take part in the first International Marimba and Steelpan Festival held in South Africa and a first international festival of this kind in the world, as far as we can ascertain! 69 Institutions participated in 165 competition entries.

There was a feast of music for music lovers of all persuasions whether classical, pop, reggae, Afro-jazz or Caribbean music was your bag! At the main event which took place in the

marquee, marimba and steelpan competitions occurred throughout the two days where bands in different age categories competed for the much coveted trophies.

The three esteemed music adjudicators were **Dizu Plaatjies**, **Magda De Vries** and **Elma Britz**. Dizu Plaatjies was the founder of the Amampondo Marimba Band and is the African music specialist at the South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town. He brought with him a wealth of knowledge of African Music as well as a deep love for music in general. Magda De Vries is South Africa's classical marimba queen! A phenomenal performer and great musician, her understanding of music and in particular marimba playing made her a superb choice as an adjudicator! Elma Britz is a sought-after adjudicator all over South Africa. She is a retired music lecturer and teacher who has discovered the power of marimbas quite recently and is hooked on its benefits for our South African children. Her love of music and her incredible experience as an adjudicator completed this wonderful team! Thank-you to these adjudicators for their expertise and hard work and for adding such prestige credibility to this Festival.

Everyone who entered the gates could take part in a number of workshops which were part of the fringe events: djembe workshops offered by **Talla Niang**, traditional African dance workshops offered by **Tsepo Mosikaneng** from Mogwase in the North West, hip-hop workshops by **Ashley Behrens** from East London, gumboot dancing workshops offered by the boys from **Durban Prep High School** in KZN, percussion workshops offered by **Dave Reynolds** from Gauteng, Classical marimba workshops offered by **Alex Jacobowitz** from Germany, teacher workshops on drumming offered by **Gaye Dorkin** from Johannesburg and lecture-demonstration workshops on African Instruments by **Joe Makhanza** from Johannesburg.

Festival-goers were also treated to concerts on steelpanns by South Africa's leading solo steelpannist, **Dave Reynolds** and classical marimba by South Africa's own marimba queen, **Magda De Vries**. The crowds were also bedazzled by the classical marimba performances of **Alex Jacobowitz** who came from Germany to be with us!

One of the highlights of the Festival was the massed marimba and steelpan experience where a new piece of music composed by **Joan Lithgow** for the Festival was taught by the composer to all participants en masse in 40 minutes! This piece entitled Calypso Celebration was written in honour of Trinidad and Tobago who celebrated their 50th year of independence this year!

In the week leading up to the Festival there were many concerts in and around Gauteng to create an awareness of the Festival: Alex Jacobowitz gave a master class at the Wits School of the Arts; there was an official launch of the Festival at Bishop Bavin School which took the form of a concert and cocktail party and featured The **Aqua Vista Marimba Band** from East London, Dave Reynolds (steelpan) and Magda De Vries (classical marimba) from Gauteng, Alex Jacobowitz (classical marimba) from Germany, The **Assumption Convent Choir** under the direction of **Rob Stewardson** from Gauteng and dancers from **Bishop Bavin School**. Alex Jacobowitz and the Aqua Vista Marimba Band also gave two school concerts at King David School, Linksfield and the Aqua Vista Marimba Band performed at Bedford Centre in Bedfordview.

In addition to the competitions that were playing out in the Marquee there were a number of other competitions that had taken place prior to the Festival but yet were an integral part of the Festival.

Firstly we had a COMPOSITION COMPETITION in three age categories that was fully sponsored by THE SAMRO FOUNDATION. The erudite adjudicators for this competition were: **Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph**, one of South Africa's most eminent art music composers having composed more than 70 works across all genres. She was the first woman in South Africa to obtain a doctorate in composition. **Dave Reynolds**, composer and performer of steelpan music and **Dizu Plaatjies**, African music specialist and composer and arranger extraordinaire for African marimba bands.

While there were only 7 entries in total received, the standard generally was excellent and the winners truly deserved their cash prizes of R2500 each: **Waldo Malan** in the adult category; **Bradley Lithgow** in the student category and **Robin Gower** in the school category. These compositions were judged "blind" so the adjudicators had no idea who they were adjudicating! **Andre le Roux**, Executive General Manager: SAMRO Foundation handed over the prizes.

