



EDUCATION  
AFRICA

REPORT ON

THE EDUCATION AFRICA

8th INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL

2019

## CELEBRATING YOUTH

262 performances; 90 fringe events and over 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 was the host of this prestigious event.



EDUCATION AFRICA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

We proudly welcomed one of our patrons, 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.



St Dominic's is the perfect venue for this Festival, and it was our privilege to once again stage this event at this prestigious East Rand School. Thank you to **Roger Loring**, headmaster of St Dominic's and his staff as well as **Neville Smith** for their cooperation and fantastic support.

Thank you to the crew of THE EDUCATION AFRICA INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL which ensured that the Festival ran smoothly on both days. There were over 100 crew members including many volunteers from **St Dominic's** under the leadership of **Sally-Ann Lubbe**. Amongst the crew we had cleaners, ground staff, security, bus drivers, caterers, venue managers, front of house personnel, a sound team, a floor team under the leadership of **Amy-Sue Lithgow** and **Thami Ngwenya** and the team from **Jeppe High School for Boys** and administration staff from Education Africa. **Devine Dines**, our caterers for the Festival as well as **Food for Life** made sure not only that the crew were fed but that many under-resourced schools who attended the Festival were able to enjoy meals at the Festival. **Sound Kage** owned by **Kgotso Motaung** ensured that our Sound needs (which were many) were met. In addition to their significant contribution we would like to thank the workshop presenters, as well as the highly esteemed adjudicating team.

## TRIBUTES

This Festival is NOT possible without the incredible support of all the teachers who make the magic of music. Thank you for your dedication to your pupils and for your amazing support of our Festival. In honour of these teachers the **Emerald Resort and Casino at the Vaal River** sponsored a weekend away for two. The winner, who was drawn out of a hat, was **the teacher from Boteti House in Botswana**. Thank you to **Emerald Resort and Casino** 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 **St Jude's** from **Nigeria** who travelled **13590km** in a round trip to the Festival! Congratulations!

## THANK YOU TO THE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION AFRICA IN THE USA

Education Africa welcomed Dan Fisher from the USA to our Festival. We were extremely honoured to have him at our Festival.

## HONOURING OUR YOUTH

Our theme for this year was HONOURING OUR YOUTH. Johnny Clegg, an icon in South African Music and a champion of Social Cohesion passed away shortly before our Festival. The massed piece written by Joan Lithgow entitled **WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH AFRICA** with about 500 performers started with a short tribute to Johnny Clegg by singing the opening lines of his famous song: **Africa kukhala bangcwele**.

Thank you to Mokale Koapeng for teaching the ad hoc choir the music for this massed event. We felt honoured to have one of our adjudicators so integrally involved in this part of the Festival.

## SOCIAL COHESION

**Social Cohesion** is what drives us at Education Africa and in particular when planning this festival. Social Cohesion does not just happen! We all owe it to our beloved country to make this happen! The International Marimba and Steelpan Festival is a true reflection of a South Africa living and working in harmony. Charmaine Holloway, a teacher who has attended many past Festivals had the following to say: "The most unifying and levelling event in South Africa – maybe even the world!"

## INCLUSIVITY

Being fully inclusive we had 5 special needs bands competing in the Festival this year. There was a deaf band from **The Dominican School for the Deaf** in Hammanskraal, **MCK**, a M.I.D. band from Lenasia, **Jiswa Training Centre**, an S.I.D. band, from Lenasia, **Sozizwe** from Daveyton, a special needs school and **Elundini** a full-service school from Port Elizabeth. One of the children from the Dominican

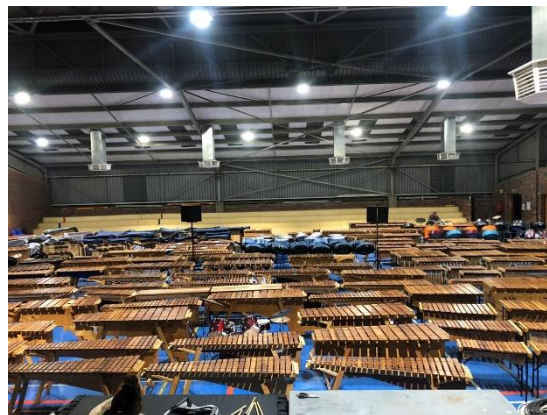
School for the Deaf had the following to say through sign language on **Voice of America**: “I feel very good because people can see that deaf people can do anything. Same as the hearing people in the world, we can do anything. ANYTHING!”

