



EDUCATION
AFRICA

REPORT ON

THE EDUCATION AFRICA

6th INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL

2017

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

269 performances; 90 fringe events and nearly 2000 participants in
this amazing event!

The largest festival of its kind in the world!

INTRODUCTION AND THANK YOU

Education Africa in partnership with **St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls, Boksburg** and in association with the **High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago** was the host of this prestigious event.



Once again we were very proud to welcome as our patron the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency, **Roger Gopaul** who donated a beautiful trophy as well as a cash prize for the best steel band performance of the Festival. This year we had the honour of partnering with St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls, Boksburg. A BIG thank-you to **Roger Loring**, headmaster of St Dominic's and his staff as well as **Salome Bossert** and **Neville Smith** for their cooperation and fantastic support.

I hereby wish to thank each and every person who worked at the festival! Your passion and dedication contributed to making this festival the best it has ever been. The participants, the audience, teachers, crew, cleaners, management, volunteers, caterers, stall holders, sponsors, security, workshop presenters, adjudicators and administration staff all are part of this huge machine called the INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL.

TRIBUTES

The engine drivers of the festival are the marimba and steelpan teachers from all over Africa. We had over 250 marimba teachers in attendance, many of whom performed with their pupils in some categories. This is where you see dedication at its best! Cumulatively, thousands of hours have been put into training the bands to get them at peak performance. We, at Education Africa salute you.

In honour of these teachers the **Zulu Nyala Heritage Lodge** in Hluhluwe sponsored a weekend away for two. The winner, who was drawn out of a hat, was **Greg Lediga** from **Motheong Primary** in Tshwane. Incidentally, Greg trained 98 children to perform at the Festival and is truly deserving of this prize! Thank you to **Zulu Nyala** for their kindness and support of the festival!

Each year we pay tribute to the school that travelled the furthest to the Festival and this year it went to **RCCG ROSE OF SHARON** in **NIGERIA** who travelled 17 642 kms in a round trip to the Festival! What an amazing journey and effort. Thank you to Bowie Bowei for his passion and dedication in getting these children to the festival.



This 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!



SOCIAL COHESION

Our theme for this year was HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. With so much turmoil going on in our country and the world at large the one thing that we can all hold onto is HOPE... HOPE for the future, HOPE for our country, HOPE for the people of our land! These were the words of the MASSED MARIMBA, STEELPAN, CHOIR and DJEMBE COMPOSITION written by Joan Lithgow. **Social Cohesion** is uppermost in our minds at Education Africa when planning this festival. Social Cohesion does not just happen! We, as the teachers of this world need to **make** this happen through the way we teach and facilitate integration. It is through the universal language of music that we **are** achieving this goal. This festival is evidence of what the future of South Africa could be like if EVERYONE started making a difference in our beautiful country and our beautiful continent.



Being fully inclusive we had 3 mentally and physically challenged bands competing alongside their able-bodied counterparts. I wonder where else in the world would we see this type of Social Cohesion in action?

Through the vision and generosity of **SAMRO** we were able to help 275 people from under-resourced bands and communities to attend this festival. This sponsorship covered entry fees and part of the shuttle service.

THE FESTIVAL

Marimbas and steelpanns started arriving at the festival from early Friday morning 28 July. The facilities at St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls are perfect for our festival. The large Jubilee Centre with built-in seating makes for a wonderful, comfortable venue and we felt very privileged to be at St Dominic's.

By the time the festival started at 8am on Saturday morning there were over 250 marimbas and steelpanns on the floor!



PARTICIPATION

Participants from all over South Africa as well as Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Botswana attended. In addition we had 6 adjudicators: four from South Africa and one each from Uganda and Michigan in the USA. 73 Institutions participated in 273 competition entries!

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

MAIN EVENT

At the main event in the Jubilee Centre, 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 wonderful sponsored prizes.

Our 6 adjudicators were put in 2 teams and alternated between adjudicating and presenting lecture-demonstrations and performances. This allowed the participants the opportunity to experience first-hand the outstanding calibre of the adjudicators.

