



**REPORT ON
THE EDUCATION AFRICA
5TH INTERNATIONAL MARIMBA AND STEELPAN FESTIVAL
2016**

**BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND A
BETTER WORLD**

**243 performances; 65 fringe events and over 1900 participants in this
amazing event!**

The largest festival of its kind in the world!

INTRODUCTION AND THANK YOU

Education Africa in partnership with **Tom Newby School in Benoni** and in association with the **High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago** was the host of this prestigious event. We were blessed to have the continuing sponsorship from **The Department of Arts and Culture**. Once again we were very proud to welcome as our patrons the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, the newly appointed His Excellency, **Roger Gopaul** who donated a beautiful trophy as well as a cash prize for the best steel band performance of the Festival and **Andy Narell**, friend of Education Africa and teacher and master performer. This year we had the honour of partnering with Tom Newby School in Benoni. A BIG thank-you to **Giselle Mynhardt**, headmistress of Tom Newby and the Tom Newby SGB and staff as well as **Sharon Reynolds** for their cooperation and fantastic support.

It is with gratitude that I thank each and every person who attended the festival! It is passion and dedication that contributes to making a festival of this magnitude work like a well-oiled machine. 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

However, the engine that drives this festival is the marimba teacher! There were many in attendance...in fact nearly 200 marimba teachers! These are the unsung heroes of the festival. These are the dedicated teachers who coached and trained their bands and made sure that they were ready for their performances. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you are doing for our youth wherever you are! You are special and deserved to be recognized in your communities for your unwavering passion! 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 **Adele Pullen** from **MC Kharbai** in Lenasia. 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 **Kleinmond Laerskool** in the Cape who beat Heideveld Senior Secondary School by 1 kilometre!

Motheong Primary School from Atteridgeville won the prize for the school who brought the largest contingent to the festival: 97 people! The following schools were close on their heels: Redhill with 91; Kingsmead with 87; St Benedict's with 70; Merrifield with 60 and Curro Thatchfield with 54! Thank you for your support and thank you must also go to all the schools large or small who made the special effort to get 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 AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Our theme for this year was BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND A BETTER WORLD the theme of the Department of Arts and Culture for Africa Month. **Social Cohesion** is uppermost in our minds at Education Africa when planning this festival as we firmly believe that the teachers of our country are going to change perceptions and heal wounds and facilitate integration and tolerance in our beautiful country and it is through music, the universal language, that we can achieve this ideal in a very real way. Anyone attending the festival would know that we made major inroads into achieving this goal. This was evident not only in the spirit of the festival but also at all the workshops and at the massed marimba performance.



The International Marimba and Steelpan Festival is fully inclusive and we had a few mentally and physically challenged bands competing alongside their able-bodied counterparts. We were so very proud of their achievements, too!

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE SPONSORSHIP

Through the vision and generosity of the Department of Arts and Culture we were able to sponsor over 500 people from under-resourced bands and communities to attend this festival. This sponsorship covered meals, transport, accommodation and entry fees.

THE FESTIVAL

Marimbas and steelpans started arriving at the festival from early Friday 29 July. The massive marquee in the beautiful grounds of Tom Newby soon filled up with marimbas and steelpans from all over Southern Africa.



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

PARTICIPATION

Participants from six of our nine provinces of South Africa as well as Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Botswana attended. In addition we had 6 adjudicators: 3 from South Africa and one each from Australia, France and the USA. 76 Institutions participated in 243 competition entries!



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

MAIN EVENT

At the main event in the marquee, 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 many, many prizes.

Our 6 adjudicators were put in 2 teams and alternated between adjudicating and giving lecture-demonstrations and performances. This allowed the participants the opportunity to experience the calibre of the adjudicators and created a renewed respect for them!