One of the special needs band members said the following on **Voice of China**: “what I like the most is that we are competing with other schools, other schools were happy for us and there was no judging from the other schools!” One of the teachers from the Deaf School commented “it is a HUGE opportunity for our children to play here. When we look at our children’s backgrounds and where they come from many of their families hide them!” Another teacher said of her special needs’ children: “the fact that they can play at this Festival makes them feel like they really DO BELONG!”

## **THE FESTIVAL**

Marimbas and steelpans started arriving at the festival from Friday midday this year. The facilities at St Dominic’s Catholic School for Girls are ideal for the festival. The large Jubilee Centre with built-in seating makes for a wonderful, comfortable venue.

By the time the festival started at 8am on Saturday morning there were about 275 marimbas and over 25 steelpans.



## **PARTICIPATION**

4 Countries were represented in the participants: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Botswana. Of the 6 adjudicators we had 1 from the USA, 4 from South Africa and one South African now working in Zambia. Originally 91 institutions registered but finally 82 arrived and performed in 262 performances.

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.



As is our normal practice 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 expertise of the adjudicators.

The six esteemed adjudicators were **Jason “Malletman” Taylor from the USA, Sasha Sonnlichler from Gauteng, South Africa, Yvonne Raedane from Limpopo, South Africa, Eddie Clayton from Tshwane, South Africa, Mokale Koapeng from Soweto, South Africa but working in Zambia and Dave Reynolds from Cape Town, South Africa.**

**Jason “Malletman” Taylor**, protégé of Lionel Hampton is a vibraphone player and is well-known in the USA especially in New Jersey outside New York. Jason is a showman of note and is a great exponent and promoter of the vibraphone. He ran two workshops: “Good vibrations” demonstrating the vibraphone and its potential.



**Sasha Sonnlichler** is teacher, performer and Arts Administrator and is well-known in the SA music industry. He has recently completed his MBA in Music in the Creative industries and is well versed in both marimba and steelpan. He gave two workshops on arranging 101 for Marimba Band.





**YVONNE RAEDANE** has recently retired from active duty in the NGO sector. She has years of experience working with the JYO as the Eyethu Soweto Music Project Manager. She led two workshop discussions on challenges facing NGOs.



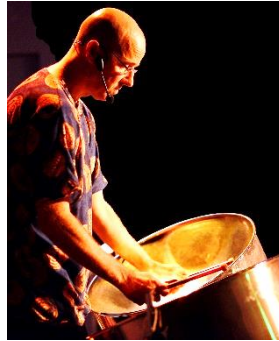
**EDDIE CLAYTON** is known in the SA music industry as a conductor, arranger and musical director. He has a particular love for working with the youth and brings to this Festival years of experience working in both professional and amateur music circles. He presented two workshops on Conducting: The Art of looking important!



**MOKALE KOAPENG** although from South Africa is now working in Zambia and is currently the acting Head of Department at Rusangu University in Zambia. He is well-known in music circles as a composer, performer and choral conductor. He presented two workshops: a choral workshop: Afrika Sings and a workshop for teachers entitled: Arranging for marimba band.



**DAVE REYNOLDS** is well-known to this Festival as a presenter of Steelpan Workshops. This year we welcomed him as an adjudicator. He is South Africa's leading Steelpan player and has performed and recorded all over the world. He gave two performances on steelpans!