The six esteemed adjudicators were **Mark Stone from Michigan in the USA, Haruna Walusimbi from Uganda, Mike Sibanda, originally from Zimbabwe but now resident in South Africa, Magda de Vries from Gauteng, Millicent Khemese from Gauteng and Philile Ngonelo from KZN.**

Mark Stone was on his second visit to our festival as an adjudicator. He is Associate Professor of World Music and Percussion at Oakland University in the U.S. Not only is he a great teacher but also an amazing multi-percussionist! This was evidenced at his joint performances and workshops with Haruna Walusimbi.



Haruna Walusimbi is a Grammy Award winning multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and dancer from Uganda. He is one of Uganda's most celebrated artists, with extensive performance and teaching experience. His enthusiasm for music was seen in his performances and workshops with Mark Stone.



Mike Sibanda originally from Zimbabwe is a much sought-after marimba teacher not only in South Africa but throughout the world. His experience in all things relating to marimbas is legendary. His workshops were extremely popular!



Magda de Vries is a percussionist and teacher at various schools and universities in South Africa. As a classical solo marimba player she travels world-wide to perform to a wide range of audiences. Magda gave two classical marimba performances at the festival which were extremely well-received!



Millicent Khemese is an educationalist and musician and is a music subject advisor for the Gauteng Education Department. She presented two amazing workshops on Tshikona Pipes from Venda that had everyone dancing and playing! Her contribution to the festival was significant.



Philile Ngonelo comes from KZN and has played both marimbas and steelpans. She has proven herself to be an incredible teacher, in particular with special needs children. Philile led two discussion groups on how to teach special needs children which received very positive outcomes.



THE FRINGE EVENTS

The **Fringe** events have become an integral part of the festival with people queuing for the possibility of getting into various workshops. There were also a number of **open workshops** which were part of the fringe events: these included gumboot dancing by **Durban Prep High School** in KZN; Tswana dancing by **Kgontse Segona**; Bollywood Beats by **Rashika Naidoo**; Kasi dancing by **Ntombenhle Masanabo and Nthabiseng Bembe** and **steelpan** workshops by **Dave Reynolds**; Concerts and workshops were presented by **Mark Stone** and **Haruna Walusimbi** and two classical marimba concerts were presented by **Magda de Vries**. The massed interactive djembe event was presented by **members of PACD** and the massed marimba event was presented by **Joan Lithgow**.



In addition there were a number of workshops that required the public to book for. These included marimba workshops at various levels as well as games to play in the classroom presented by **Gerard van de Geer from Hobart, Australia**. **Mike Sibanda** also presented 2 marimba workshops. Djembe workshops at various levels were presented by **members of the PACD**. Mbira workshops were presented by **Chris Timbe from Zimbabwe**; two workshops on Tshikona pipes were presented by **Millicent Khemese** and two discussions were led by **Philile Ngonelo** on teaching marimbas to special needs children. **Hastings Nyirende** presented two body percussion workshops.





The **SAMRO** commissioned work: **MEMORIES OF THANDI CLAASEN** composed by **Bongani Sotshononda and Dave Reynolds** for 4-part marimba band has added a delightful piece of jazzy repertoire for the marimba ensemble. Thank you to the **SAMRO FOUNDATION** for commissioning this work for our Festival. Thank you to the performers of this work: **the Blu Earth Marimba Band**.



One of the highlights of the Festival was the massed marimba and steelpan experience where a composition entitled: **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**, composed by **Joan Lithgow** for the Festival to celebrate the theme of the festival: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, was taught by the composer to all participants en masse in 40 minutes! In addition, **Lindy Van de Meulen** from St Mary's DSG KZN taught the piece to a choir and the marimbas and steelpans, djembes and choir then joined forces in a rendition of this celebratory piece.



COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

In addition to the competitions that were playing out in the Jubilee Centre 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: Dave Reynolds, Mark Stone and Gerard van de Geer.

There were only 3 entries in total received: 2 entries in the adult section and 1 in the school-going section. The adjudicators were impressed with the standard of the compositions. The adjudicators decided only to award one prize to the winner in the adult section: **Tarisai Muchineripi** from St Mary's DSG in KZN. These compositions are always judged "blind" so the adjudicators had no idea who they were judging!

