



EDUCATION  
AFRICA

## REPORT ON

### THE 1<sup>st</sup> EDUCATION AFRICA

### VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL

2020

### ALL ROUND THE WORLD

**141 performances; 677 participants; 7 countries!**

#### INTRODUCTION AND THANK YOU

Due to extraordinary times we were unable to host our annual “live” Festival in 2020 but this did not deter us from keeping the Festival alive. By the end of March 2020 we had decided as a committee to host a Virtual Festival due to COVID-19 which had spread worldwide. While many would have seen this pandemic as an obstacle, we, at Education Africa saw this as an opportunity to reach a much wider participant base who would not normally be able to attend our “live” Festivals due to costs and logistics. As we were now not restricted by venue size as well as a time frame to host the Festival we could open up the Festival and include other competitions which have been only a pipe dream: solo marimba, xylophone, steelpan and vibraphone competitions.

Despite COVID-19 and all its restrictions throughout the world we had **677** people performing in **141** performances presented by **63** bands from **45** different institutions from **7** different countries: South Africa, United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, The Caribbean, Zimbabwe and the USA. We also had 5 soloists from 3 countries: South Africa, Zimbabwe and the USA.

Thank you to the committee of THE EDUCATION AFRICA VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL which ensured that the Festival ran smoothly. Our two marimba assistants Khabonina Motaung and Puseletso Ramashoai worked behind the scenes as well as with our Marimba Hubs giving them support and guidance. Jenna Hutchings handled our social media. Wendy Saner, our financial director took care of all the money matters and James Urdang, our CEO continually guided, motivated and challenged us during the Festival process.

A huge thank you must go to Bradley Lithgow who worked as the assistant programme director and consultant for this Festival and ensured that all the videos were correctly labelled, went into the correct episodes, filmed all the links and recorded all the voice overs and basically put the programme together. Thank you to our video editors: Ian Hooper who created the visual feel and the final production of the 13 episodes, Bradley Lithgow who edited the SAMRO commissioned work and Etienne Mecloen who created the massed composition multi-screened video entitled ALL ROUND THE WORLD.

In addition there were many people out there who were consulted. You all know who you are. Thank you for your time and your opinions. They all helped to make this a highly successful Festival.

## TRIBUTES

This Festival would NOT have been possible without the incredible support of the teachers all around the world. Their love for marimbas and steelpans and belief that the Virtual Festival, while knowing full well that it was not going to be the same as the Live Festival, still realized it would be something of value for their students and their schools and institutions. Thank you for your dedication to your students and for your amazing support of our First Virtual Festival.

## ALL ROUND THE WORLD

Our theme for this year was ALL ROUND THE WORLD. The massed piece written by Joan Lithgow entitled **ALL ROUND THE WORLD** with about 250 performers featured bands and musicians from most of the participating schools and institutions.

## SOCIAL COHESION

**Social Cohesion** is what drives us at Education Africa and in particular, when planning this Virtual Festival. Social Cohesion does not just happen! We need to create moments that enable this to happen. Possibly more than ever in the history of our world do we need to learn tolerance, kindness, caring and ubuntu. This Virtual Festival brought together participants from diverse backgrounds: from some of the poorest communities to some of the wealthiest. There are not too many international events which bring such diverse communities together on one platform.

## INCLUSIVITY

Being fully inclusive we had 3 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 and **Jiswa Training Centre**, an S.I.D. band, from Lenasia. All three schools are part of the Education Africa Marimba Hubs programme.

## THE FESTIVAL

Being a virtual Festival, all participating bands needed to take videos of their performances in various categories and age sections and submit them by the closing date. Of the 141 videos we received 120 were sent in the two days before the closing date! These all had to be checked and categorized and put into the 21 categories and uploaded onto a virtual platform for the adjudicators to view and adjudicate. Once the adjudication was completed then the design, compilation and production of the actual Virtual Festival started.







## ADJUDICATORS

We had five adjudicators: three from South Africa, one from the USA and one from Uganda. The five esteemed adjudicators were **Mark Stone** from the USA, **Magdalena de Vries** from Gauteng, South Africa; **Pops Mohamed** from Gauteng, South Africa; **Benon Kigozi** from Kampala, Uganda and **Dave Reynolds** from Cape Town, South Africa.

Over 7 days the adjudicators had to adjudicate 3/4 categories per day within a 24 hour turn-around time. This was a daunting task which they handled with incredible professionalism and expertise.

### **DAVE REYNOLDS from South Africa.**

Dave Reynolds is South Africa's leading solo Steelpan player and has performed and recorded all over the world. He has collaborated with some of the best musicians in the world including Pops Mohamed one of our other adjudicators. His love for music and the youth of South Africa is infectious and his knowledge of Steelpans and marimbas makes him an excellent candidate as an adjudicator.