## THE FRINGE EVENTS

As this Festival is the ultimate EDUTAINMENT event our ever-popular **Fringe** events consisted of 92 workshops in various disciplines and were very popular with the participants and visitors to the Festival. The **open workshops** included gumboot dancing by **Durban Prep High School** in KZN; Pantsula dancing by **Kgotso Mavundla**; Body percussion and folk dancing by **Hastings Nyirenda**; Conducting workshops by **Eddie Clayton**; choral and arranging workshops by **Mokale Koapeng**; Jammin' with **Jermaine Johnson**; music games with **Pride and Nolwazi Ngcobo**; performances by **Dave Reynolds** and **Jason Taylor**; brain gym with **Hannah Kok** and **Judith Nel**; discussions with **Yvonne Raedane** and arranging workshops with **Sasha Sonnbichler**. The massed interactive djembe event was presented by **members of PACD** and the massed marimba and steelpan event was presented by **Joan Lithgow** with **Mokale Koapeng** training the ad hoc choir.

We also had steelpan workshops presented by **Candice Parkin**, mbira workshops presented by **Chris Timbe** and marimba workshops presented by **Michael Sibanda** and **Bradley Lithgow**.

There was also a vibrant flea market at the Festival as well as many food stalls.

The **SAMRO** commissioned work: **LIVING THROUGH THE HEART** composed by **Dave Reynolds** for marimba and steelpan band has added another useful piece to our growing repertoire of original pieces. Thank you to the **SAMRO FOUNDATION** for commissioning this work for our Festival. Thank you to the performers of this work: **Dave Reynolds** with **The Blu Earth Marimba Band** and the **Education Africa Steel Band**.

## COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

In addition to the competitions that were playing out in the Main Venue 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, Eddie Clayton and Mokale Koapeng.

There were 5 entries in total received: 1 entry in the adult section and 4 in the school-going section. **Wayne Swart** from Westville Senior Primary School in KZN won the adult section. The school-going section was won by **Reece Ronaldson** from HCA in KZN. Once again, all the composers came from 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 (South African Music Rights Organisation) FOUNDATION** for their continued support of our festival. We thank the SAMRO FOUNDATION for ALL it does for music in our country. We at Education Africa SALUTE James French, Andre Le Roux and Anriette Chorn for their kindness and hard work.

**BASA (Business Arts South Africa)** came on board once again as a sponsor. We thank them for their support and hope that this will continue in the future.



We also had a donor who wishes to remain anonymous who helped enable many disadvantaged children the opportunity to attend and participate in the Festival from various parts of South Africa.

Many companies donated prizes for which we are extremely grateful. See the full list of sponsors and donors at the end of this report.

## CREW

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to **the Education Africa team** who worked at the Festival. In particular I wish to thank **Khabonina Motaung** as well as **Puseletso Ramashoi** who dedicated a tremendous amount of time to ensure the Festival ran smoothly.

Thank you to my son, **Bradley Lithgow** the assistant programme director who has been a support and sounding board throughout the Festival year. Thank you to my daughter, **Amy-Sue Lithgow** for all her support throughout the year and her incredible efficiency as one of the floor managers at the festival. I am truly lucky to be a mom to such amazing children.

Thank you to my husband, **Ian** who continues to give both moral, physical and financial support each year at the Festival. In addition, this is the 8<sup>th</sup> year that he has sponsored a combination marimba at the International Marimba and Steelpan Festival.

Thank you to **Barbara Underhill** for her love and support of all the projects I do and for giving a very meaningful dedication.

## PUBLICITY

Thank-you to Chirene and Mark Campbell from **OWLHURST** 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 including, Morning Live, Voice of America and Voice of China. Please follow the links below:

[https://www.facebook.com/chinaplusnews/videos/1263954800438103/?q=china%20plus%2C%20marimba&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/chinaplusnews/videos/1263954800438103/?q=china%20plus%2C%20marimba&epa=SEARCH_BOX)

<https://www.voanews.com/arts-culture/south-africa-hosts-worlds-largest-marimba-and-steelpan-festival>