SPONSORSHIP

We would like to pay tribute to **THE SAMRO FOUNDATION** for their continued support of our festival. Were it not for their very generous sponsorship at least 275 young people would not have been able to attend the festival. In addition they sponsor prizes for the composition competition, commission a new work every year and a whole lot more. What the SAMRO FOUNDATION does for music and our youth in our country is remarkable. We at Education Africa SALUTE James French, Andre Le Roux and Anriette Chorn for their kindness and hard work.

SPONSORSHIP GOING FORWARD TO 2018

Without significant funding the festival is at a very real risk of collapsing. We are appealing to ALL business owners to contribute small amounts to ensure that the festival happens next year.

CREW

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to **all the crew including the Education Africa team** who worked at the Festival. A special thank you goes to the young volunteer ladies from St Dominic's under the leadership of **Sally-Anne Lubbe**. Together with **Neville Smith** and **Salome Bossert** and **staff** from St Dominic's 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 nature and ensuring that everyone's sound needs were met! Thank you to **Bradley Lithgow** who co-hosted the festival this year and has been a support and sounding board throughout the year. Thank you to **Amy-Sue Lithgow** for all her support leading up to the festival and her work at the festival.

To my husband, **Ian Lithgow** who has supported the festivals I have organized for the past 12 years, I wish to pay a special tribute to him. It is truly tough to have a wife who is around but who isn't present because there is always so much to do and not enough time to do it. This is my passion and I have made it my family's passion and for their love and support I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart!

Thank you to **Barbara Underhill** who gave a very meaningful dedication just before the prize-giving.

PUBLICITY

Thank-you to **Vanessa Perumal** 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. **JT Comms** did ALL our publicity **free of charge** as we had no significant funding. For this we will be forever grateful!

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

SAMRO FOUNDATION	sponsorship of entry fees for under-resourced bands; cash prizes for the composition competitions; fees for the composition adjudicators; the commissioned work.
AUDIOLOGIC AND BLUE ARRAY PRODUCTIONS	Discounted prices on hiring of equipment
THE ORCHESTRA COMPANY	Sound equipment
KOPANONG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE	Discounted accommodation
BEYERS CHOCOLATES	Chocolates for the chocolate awards
CASIO	A Casio keyboard
ANDY NARELL	CDs for prizes
LANG PERCUSSION	Side Drum used as a prize
LOVEMORE MUSIC	21 category prizes consisting of books, CDs and instruments. 10 sets of instruments used as first prizes.
MARIMBAONE	Sets of mallets used for prizes
MARSHALL MUSIC	4 gift vouchers
TOMS	3 keyboards
THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP	Combination marimba as a lucky draw prize. Alport Memorial Trophy for the best marimba band performance. Set of marimba mallets for the band that registered first.
HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	The trophy for the Best Steelpan performance at the Festival as well as R3000 in cash.
ZULU NYALA	Weekend away for two people at the ZULU NYALA HERITAGE LODGE.
JTCOMMS	Free publicity services
FH CHAMBERLAIN TRADING PTY LTD	Cash towards assisting disadvantaged children attending the Festival