The six esteemed adjudicators were **Andy Narell from France, Gerard van de Geer from Australia, Hallie Blejewski from USA, Dr Andile Khumalo from Gauteng, Bongani Sotshononda from Cape Town and Pops Mohamed from Gauteng.**



Andy Narell is one of our patrons and also a special friend of the Festival. Andy is a steelpan performer who performs worldwide and was able to demonstrate to the public what a great musician and teacher he is through his performances on the Fringe.



Gerard van de Geer is an inspiring marimba teacher from Hobart, Tasmania. He is also an Orff Specialist and gives workshops throughout the world on best practice in Orff Schulwerk. His workshops for teachers were very popular and enjoyed by all who attended.



Hallie Blejewski is a steelpan teacher from Connecticut in New York. She is busy reading for her PHD and was at the festival as part of her research. She gave introductory lessons to teachers on starting out on the steelpan!



Dr. Andile Khumalo is a lecturer of composition at the Wits School of Music. In addition to being one of the composition adjudicators he also gave workshops on improvisation. His positive energy towards all the performers put them at ease.



Bongani Sotshononda is a marimba performer and comes from Cape Town. His knowledge of all things relating to marimba made him a perfect adjudicator for this festival. He gave workshops at the Fringe on introducing Jazz on the marimba.



Pops Mohamed, our very own National Treasure, completed our line-up of adjudicators. Pops is not only a performer on various African instruments but also a composer and fountain of knowledge on all matters to do with African music and culture. He performed twice with Dave Reynolds on the fringe.

THE FRINGE EVENTS

The **Fringe** events have become an integral part of the festival with people queuing for the possibility of getting into a marimba or djembe workshop. 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 and Khoisan dancing by **Pinky Ramagole**; Indian dancing by **Rashika Naidoo**; Flamenco dancing by **Roseanne Maile**; **steelpan** workshops by **Dave Reynolds**; concerts by **Dave Reynolds and Pops Mohamed** and concerts by **Andy Narell**, the massed djembe event by **members of PACD** and the massed marimba event given by **Joan Lithgow**.

In addition there were a number of workshops that required the public to book for. These included marimbas workshops at various levels given by **Michael Sibanda** and **Patience Musandirire** and djembe workshops given by **members of the PACD**. In addition there were mbira workshops by **Chris Timbe**; the various workshops as mentioned above by the adjudicators; The **SAMRO** commissioned work: **NYALA** composed by **BONGANI SOTSHONONDA** for steelpan, chromatic marimba and a chromatic bass marimba has added a new combination of instruments to the world music repertoire. Thank you to the **SAMRO FOUNDATION** for commissioning this work for our Festival. Thank you to the performers of this work: **Dave Reynolds** on pans, **Bongani Sotshononda** on chromatic marimba and **Bradley Lithgow** on chromatic bass marimba.



One of the highlights of the Festival was the massed marimba and steelpan experience where a composition entitled: **AFRICA, MY AFRICA**, composed by **Joan Lithgow** for the Festival to celebrate the theme of the festival: BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND A BETTER WORLD, was taught by the composer to all participants en masse in 40 minutes! In addition, Reynette Cerff from Grens HS in East London taught the piece to a choir and the marimbas and steelpans and choir then joined forces in a rendition of this celebratory piece.



SAMRO CONTRIBUTION

In addition to the competitions that were playing out in the Marquee 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: **Andy Narell, Dave Reynolds** and **Andile Khumalo**.

There were only 3 entries in total received: 1 entry in the adult section and 2 in the school-going section. The adjudicators were impressed with the standard of the compositions. The winners were: **Ian Holloway** in the adult section and **Nicholas Leisegang** in the school section. These compositions were judged “blind” so the adjudicators had no idea who they were judging!

CREW

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to **all the crew** who worked at the Festival and especially to the young volunteers from Tom Newby. Under the leadership of **Sharon Reynolds**, together with staff from Tom Newby 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 demeanour 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 **Gavin Landers** 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. In addition CNN has covered the festival and in their INSIDE AFRICA programme they will be featuring marimbas in South Africa as well as our festival. This should be aired mid-September! As soon as I have the exact times and dates as well as links to the programme I will let you all know!