Art and photographic competitions were also part of this festival. We received under a 100 entries altogether and the standard generally was disappointing. However, the winning artworks and photographs were of a high standard and will be auctioned at a silent auction at a fund-raising event in New York. The winnings will be divided 50/50! 50% to the winners and 50% to Education Africa. Let's hope a new artist's career will be launched!

All the art and photography received was featured at the Festival at the Art exhibition. Thank-you to the art and photographic judges for their time and expertise in making some very difficult decisions: **Rose Buric**: has a BA (fine arts) Wits and a National Art Teachers Diploma. She is a fellow as well as a life member of the photographic society of South Africa; **Hanali Smit** is the creative director @IT Digital Graphics. She has a national and international diploma in Fashion Design. She is also a certificate holder of the Johnathan Andrews School of Photography; **George Olfin** is an honorary member of the photographic society of Southern Africa and is an associate member of the society in three different categories.

Ian Lithgow made the beautiful trophies and donated the Alport Mhlanga Memorial Floating Trophy to the Festival for the Best marimba band of the Festival! (Alport Mhlanga, originally from Zimbabwe passed away a few weeks before the Festival. He was an extraordinary marimba teacher and composer of marimba music. His influence is felt worldwide in the marimba community and we were devastated by his passing! However, his memory will live on through this trophy.)

The PRO young men and women from Bishop Bavin under Sam Pringle volunteered their services to help run the Festival. We are so very grateful to all of them for giving of their time to help make the Festival run smoothly. Thank-you most sincerely! Father Moses, the resident priest at Bishop Bavin gave a very meaningful dedication just before the prize

giving. Thank-you! A particular thank-you must go to Sam Pringle and Mark Barkhuizen from Bishop Bavin for all their help! Without their help this Festival would not have been as successful!

We also had a number of photographers and videographers who will make their work available for all the Festival goers. Thank-you to them as well as the television and radio crew who followed our Festival.

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

BISHOP BAVIN SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of the school's premises and infra-structure • use of buses and personnel
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
FRIENDS OF EDUCATION AFRICA IN THE U.K.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cash donation to sponsor under-resourced bands to get to the festival
BUDGET CAR HIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discounted car hire for festival participants in Gauteng • drivers and vehicles to fetch and carry participants in Gauteng • free car hire for under-resourced Festival participants from other parts of the country
THE HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trophy for the Best Steelpan performance at the Festival • Cocktail party for the launch of the International Marimba and Steelpan Festival • Pan Sweets
FYRE INTERACTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discounted rates on our amazing website
VIRGIN ATLANTIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discounted rates on all international flights for participants
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
PAN INC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tenor steelpan as a lucky draw prize

MARIMBAONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets of mallets used for prizes
MARSHALL MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cajon drum
CASIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Casio keyboard
MY MATHS BUDDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free maths buddy books to all participating schools
ASSUMPTION CONVENT MALVERN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chairs • Audience stands • gazebos
ST BENEDICTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience stands
PRO STUDIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R200 gift voucher
SONJA LARIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the chocolate awards
ESTER BYRNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship of accommodation for an under-resourced band • Mounting of all the prize winning art and photographs
DR. E SCHUTZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship for under-resourced bands
FLIPFLOP CATERERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals for adjudicators and presenters • discounted meals for under-resourced bands