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

<b>SAMRO FOUNDATION</b>
<b>BASA</b>
<b>KOPANONG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE</b>
<b>BEYERS CHOCOLATES</b>
<b>CASIO</b>
<b>LANG PERCUSSION</b>
<b>LOVEMORE MUSIC</b>
<b>MARIMBAONE</b>
<b>TOMS</b>
<b>THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP</b>
<b>HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO</b>
<b>EMERALD RESORT AND CASINO</b>
<b>ANONYMOUS DONOR</b>
<b>SHARON ANTONIZZI</b>
<b>D'ADDARIO</b>
<b>BRIAN WILLSON</b>
<b>CALZONE CASES</b>
<b>YAMAHA</b>
<b>FOOD FOR LIFE</b>
<b>FYRE INTERACTIVE</b>
<b>MALLET RECORDS</b>
<b>MIKE BALTER</b>



<b>CATEGORIES</b>	<b>2019 PRIZE WINNERS</b>
PS1 1 <sup>ST</sup>	BATHOEN HOUSE 1 BOTSWANA
PS1 2 <sup>ND</sup>	BOTETI HOUSE BOTSWANA
PS1 3 <sup>RD</sup>	EPWORTH PREPARATORY KZN S.A.
PS2 1 <sup>ST</sup>	LIVINGSTONE HOUSE BOTSWANA
PS2 2 <sup>ND</sup>	BATHOEN HOUSE 1 BOTSWANA
PS2 3 <sup>RD</sup>	BRYANDALE PRIMARY GAUTENG S.A.
PS3 1 <sup>ST</sup>	LIVINGSTONE HOUSE BOTSWANA
PS3 2 <sup>ND</sup>	EPWORTH PREPARATORY KZN S.A.
PS3 3 <sup>RD</sup>	BOTETI HOUSE BOTSWANA
PL1 1 <sup>ST</sup>	ACACIA PRIMARY BOTSWANA
PL1 2 <sup>ND</sup>	LIVINGSTONE HOUSE BOTSWANA
PL1 3 <sup>RD</sup>	ST MARTINS CONVENT ZIMBABWE
PL2 1 <sup>ST</sup>	BOTETI HOUSE BOTSWANA
PL2 2 <sup>ND</sup>	ACACIA PRIMARY BOTSWANA
PL2 3 <sup>RD</sup>	MERRIFIELD PREP AND COLLEGE EASTERN CAPE S.A.
PL3 1 <sup>ST</sup>	WATERSTONE COLLEGE PRIMARY GAUTENG S.A.
PL3 2 <sup>ND</sup>	BATHOEN HOUSE 1 BOTSWANA
PL3 3 <sup>RD</sup>	MERRIFIELD PREP AND COLLEGE EASTERN CAPE S.A.
HS1 1 <sup>ST</sup>	TIGERKLOOF COMBINED SCHOOL NORTHWEST S.A.
HS1 2 <sup>ND</sup>	OUTREACH FOUNDATION GAUTENG S.A.
HS1 3 <sup>RD</sup>	EPWORTH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL KZN S.A.
HS2 1 <sup>ST</sup>	TIGERKLOOF COMBINED SCHOOL NORTHWEST S.A.
HS2 2 <sup>ND</sup>	OUTREACH FOUNDATION GAUTENG S.A.
HS2 3 <sup>RD</sup>	MERIDIAN KARINO SCHOOL MPUMALANGA S.A.
HS3 1 <sup>ST</sup>	SACRED HEART MARISTS OBSERVATORY GAUTENG S.A.
HS3 2 <sup>ND</sup>	GOEDEHOOP PRESTIGE BAND GAUTENG S.A. EPWORTH GIRLS KZN S.A.