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

THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE	HEADLINE SPONSOR
SAMRO FOUNDATION	sponsorship of under-resourced bands to get to the festival; cash prizes for the composition competitions; fees for the composition adjudicators; adjudication fees
AUDIOLOGIC	Discounted prices on hiring of equipment
BEYERS CHOCOLATES	Chocolates
CASIO	A Casio keyboard
CHIP 'N DIP	Hamper
D'ADDARIO	category prizes lanyards

DAVE REYNOLDS	CDs for prizes
FYRE INTERACTIVE	discounted rates on our amazing interactive website
IAN HOLLOWAY	books for prizes
JOAN LITHGOW MUSIC	books for prizes
LANG PERCUSSION	side drum used as a prize
LOVEMORE MUSIC	Books; CDs; cymbal; tambourines; drums; hand drums; boomwhackers
MARIMBAONE	sets of mallets used for prizes mallet bag
MARSHALL MUSIC	10 gift vouchers
MUSICAL GIFTS	Hamper Prize
TRADELIUS MUSIC	2 guitars
TOMS	3 keyboards and a djembe drum
CALATO	Drum sticks
THE MARIMBA WORKSHOP	Combination marimba as a lucky draw prize and the Alport Memorial Trophy for the best marimba band performance
IAN HOLLOWAY	Marimba books

<p>HIGH COMMISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO</p>	<p>The trophy for the Best Steelpan performance at the Festival as well as R3000 in cash</p>
<p>ZULU NYALA</p>	<p>Weekend away for two people at the ZULU NYALA HERITAGE LODGE</p>
<p>LINCOLN BROTHERS</p>	<p>5 discount vouchers for piano tuning and repairs</p>





2016 PRIZE WINNERS

PS1 1 ST	GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
PS1 2 ND	CZM MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
PS1 3 RD	CHIREMBA GOLD MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
PS2 1 ST	GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
PS2 2 ND	CZM MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
PS2 3 RD	MERRIFIELD PREP BAND EAST LONDON S.A.
PS3 1 ST	WESTVILLE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.

PS3 2 ND	LAERSKOOL KLEINMOND MARIMBA BAND WESTERN CAPE S.A.
PS3 3 RD	GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
PL1 1 ST	ZENZE REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
PL1 2 ND	CURRO HCA MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL1 3 RD	LAERSKOOL PRETORIA OOS TSHWANE S.A.
PL2 1 ST	ZENZE REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
PL2 2 ND	AQUA VISTA MARIMBA BAND EAST LONDON S.A.
PL2 3 RD	HILLCREST PRIMARY SENIOR MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL3 1 ST	CURRO HCA MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL3 2 ND	HILLCREST PRIMARY MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
PL3 3 RD	LAERSKOOL PRETORIA OOS TSHWANE S.A.
HS1 1 ST	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE GAUTENG S.A.
HS1 2 ND	EPWORTH HIGH SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
HS1 3 RD	CHEMUTENGURE MARIMBA BAND FROM STILL WATERS ZIMBABWE
HS2 1 ST	MICHAEL HOUSE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HS2 2 ND	KUNGONGODZA MARIMBA BAND FROM MAKUMBE HIGH SCHOOL ZIMBABWE
HS2 3 RD	GOEDE HOOP MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HS3 1 ST	GOEDE HOOP MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HS3 2 ND	ZAMA MONTESSORI SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HS3 3 RD	ST THOMAS AQUINAS MARIMBA BAND MPUMALANGA S.A.
HL1 1 ST	MANYORA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL1 2 ND	OWLAG MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL1 3 RD	THOMAS MORE COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HL2 1 ST	ST MARY'S DSG KLOOF MARIMBA BAND KWA ZULU NATAL S.A.
HL2 2 ND	CURRO HILLCREST MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HL2 3 RD	OWLAG MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
HL3 1 ST	CURRO HILLCREST MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
HL3 2 ND	GRENS HOERSKOOL MARIMBA BAND EAST LONDON S.A.
HL3 3 RD	THOMAS MORE COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OS1 1 ST	LETLAPAPULA 2 MARIMBA BAND NORTH WEST S.A.
OS1 2 ND	TAMBARIMBA MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
OS1 3 RD	MICHAELHOUSE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.