**PRIZE WINNERS
2012
EDUCATION AFRICA
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MARIMBA ONE MALLETS	RIPTIDE
BAND WHO TRAVELLED THE FURTHEST	ANZANGA: PAN SWEETS
BEST COSTUMES	ANZANGA: PAN SWEETS
MOST ORIGINAL PERFORMANCE	CURRO HCA: R200 GIFT VOUCHER FROM PRO STUDIO
WOW FACTOR	HILTON COLLEGE
ADULT COMPOSITION	WALDO MALAN: R2500
UNIVERSITY STUDENT COMPOSITION	BRADLEY LITHGOW: R2500
SCHOOL GOING COMPOSITION	ROBIN GOWER: R2500
PS1 1ST	EMSENGENI (PORT ELIZABETH)
PS1 2ND	THEMBELISHA (SWAZILAND)
PS1 3RD	OLYMPIA (BLOEMFONTEIN)
PS2 1ST	QUEENS (QUEENSTOWN)
PS2 2ND	GONUBIE (EAST LONDON)
PS2 3RD	COLIN MANN (GERMISTON)
PS3 1ST	CURRO AURORA (RANDBURG)
PS3 2ND	TOM NEWBY (BENONI)
PS3 3RD	GONUBIE (EAST LONDON)
PL1 1ST	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
PL1 2ND	CURRO HCA (HILLCREST KZN) THOMAS MORE (KZN)
PL1 3RD	THE RIDGE (GAUTENG)
PL2 1ST	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
PL2 2ND	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON)
PL2 3RD	LORETO SCHOOL (TSHWANE)
PL3 1ST	CURRO HCA (HILLCREST KZN)
PL3 2ND	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
PL3 3RD	ASSUMPTION CONVENT (GERMISTON)
HS1 1ST	EPWORTH (KZN)
HS1 2ND	REDHILL (RANDBURG)
HS1 3RD	CBC BOKSBURG J.M.NTSIME (NORTH WEST)
HS2 1ST	MERRIFIELD (EAST LONDON)
HS2 2ND	McCAULEY HOUSE (GAUTENG)
HS2 3RD	NOT AWARDED
HS3 1ST	PARKTOWN GIRLS (GAUTENG)
HS3 2ND	TIGERKLOOF (NORTH WEST)
HS3 3RD	ST DAVIDS MARIST (GAUTENG)
HL1 1ST	GRENS (EAST LONDON)
HL1 2ND	REDHILL (GAUTENG)
HL1 3RD	NOT AWARDED
HL2 1ST	HILTON COLLEGE (KZN)
HL2 2ND	LEBONE COLLEGE (NORTH WEST) GRENS (EAST LONDON)
HL2 3RD	ASSUMPTION CONVENT MALVERN

HL3 1 ST	GRENS (EAST LONDON)
HL3 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
HL3 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
OS1 1 ST	ANZANGA (SEATTLE: USA)
OS1 2 ND	UHURU WITS (GAUTENG)
OS1 3 RD	BLUE EARTH (GERMISTON)
OS2 1 ST	HILLBROW COMMUNITY CENTRE (GAUTENG)
OS2 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
OS2 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
OS3 1 ST	ENLIGHTEN-ELGIN NGO BAND (GRABOUW)
OS3 2 ND	STEEL AURA (BENONI)
OS3 3 RD	NINGIZIMU (KZN)
OL1 1 ST	THE RIDGE (GAUTENG)
OL1 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
OL1 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
OL2 1 ST	HILTON COLLEGE (KZN)
OL2 2 ND	THE RIDGE (GAUTENG)
OL2 3 RD	NINGIZIMU (KZN)
OL3 1 ST	NOT AWARDED
OL3 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
OL3 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
CATEGORY 4 1 ST	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
CATEGORY 4 2 ND	STONERIDGE (GAUTENG)
CATEGORY 4 3 RD	HILLBROW COMMUNITY CENTRE (GAUTENG)
Best steelpan performance of the Festival	STEEL AURA (BENONI)
Best marimba band performance of the Festival	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
1 CASIO KEYBOARD	ACHIMOTA (ORANGE FARM)
1 CAJON	LATHITHA (PORT ELIZABETH)
1 PANINC STEEL PAN	ST. DAVIDS MARIST (GAUTENG)
1 MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBA BAND TO TRAVEL WITH EDUCATION AFRICA ON THEIR NEXT TOUR	ST, DOMINIC'S WELKOM (FREE STATE)
	AQUA VISTA (EAST LONDON)
ART PRIZE: overall winner	Sabrina Whistler Benoni High
adult	Hazel Livie
18	Thokozani Tshabalala: Parktown boys Retshapile Khoabane: St Matthews Soweto
16	Tevin Mabuza: St Matthews School Soweto Mthunzi Vilakazi: St Matthews Soweto
14	Lebogang Dlamini: St. Matthews Soweto
13	Shannon Borrel Usutu Forest School Swaziland
12 and under	Gabriel Mc Creadie: Bishop Bavin
PHOTOGRAPHY OVERALL WINNER	Brendon Fraser: Parktown Boys
School going youth	Kai Van Dongen: Parktown Boys Taylen Kench: St. Dunstans

The band that was chosen to go on Education Africa's next overseas tour was the **Aqua Vista Marimba Band** from East London.

We are proud to take this band on another trip with us as they were great ambassadors for not only Education Africa but also South Africa and their own school, Aqua Vista Primary School when they toured with us in June this year.

The 2nd International Marimba and Steelpan Festival will take place on the 3rd and 4th August 2013. 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 2nd International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2013!

The Education Africa Festival Committee