HS3 3 <sup>RD</sup>	BYLETTS FARM HIGH SCHOOL EASTERN CAPE S.A.
HL1 1 <sup>ST</sup>	REDHILL MANYORA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL1 2 <sup>ND</sup>	KING EDWARD SCHOOL GAUTENG S.A.
HL1 3 <sup>RD</sup>	PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS GAUTENG S.A.
HL2 1 <sup>ST</sup>	REDHILL HILL MANYORA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL2 2 <sup>ND</sup>	ST DOMINICS BOKSBURG GAUTENG S.A.
HL2 3 <sup>RD</sup>	MICHAELHOUSE KZN S.A.
HL3 1 <sup>ST</sup>	MICHAELHOUSE KZN S.A.
HL3 2 <sup>ND</sup>	CURRO HILLCREST KZN S.A.
HL3 3 <sup>RD</sup>	REDHILL HILL MANYORA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
OS1 1 <sup>ST</sup>	OUTREACH FOUNDATION GAUTENG S.A.
OS1 2 <sup>ND</sup>	MARIMBA MELODIKA NORTHWEST S.A.
OS1 3 <sup>RD</sup>	NOT AWARDED
OS2 1 <sup>ST</sup>	MARIMBA MELODIKA NORTHWEST S.A.
OS2 2 <sup>ND</sup>	EPWORTH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL KZN S.A.
OS2 3 <sup>RD</sup>	NOT AWARDED
OS3 1 <sup>ST</sup>	NOT AWARDED
OS3 2 <sup>ND</sup>	NOT AWARDED
OS3 3 <sup>RD</sup>	NOT AWARDED
OL1 1 <sup>ST</sup>	JEPPE BOYS AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL GAUTENG S.A.
OL1 2 <sup>ND</sup>	McCAULEY HOUSE GAUTENG S.A.
OL1 3 <sup>RD</sup>	HILTON COLLEGE KZN S.A.
OL2 1 <sup>ST</sup>	HILTON COLLEGE KZN S.A.
OL2 2 <sup>ND</sup>	MERRIFIELD PREP AND COLLEGE EASTERN CAPE S.A.
OL2 3 <sup>RD</sup>	WESTVILLE SENIOR ACADEMIC STAFF KZN S.A.
OL3 1 <sup>ST</sup>	HILTON COLLEGE KZN S.A.
OL3 2 <sup>ND</sup>	BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF PROTEA GLEN GAUTENG S.A.

OL3 3 <sup>RD</sup>	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE GAUTENG S.A.
P4 1st	ST MARTIN'S CONVENT PRIMARY ZIMBABWE
P4 2nd	WATERSTONE COLLEGE GAUTENG S.A.
P4 3rd	COUNTRY COLLEGE MPUMALANGA S.A.
H4 1st	CURRO HILLCREST KZN S.A.
H4 2nd	TIGERKLOOF COMBINED NORTHWEST S.A.
H4 3rd	REDHILL GAUTENG S.A.
O4 1st	HILTON COLLEGE KZN S.A.
O4 2nd	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE GAUTENG S.A.
O4 3rd	JEPPE BOYS HIGH MSWENKO BAND GAUTENG S.A.
<b>BEST STEELPAN PERFORMANCE (T &amp; T TROPHY)</b>	ACACIA PRIMARY BOTSWANA
<b>BEST MARIMBA BAND PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL (ALPORT MHLANGA TROPHY)</b>	ST MARTINS CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL ZIMBABWE
<b>BEST EDUCATION AFRICA MARIMBA HUB</b>	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE GAUTENG S.A.
<b>BEST SPECIAL SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE</b>	ELUNDINI FULL-SERVICE SCHOOL EASTERN CAPE S.A.
<b>SOCIAL COHESION AWARD</b>	MICHAELHOUSE KZN S.A.
<b>UBUNTU AWARD</b>	ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL BOKSBURG GAUTENG S.A.
<b>MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBA LUCKY DRAW</b>	QUEENS HIGH SCHOOL EASTERN CAPE S.A.
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> BAND TO REGISTER AND PAY</b>	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY KZN S.A.
<b>BAND THAT TRAVELLED THE FURTHEST</b>	ST JUDES NIGERIA

Thank you for attending this year's Festival. It has been our pleasure serving you and we look forward to welcoming you to the 9th International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2020!

The tentative dates for next year's Festival are: 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020: to be confirmed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Lithgow', written in a cursive style.

Yours in marimba music!

Joan Lithgow and The Education Africa Festival Committee.  
August 2019