### **MAGDALENA DE VRIES from South Africa.**

Marimba One™ endorsed artist, Magdalena de Vries, is regarded as South Africa's foremost classical marimbist. She completed her undergraduate studies in South Africa and pursued post graduate studies in percussion at the Tokyo College of Music. She performs extensively in South Africa as well as abroad. Her vast experience in all aspects of marimba playing and percussion makes her a worthy candidate as an adjudicator.



### **MARK STONE from Michigan in the United States of America**

World multi-percussionist Mark Stone has performed with the foremost musicians of Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, India, Trinidad, Ecuador, and the United States. An accomplished composer and improviser, Mark writes regularly for his many projects and commissions. His musical style results from a unique synthesis of multiple world traditions and innovation rooted in a deep knowledge of those traditions. His experience in world percussion music makes him the perfect candidate as an adjudicator.



### **BENON KIGOZI from Kampala in Uganda.**

Benon is Head of Creative Arts at Makereke University in Kampala.

He is also a jazz pianist of note having performed in 14 countries world-wide. He has been the president of Pasmae, the Pan African Society for Musical Arts Education and is a sought-after adjudicator and workshop presenter around the world. His vast experience in music education and all aspects of music makes him an excellent candidate as an adjudicator.



## **POPS MOHAMED from South Africa**

Pops is an all-round multi-instrumentalist musician playing several instruments including the kora and the mbira. He is a South African icon and is extremely well-known in South African Music Circles. He works as a producer/performer and has a special love for the development of children especially in the sphere of music. Pops is a three times Lifetime Achievement Award winner for preserving and protecting South African Heritage, especially ancient African musical instruments and the use thereof. We are proud to have him as one of our esteemed adjudicators.



## **SAMRO COMMISSIONED WORK**

The **SAMRO** commissioned work: **BAZARUTO** composed by **Gareth Walwyn** for classical marimba solo and a marimba band was one of the highlights of the Virtual Festival. This happy, delightful and challenging piece was completed at a very sad time for Gareth as his father passed away due to COVID complications. The composition is dedicated to his memory. On behalf of everyone who was involved in the Virtual Festival we send Gareth and his family our sincere condolences. May this composition be played often around the world as a tribute to him. Thank you to the **SAMRO FOUNDATION** for commissioning this work for our Festival. Thank you to the performers of this work: **Magda de Vries** with **The Blu Earth Marimba Band**.

## **COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS**

Every year we have a COMPOSITION COMPETITION in three age categories that is fully sponsored by **THE SAMRO FOUNDATION**. Traditionally one of the key requirements for this competition is that the compositions need to be performed "live" at the Festival. However, due to COVID-19 we changed this requirement and allowed electronic versions of these compositions to be submitted. The adjudicators for this competition were: Dave Reynolds, Mark Stone and Pops Mohamed. One of the requirements as requested by **THE SAMRO FOUNDATION** is that the compositions may only be submitted by composers from the SADC region.

There were 5 entries in total received: 1 entry in the school-going section and 4 in the young adults' section. **Lucas Peria** aged **12** from Durban Prep. won the school-going section. The young adult section was won by **Reece Ronaldson** from 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. THE SAMRO FOUNDATION supports music education throughout South Africa and plays an incredible role in developing young musicians in our country through competitions, Festivals, bursaries etc. We thank THE SAMRO FOUNDATION for ALL it does for music in our country. We at Education Africa SALUTE Mark Rosin, James French and Anriette Chorn for all the work they do.

THE SAMRO FOUNDATION through their sponsorship not only enabled many disadvantaged bands and individuals from various parts of South Africa the opportunity to participate in this Festival but also commissioned the composition by Gareth Walwyn and provided the prizes for the composition competitions. They also enabled many of our disadvantaged bands to organize watch parties with a meal and data on the 13<sup>th</sup> December so that the participants could watch themselves perform in their various categories as well as to watch the prize giving episodes.





We also acknowledge and thank the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation for their funding. In addition, we had a donor who wishes to remain anonymous who contributed to the production costs of the Virtual Festival. We thank this donor for enabling us to produce an excellent, high quality production of our Virtual Festival.

### **HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

We are extremely grateful for the prize for the best South African Steel band performance donated by the Acting High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs Avianne Gilbert. Our relationship with the High Commission started in 2012 at our First Live Festival and it is encouraging to note that the High Commission was with us for our First Live Festival.



Many companies from all over the world donated prizes for which we are extremely grateful. In addition, we had 5 Virtual Master classes offered as prizes by some of the best practitioners in the world. See the full list of sponsors and donors at the end of this report.

