



**EDUCATION
AFRICA**

REPORT ON

THE EDUCATION AFRICA

9TH LIVE INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA & STEELPAN FESTIVAL

2023

WOZA KE NAKO

289 performances; 90 fringe events and over 2300 participants

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, **Dr Francis Lovell** who donated a beautiful trophy as well as a cash prize for the best steelpan performance of the Festival.



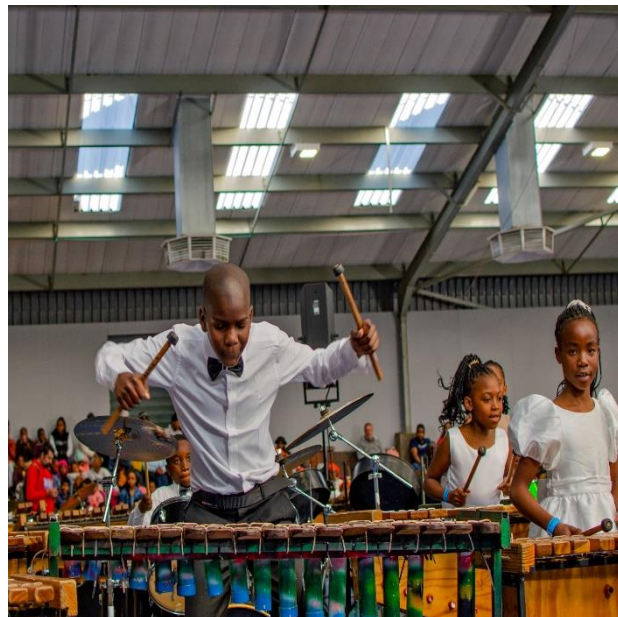
HIS EXCELLENCY DR LOVELL FRANCIS

It was our privilege to stage this ever-growing event once again at the prestigious St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls in Boksburg, Gauteng. 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 & 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**. Amongst the crew we had cleaners, ground staff, parking staff, security, bus drivers, caterers, venue managers, scorers, time keepers, photographers, social media personnel, front of house personnel, a sound team, a floor team under the leadership of **Amy-Sue Lithgow** and **Thami Ngwenya** who walked between the two of them, **84 kms over the weekend**, our **Education Africa Alumni Interns**, administration staff, booking managers, front of house personnel, bangle checkers, Ticketpro agents, medics and safety officers. We thank all our caterers at the Festival as well as **Food for Life** who made sure 600 participants from under-resourced schools who attended the Festival were able to enjoy 3 meals per day at the Festival. **Blue Array** ensured that our Sound needs (which were many) were met. In addition to their significant contribution, we would like to thank the workshop presenters, which included two from Education Africa's ECD department, as well as the highly esteemed adjudicating team.

TRIBUTES

Thank you to the special people who drive this Festival and without whom this Festival would not exist: **THE TEACHERS**. You are the ones that enable the magic of marimba and steelpan music to happen. You are our partners in this wonderful journey and this Festival would not be possible without your incredible support. Thank you for your dedication to your pupils and your loyalty and support of this Festival.



WOZA KE NAKO (Come, it is time)

Our theme for this year was “Woza Ke Nako”. Yes, it was time for a live Festival again and time for meeting up with friends from all over Africa.

The massed song, written and taught by Joan Lithgow with Ludumo Magangane teaching the choir had the following lyrics:

*Oh, this is the time to celebrate,
We are all here, it is that date.
People from all over Africa
Have come together here and now.*

*Woza, woza, ke nako (x3)
Woza, woza naye.*

*Making good music, reaching out,
Two thousand and more are round and about.
People from all over Africa
Have come together here and now.*

*Woza, woza, ke nako (x3)
Woza, woza naye.*

It was special to see such incredible participation from the participants on marimbas as well as the ad hoc choir. Thank you for making this part of the Festival so special.



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 & Steelpan Festival is a true reflection of what South Africa could be like, living and working in harmony. Not only is this regarded as the largest festival of its kind in the world, but it is the largest and most inclusive school event in the country where children from all social strata as well as children with disabilities get together on one platform to perform for and compete against each other.

This Festival is known for its incredible spirit, and we were not disappointed again this year after three years of virtual Festivals. To hear everyone cheering every band that performed was music to my ears. This was evident from the first note of the Festival played by DPHS to the very last one played by Michaelhouse!



INCLUSIVITY

Being fully inclusive we had 2 special needs bands competing in the Festival this year. There was a deaf band from **MCK Special School Marimba Hub** and the newly formed **Ithembelihle Marimba Hub** from Primrose, Germiston for children with physical as well as other special needs.



In addition, Rose Moloji, our Marimba Hub teacher and manager at the Dominican School for Deaf Learners in Hammanskraal gave two very informative workshops on how to teach marimbas to deaf learners. According to many who attended her workshops, this was extremely interesting, inspiring and enlightening.