	2017 PRIZE WINNERS
PS1 1 ST	GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL ZIMBABWE
PS1 2 ND	ACACIA PRIMARY BOTSWANA
PS1 3 RD	LAERSKOOL KLEINMOND WESTERN CAPE S.A.
PS2 1 ST	GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL ZIMBABWE
PS2 2 ND	CONVENT OF CZM ZIMBABWE
PS2 3 RD	MERRIFIELD PREP EAST LONDON S.A.
PS3 1 ST	CARTER PRIMARY SCHOOL ALEXANDRA GAUTENG S.A.
PS3 2 ND	LAERSKOOL KLEINMOND WESTERN CAPE S.A.
PS3 3 RD	SUNRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL PORT ELIZABETH SA
PL1 1 ST	ACACIA PRIMARY BOTSWANA
PL1 2 ND	LAERSKOOL PRETORIA OOS TSHWANE S.A.
PL1 3 RD	ZENZE REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
PL2 1 ST	CURRO HCA KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL2 2 ND	AQUA VISTA EAST LONDON S.A.
PL2 3 RD	GEORGE RANDELL PRIMARY EAST LONDON S.A.
PL3 1 ST	CURRO HCA KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL3 2 ND	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL3 3 RD	CURRO WATERSTONE COLLEGE GAUTENG S.A.
HS1 1 ST	WATERSHED COLLEGE ZIMBABWE
HS1 2 ND	MICHAEL HOUSE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HS1 3 RD	GOEDE HOOP GAUTENG S.A.
HS2 1 ST	MICHAEL HOUSE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HS2 2 ND	EPWORTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HS2 3 RD	ST ANDREWS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS GAUTENG S.A.
HS3 1 ST	MICHAEL HOUSE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HS3 2 ND	ST THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL MPUMALANGA S.A.
HS3 3 RD	EPWORTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS KWAZULU NATAL S.A.

HL1 1 ST	MANYORA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL1 2 nd	MERRIFIELD COLLEGE EAST LONDON S.A.
HL1 3 RD	SHINGIRIRA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL2 1 ST	MANYORA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL2 2 ND	THOMAS MORE CLLEGE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HL2 3 RD	SACRED HEART COLLEGE MARIST OBSERVATORY GAUTENG S.A.
HL3 1 ST	CURRO HILLCREST KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HL3 2 ND	ST MARY'S DSG KLOOF KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HL3 3 RD	THOMAS MORE COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OS1 1 ST	EPWORTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OS1 2 ND	BANG-ON-40 KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OS1 3 RD	MCCAULEY HOUSE GAUTENG S.A.
OS2 1 ST	CHRISTCHURCH GAUTENG S.A.
OS2 2 ND	BANG-ON-40 KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OS2 3 RD	SUNRIDGE PRIMARY EAST LONDON S.A.
OS3 1 ST	BANG-ON-40 KWAZULU S.A.
OS3 2 ND	NO AWARD
OS3 3 RD	NO AWARD
OL1 1 ST	HILTON COLLEGE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OL1 2 ND	ST MARY'S DSG KLOOF KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OL1 3 RD	MANYORA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
OL2 1 ST	HILTON COLLEGE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OL2 2 ND	MERRIFIELD EAST LONDON S.A.
OL2 3 RD	ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE GAUTENG S.A.
OL3 1 ST	HILTON COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OL3 2 ND	ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
OL3 3 RD	NO AWARD
P4 1st	ST MARTINS PRIMARY ZIMBABWE
P4 2nd	CONVENT OF CZM ZIMBABWE AND AQUA VISTA EAST LONDON S.A.
P4 3rd	CARTER PRIMARY GAUTENG S.A.
H4 1st	SHAVA BAND STILL WATERS ZIMBABWE
H4 2nd	ST THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL MPUMALANGA S.A.
H4 3rd	MICHAEL HOUSE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
O4 1st	WATERSHED COLLEGE ZIMBABWE
O4 2nd	HILTON COLLEGE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
O4 3rd	MERRIFIELD COLLEGE EAST LONDON S.A.
	BEST STEELPAN PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL (T AND T TROPHY) SUNRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL PORT ELIZABETH S.A.

	BEST MARIMBA BAND PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL (ALPORT MHLANGA TROPHY) HILTON COLLEGE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
	BEST EDUCATION AFRICA MARIMBA HUB CARTER PRIMARY GAUTENG S.A.
	BEST SPECIAL SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE MC KHARBAI GAUTENG S.A.
	SOCIAL COHESION AWARD MICHAEL HOUSE KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
	UBUNTU AWARD AQUA VISTA
MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBA LUCKY DRAW	CURRO HCA
1 ST BAND TO REGISTER AND PAY	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
BAND THAT TRAVELLED THE FURTHEST	RCCG ROSE OF SHARON NIGERIA

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 7th International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2018!

Yours in marimba music!

Joan Lithgow and The Education Africa Festival Committee.
August 2017