### **PUBLICITY**

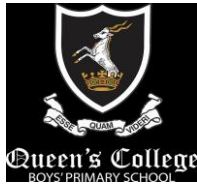
Thank-you to Chirene and Mark Campbell from **OWLHURST** for all the publicity they generated around the event. The Festival was covered by a number of print media companies. In addition, the MCK Special School marimba band featured on SABC 3's Espresso breakfast show.

**CNN's INSIDE AFRICA** produced a documentary on the work Education Africa is doing in our Marimba Programme, highlighting the Virtual Festival. This was aired all over the world at the beginning of January 2021. What an incredible way to end the Virtual Festival.



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





**The South African Society of Music  
Teachers**



**VIRTUAL MASTER CLASSES**

<p><b>MASTER CLASS WITH STEFAN BAUER</b></p> <p>Stefan is active in a wide musical field between tradition and avant-garde as both player (vibraphone/marimba) and a conceptualist of music. Bauer is a player of no uncertain gifts, strong in the technique and introspective feeling, whose instincts suggest a Euro-Canadian jazz connection.</p>
<p><b>MASTER CLASS WITH MARK STONE</b></p> <p><b>Gyl – exploring the marimba of Ghana.</b></p> <p><b>Mark Stone</b> is a musician-educator from Michigan with a passion for using music to bring diverse communities together. Prof. Stone is recognized internationally for his work in global percussion performance and education.</p>
<p><b>MASTER CLASS WITH SAM JEYASINGHAM</b></p> <p><b>Konnakol Workshop – understanding the rhythms of Southern India</b></p> <p>A versatile percussionist, talented in playing tabla, ganjira, konnakol and morsing. He has also collaborated with many musicians from around the world with varied cultures to form successful fusion music ensembles.</p> <p><b>Sam Jeyasingham</b> has received numerous recognitions and awards for his contribution to music.</p>
<p><b>MASTER CLASS WITH ARNIE LANG</b></p> <p><b>Virtual Side Drum Workshop</b></p> <p>For forty years (1955-95) Arnie was part of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. As a teacher, he's been associated with the Manhattan School of Music, the New York College of Music, Kingsborough Community College and Brooklyn College. He is the author of several books, the most recent being PRACTICING MUSIC.</p>
<p><b>MASTER CLASS WITH CHINELO “CHI” AMEN-RA</b></p> <p><b>Virtual Djembe Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Chinelo ‘Chi’ Amen-Ra</b> who is a Detroit-born percussionist grounded in Pan-Africanism and an interest in his Black American heritage. Through the healing power of music, he aims to remedy some of that which divides the human family.</p>

**PRIZES WINNERS  
FOR THE FIRST EDUCATION AFRICA  
VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL  
2020**

**COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS**

THE COMPOSITION COMPETITION IS OPEN TO COMPOSERS FROM THE SADC COUNTRIES ONLY AND IS SPONSORED BY THE **SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC RIGHTS ORGANISATION FOUNDATION.**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>PRIZE</b>
BEST COMPOSITION IN THE SCHOOL-GOING CATEGORY.	LUCAS PERIA FROM KZN SOUTH AFRICA	R2500 FROM THE SAMRO FOUNDATION
BEST COMPOSITION IN THE YOUNG ADULTS’ AGED 19 – 25 CATEGORY.	REECE RONALDSON FROM KZN SOUTH AFRICA	R2500 FROM THE SAMRO FOUNDATION

## SOLO COMPETITIONS

THE SOLO COMPETITION REQUIRED THE SOLOIST TO PERFORM 2 CONTRASTING PIECES OF NO LONGER THAN 8 MINUTES IN A LOCKDOWN SITUATION. THE SOLOIST COULD CHOOSE TO PLAY THE MARIMBA, XYLOPHONE, VIBRAPHONE OR STEELPAN.

CATEGORY	WINNER	PRIZE
UNDER 19	TAONAIŠE JURU FROM HARARE ZIMBABWE	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
OVER 19	JOHNNY VIVIANI FROM NEW YORK UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	MASTER CLASS with STEFAN BAUER