In anticipation of next year's Festival, we invited our brand-new Marimba Hubs for children with disabilities to come and watch as well as participate in the workshops on offer. These were the Sibonile School for Blind Children, St Vincent's School for Deaf Children and the Adelaide Tambo School for children with physical disabilities. We also had children from the Dominican School for Deaf Learners attend the Festival as visitors.

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 7:45am on Saturday morning there were about 245 marimbas and over 25 steelpans on the floor.



PARTICIPATION

5 Countries were registered to attend the Festival: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Lesotho and Botswana. However, due to a lack of funds, we finally only had participants from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Originally 95 institutions registered but 82 arrived with over 2300 participants who performed in 286 performances. Of the 7 adjudicators we had 1 from the USA, 2 from Cape Town, 3 from Gauteng and 1 from Zimbabwe.

The festival had three main components: THE MAIN LIVE COMPETITIONS, a small ONLINE COMPETITION FOR SOUTH AFRICAN BANDS ONLY 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. In addition, there were 13 online entries in 3 categories that were adjudicated at the Festival.

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. Our 7th adjudicator was part of the composition competitions.

The adjudicators were **Karolyn Stonefelt** from the **USA**, **Chris Timbe** from **Zimbabwe**, **Bronwyn Clacherty** from **Cape Town**, **Chantal Willie-Petersen** from **Gauteng**, **Ludumo Magangane** from **Gauteng**, **Kgomotso Le Roux** from **Gauteng** and **Dave Reynolds** who was the chief adjudicator in the composition category from **Cape Town**.

Dr. Karolyn Stonefelt is a State University of New York Distinguished Professor and Director of Percussion Studies in the School of Music at Fredonia. She is also a performer and lifelong student. She gave two workshops on “Fun with Amadinda rhythms”.



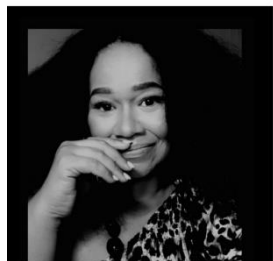
Chris Timbe is from Zimbabwe and is a highly motivated and versatile person with a vision to contribute to National and International human development through the dissemination of information, skills, and attitudes using Music, Dance, and Compositions as powerful tools. He gave two workshops on “learning to play the mbira”.



Dr Bronwen Clacherty is a lecturer in African Music at the South African College of Music in Cape Town. She is an Academic, Percussionist, African Instrumentalist, Community Musician and Composer. She gave two workshops for teachers on “Approaches to song writing”.



Chantal Willie-Petersen is currently a lecturer and PhD candidate at WITS University where she is focusing her research on coloured identity, African feminism and historic sound. She is an academic, performer and composer. She gave two workshops with Dave Reynolds on the “process of collaboration”.



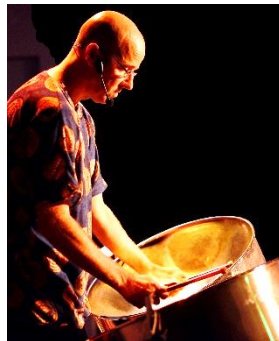
Ludumo Magangane is a highly accomplished musician and conductor with a diverse range of skills and experiences. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree, a Student Teachers' Diploma and a Bachelor of Education degree. He taught the massed item that was sung with the marimbas and steelpans and he gave a workshop on a Sesotho traditional song.



Kgomotso Le Roux has over 20 years of working experience in the music and arts sector. She has worked as a performer, arts administrator, music producer and holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Ethnomusicology. She gave two workshops on “how to apply for funding through the NAC”.



DAVE REYNOLDS is well-known to this Festival as a presenter of Steelpan Workshops. He is South Africa’s leading Steelpan player and has performed and recorded all over the world. He was the chief adjudicator in the composition category. He gave two workshops with Chantal Willie-Petersen on the “process of collaboration”.



THE FRINGE EVENTS

As this Festival is the ultimate EDUTAINMENT event, our ever-popular **Fringe** events consisted of 90 workshops in various disciplines and were very popular with the participants and visitors to the Festival. The **open workshops** included gumboot dancing by **Mpho Kunene**; Steelpan workshops by **Dave Reynolds**, Hip hop and Afro fusion dancing with **Jermaine Johnson**, how to apply for funding from the NAC with **Kgomotso Le Roux**, Sesotho and Setswana traditional dances with **Gregory Lediga**, drama games with **Nolwazi Ngcobo**, creating new music and the process of collaboration with **Dave Reynolds** and **Chantal Willie-Petersen** and let’s sing a traditional SeSotho song with **Ludumo Magangane**.