## BAND COMPETITIONS

CAT.	WINNER	PRIZE
PS1	SEKAMPANENG PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
PS2	DURBAN PREP. SCHOOL FROM KWAZULU-NATAL SOUTH AFRICA	MASTER CLASS with MARK STONE
PS3	COUNTRY COLLEGE FROM MPUMALANGA SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
PL1	MERRIFIELD PREP. FROM EASTERN CAPE SOUTH AFRICA	CASH PRIZE FROM EDUCATION AFRICA
PL2	QUEENS COLLEGE PRIMARY BAND FROM EASTERN CAPE SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
PL3	MERRIFIELD PREP FROM EASTERN CAPE SOUTH AFRICA	MASTER CLASS with SAM JEYASINGHAM
P4	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	MEDELI KEYBOARD from TOMS
HS1	WINAD MUSIC TRUST FROM HARARE ZIMBABWE	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
HS2	WINAD MUSIC TRUST FROM HARARE ZIMBABWE	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
HS3	SACRED HEART MARIST FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	BOOK HAMPER from LOVEMORE MUSIC and a CHOCOLATE HAMPER from BEYERS CHOCOLATES
HL1	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	KEYBOARD from CASIO
HL2	OUTREACH FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL BAND FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	BOOK HAMPER from LOVEMORE MUSIC and a CHOCOLATE HAMPER from BEYERS CHOCOLATES
HL3	CURRO HILLCREST FROM KWAZULU-NATAL SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
H4	SACRED HEART MARIST FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
OS1	OUTREACH FOUNDATION FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
OS2	FREDONIA MARIMBA ENSEMBLE FROM NEW YORK UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	SIDE DRUM from LANG PERCUSSION
OS3	BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF PIMVILLE FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
OL1	FANTASTICS STEEL ORCHESTRA FROM KOBE JAPAN	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
OL2	HILTON COLLEGE FROM KWAZULU-NATAL SOUTH AFRICA	MASTER CLASS with ARNIE LANG
OL3	HILTON COLLEGE FROM KWAZULU-NATAL SOUTH AFRICA	CASH PRIZE from SASMT
O4	WINAD MUSIC TRUST FROM HARARE ZIMBABWE	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE



## SPECIAL PRIZES

	CATEGORY	WINNER	PRIZE
1	1ST BAND TO REGISTER AND PAY	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM KZN SOUTH AFRICA	FREE REGISTRATION FOR 2021 VIRTUAL FESTIVAL
2	BEST SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL PERFORMANCE	MCK SPECIAL SCHOOL FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	VOUCHER from MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE
3	BEST EDUCATION AFRICA MARIMBA HUB	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	MEDELI KEYBOARD from TOMS
4	EMBRACING AFRICANISM AWARD	ACS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL COBHAM UNITED KINGDOM	MASTER CLASS with CHINELO "CHI" AMEN-RA
5	MOST PROMISING BAND OF THE FESTIVAL	HERMANUS WALDORF SCHOOL	MEDELI KEYBOARD from TOMS
6	THE INSTITUTION THAT ENTERED THE MOST UNIQUE MARIMBA BANDS	THE FRIENDS' SCHOOL TASMANIA AUSTRALIA	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
7	THE SPIRIT OF THE FESTIVAL AWARD	CARIBBEAN GRAINS LABORIE STEELPANS FROM SAINT LUCIA CARIBBEAN	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
8	BEST SOUTH AFRICAN STEELBAND PERFORMANCE	QUEEN'S COLLEGE BOYS' PRIMARY STEELPAN BAND FROM EASTERN CAPE SOUTH AFRICA	HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CASH PRIZE R3000
9	TOP STEELBAND OF THE FESTIVAL. AT OUR FESTIVAL WE VALUE PARTICIPATION ABOVE ALL ELSE. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD THE ORGANISATION NEEDS TO TAKE PART IN <b>ALL 4 CATEGORIES</b> .	WORTHING STEEL ORCHESTRA FROM WEST SUSSEX IN THE UNITED KINGDOM	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
10	THE ALPORT MHLANGA TROPHY FOR THE BEST MARIMBA BAND PERFORMANCE. AT OUR FESTIVAL WE VALUE PARTICIPATION ABOVE ALL ELSE. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD THE ORGANISATION NEEDS TO HAVE TAKEN PART IN <b>ALL 4 CATEGORIES</b> . IN EACH OF THE SECTIONS THE TOP BAND IN CATEGORY 4 IS PUT FORWARD TO PLAY IN A PLAY-OFF. SHOULD THE TOP BAND IN ONE OF THE CATEGORIES NOT FULFILL ALL THE REQUIREMENTS THEN THE NEXT BAND TO FULFILL ALL THE REQUIREMENTS GOES INTO THE PLAY-OFF.	WINAD MUSIC TRUST HARARE ZIMBABWE	CASH PRIZE from EDUCATION AFRICA
11	MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBA LUCKY DRAW PRIZE	M.C. KHARBAI SPECIAL SCHOOL GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA	COMBINATION MARIMBA

Thank you for participating in this first Virtual Festival. It has been our pleasure serving you. We look forward to welcoming you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Education Africa Virtual International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2021! Due to COVID-19 we will not be hosting a “live” Festival in 2021 but hope that it will be safe to do so in 2022.

If you wish to watch any or all of the episodes you can go to the following link and find them there:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMseiOCNAvgGHNElek4P5rg>

Dates for the 2021 Virtual Festival will be announced soon!



Yours in marimba music!

Joan Lithgow and The Education Africa Festival Committee.  
January 2021