We also had marimba workshops in beginner, intermediate and advanced levels presented by: **Bradley Lithgow**, **Thandi Dube**, **Hastings Nyirenda**, **Rose Moloji**, **Charmaine Holloway** and **Tarisai Muchineripi**. We had djembe workshops in beginner, intermediate and advanced levels presented by members of the **PACD**. In addition, we had mbira workshops with **Chris Timbe**, song-writing workshops with **Bronwyn Clacherty**, fun with amadinda rhythms with **Karolyn Stonefelt**, fun with science for 6 – 10 years olds by **Bev Wilson** and a creative workshop for 3 – 7 year olds with **Catherine Sweetie**.



THE MASSED EVENTS

The massed interactive djembe event was presented by **members of PACD** and the massed marimba and steelpan event was presented by **Joan Lithgow** with **Ludumo Magangane** who trained the ad hoc choir.

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



COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

In addition to the competitions that were playing out in the Main Venue there was also a COMPOSITION COMPETITION in two age categories. All six adjudicators plus Dave Reynolds adjudicated this competition.

There were 3 entries in total received: 2 entries in the young adults' section and 1 in the school-going section. Reece Ronaldson won the young adult's section with a close second by Rorisang Motsamai. The winner of the school-going section was Mufaro Mutsvanguma from Westville Senior Primary School. These compositions are always judged "blind", so the adjudicators had no idea who they were judging!

SPONSORSHIP

Besides sponsorship for which we are incredibly grateful, from the Australian High Commission to allow children with disabilities to participate in the Festival, we received no additional financial support.

The following companies helped make this Festival possible:

ALLMUSIC	PRIZES
AQUAZANIA	WATER FOR OUR UNDER-RESOURCED PARTICIPANTS
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION	ENTRANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
BEYERS CHOCOLATES	THE FAMOUS "CHOCOLATE" AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS
BLUE ARRAY PRODUCTIONS	DISCOUNTED PRICES
BLUE LABEL	SUPPORT TO EDUCATION AFRICA
BRIAN WILLSON	PRIZES
CASIO	PRIZES
FOOD FOR LIFE	LUNCHES FOR 600 PARTICIPANTS ON TWO DAYS
FYRE INTERACTIVE	DISCOUNTED PRICES
LOVEMORE MUSIC	SPECIAL CATEGORY PRIZES
M&S CATERING	DISCOUNTED PRICES
MARIMBAONE	PRIZES
MOOI RIVER BAKERY	DISCOUNTED PRICES
MUSICIANS GEAR ZONE	PRIZES
SHARON ANTONIZZI	DESIGN OF THE PROGRAMME
ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	VENUE FREE OF CHARGE
THE HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	PRIZES
THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP	PRIZES

CREW

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to **the Education Africa Marimba Team** who worked at the Festival. I wish to thank **Khabonina Motaung, Bradley Lithgow** and **Puseletso Ramashoai** who dedicated a tremendous amount of time to ensure the Festival ran smoothly.

Thank you to **Barbara Underhill from the Elsburg Methodist Church** for her love and support of all the projects we do at Education Africa and for giving such a very meaningful dedication.

PUBLICITY

Thank-you to Mark Campbell from **OWLHURST** and **ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS** for all the publicity they generated around the event. The Festival was covered by a number of media companies.

SPECIAL AWARDS	2023
MARIMBA WORKSHOP LUCKY DRAW FOR A COMBINATION MARIMBA	FLDDBAND FOUNDATION – SPRINGS GAUTENG
FIRST BAND TO REGISTER AND PAY	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL KZN
BEST EDUCATION AFRICA MARIMBA HUB	LETSHEGO PRIMARY SCHOOL NORTHERN CAPE
BEST SCHOOL-GOING COMPOSITION	MUFARO MUTSVANGUMA KZN
BEST YOUNG ADULTS' COMPOSITION	REECE RONALDSON KZN
BEST PRIMARY SCHOOL DRUMKIT PLAYER	MASIBAMBANE COLLEGE GAUTENG
BEST HIGH SCHOOL DRUMKIT PLAYER	MICHAELHOUSE KZN
BEST OPEN DRUMKIT PLAYER	MCAULEY HOUSE GAUTENG
BEST SPECIAL NEEDS PERFORMANCE	MCK SPECIAL SCHOOL GAUTENG
UBUNTU AWARD	HILTON COLLEGE
SOCIAL COHESION AWARD	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
BEST CONDUCTOR	ITHEMBELIHLE LSEN SCHOOL
MOST INSPIRING BAND OF THE FESTIVAL	ITHEMBELIHLE LSEN SCHOOL
THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TROPHY FOR THE BEST STEELPAN PERFORMANCE	CLARENDON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
ALPORT MHLANGA TROPHY FOR THE BEST MARIMBA BAND PERFORMANCE	MICHAELHOUSE

CATEGORIES	2023 PRIZE WINNERS
PS1 1 ST	RUNYARARO PRIMARY SCHOOL
PS1 2 ND	ACACIA PRIMARY SCHOOL
PS1 3 RD	KING EDWARD VII PREPARATORY SCHOOL
PS2 1 ST	LIVINGSTONE HOUSE SCHOOL
PS2 2 ND	RUNYARARO PRIMARY SCHOOL
PS2 3 RD	LETSHEGO PRIMARY SCHOOL
PS3 1 ST	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
PS3 2 ND	THE GRANGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
PS3 3 RD	ROYAL BRIGHT JUNIOR SCHOOL
PL1 1 ST	ARBORETUM PRIMARY SCHOOL
PL1 2 ND	LIVINGSTONE HOUSE SCHOOL
PL1 3 RD	KING EDWARD VII PREPARATORY SCHOOL
PL2 1 ST	ARBORETUM PRIMARY SCHOOL
PL2 2 ND	ST MARTIN'S CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL
PL2 3 RD	ST NICHOLAS DIOCESAN SCHOOL
PL3 1 ST	SACRED HEART SCHOOL TAUNG
PL3 2 ND	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
PL3 3 RD	ST MARTIN'S CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL
AP 1 ST	DE LA SALLE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE
AP 2 ND	ST ANDREWS'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
AP 3 RD	TOM NEWBY SCHOOL
OP 1 ST	KYALAMI PREPARATORY SCHOOL: JUNIOR MARIMBA BAND
OP 2 ND	MARANATHA SCHOOL: GRADE 6/7 MARIMBA BAND
OP 3 RD	KYALAMI PREPARATORY SCHOOL: SENIOR MARIMBA BAND
HS1 1 ST	LETSHEGO PRIMARY SCHOOL
HS1 2 ND	HOËRSKOOL ELSBURG
HS1 3 RD	EPWORTH SCHOOL
HS2 1 ST	OUTREACH FOUNDATION
HS2 2 ND	EUNICE HIGH SCHOOL
HS2 3 RD	MOPHATO PRIVATE SCHOOL
HS3 1 ST	JEPPE BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
HS3 2 ND	THE MOUNTAIN CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL
HS3 3 RD	EUNICE HIGH SCHOOL
HL1 1 ST	REDHILL SCHOOL: SHINGIRIRA MARIMBA BAND
HL1 2 ND	MICHAELHOUSE
HL1 3 RD	REDHILL SCHOOL: MANYORA MARIMBA BAND
HL2 1 ST	MERRIFIELD COLLEGE
HL2 2 ND	KING EDWARD VII SCHOOL
HL2 3 RD	HILTON COLLEGE

HL3 1 ST	MICHAELHOUSE
HL3 2 ND	PARKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
HL3 3 RD	ST MARY'S DSG KLOOF
AH 1 ST	GOEDEHOOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
AH 2 ND	THE MOUNTAIN CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL
AH 3 RD	DE LA SALLE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE
OH 1 ST	ST JOHN'S DSG
OH 2 ND	CLARENDON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
OH 3 RD	SEKAMPANENG
OS1 1 ST	OUTREACH FOUNDATION
OS1 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
OS1 3 RD	NOT AWARDED
OL1 1 ST	EDUCATION AFRICA ALUMNI ALL STARS MARIMBA BAND
OL1 2 ND	JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
OL1 3 RD	MCAULEY HOUSE
OL2 1 ST	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL
OL2 2 ND	MCAULEY HOUSE
OL2 3 RD	EDUCATION AFRICA ALUMNI ALL STARS MARIMBA BAND
OL3 1 ST	EDUCATION AFRICA ALUMNI ALL STARS MARIMBA BAND
OL3 2 ND	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL: STAFF BAND
OL3 3 RD	MCAULEY HOUSE
OO 1 ST	CLARENDON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
OO 2 ND	MARANATHA SCHOOL: STAFF MARIMBA BAND
P4 1 ST	THE GRANGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
P4 2 ND	BATHOEN HOUSE SCHOOL
P4 3 RD	ST ANDREW'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
H4 1 ST	MICHAELHOUSE
H4 2 ND	HILTON COLLEGE
H4 3 RD	ST MARY'S DSG KLOOF
O4 1 ST	EDUCATION AFRICA ALUMNI ALL STARS MARIMBA BAND
O4 2 ND	NOT AWARDED
O4 3 RD	NOT AWARDED

Thank you for attending this year's Festival. It has been our pleasure serving you and we look forward to welcoming you to the 13TH International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2024!
The tentative dates for next year's Festival are: 9 – 11 August 2024: to be confirmed.

Yours in marimba music!



Joan Lithgow and The Education Africa Festival Committee.
August 2023