OS2 1 ST	TAMBARIMBA MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
OS2 2 ND	MCCAULEY HOUSE MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
OS2 3 RD	KINGSMEAD 1ST TEAM MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
OS3 1 ST	MICHAELHOUSE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OS3 2 ND	MERRIFIELD COLLEGE AND PREP MARIMBA BAND EAST LONDON S.A.
OS3 3 RD	ENLIGHTEN EDUCATION RURAL ARTS MARIMBA BAND WESTERN CAPE S.A.
OL1 1 ST	RIMBA RESONATION MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
OL1 2 ND	HILTON COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OL1 3 RD	MANYORA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND GAUTENG S.A.
OL2 1 ST	HILTON COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
OL2 2 ND	MERRIFIELD COLLEGE AND PREP MARIMBA BAND EAST LONDON S.A.
OL2 3 RD	RIMBA RESONATION MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
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	NOT AWARDED
P4 1st	THEMBELISHA MARIMBA BAND SWAZILAND
P4 2nd	GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
P4 3rd	CHIREMBA GOLD MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
H4 1st	EPWORTH HIGH SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
H4 2nd	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE GAUTENG S.A.
H4 3rd	TSITSI MARIMBA BAND FROM STILL WATERS ZIMBABWE
O4 1st	RIMBA RESONATION VIBES MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
O4 2nd	LETLAPAPULA MARIMBA BAND NORTH WEST S.A.
O4 3rd	HILTON COLLEGE MARIMBA BAND KWA ZULU NATAL S.A.
	BEST STEELPAN PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL (T AND T TROPHY) HEIDEVELD SECONDARY SCHOOL STEELPAN BAND WESTERN CAPE S.A.
	BEST MARIMBA BAND PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL (ALPORT MHLANGA TROPHY) GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND ZIMBABWE
	BEST EDUCATION AFRICA MARIMBA HUB GOEDE HOOP GAUTENG S.A.
	BEST SPECIAL SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE JISWA SPECIAL SCHOOL GAUTENG S.A.
	SOCIAL COHESION AWARD BETSIE RYKIE AND THE RURAL ARTS NETWORK WESTERN CAPE S.A.

MARIMBA WORKSHOP MARIMBA LUCKY DRAW	HILLBROW OUTREACH CENTRE GAUTENG S.A.
1 ST BAND TO REGISTER AND PAY	HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
BAND THAT TRAVELLED THE FURTHEST	LAERSKOOL KLEINMOND MARIMBA BAND WESTERN CAPE S.A.
BIGGEST BAND REGISTERED	MOTHEONG PRIMARY SCHOOL MARIMBA BAND TSHWANE S.A.
GENTLEMEN'S AWARD	MICHAELHOUSE MARIMBA BAND KWAZULU NATAL S.A.
YOUNGEST BAND	TOM NEWBY PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND GAUTENG S.A.
"COOLEST" BAND	BANG-ON-40

There were only 4 performances where the adjudicators were unanimous in their scoring of 1st place!

These four bands were:

**GOKWE ST AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL IN PS1
MANYORA REDHILL MARIMBA BAND IN HL1
GOEDE HOOP MARIMBA BAND IN HS3
MICHAELHOUSE MARIMBA BAND IN OS3**

**These four performances were the TOP PERFORMANCES OF THE FESTIVAL!
WELL DONE TO ALL FOUR BANDS!**

The 6th Education Africa International Marimba and Steelpan Festival will take place on the 29TH AND 30TH JULY 2017. 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 6th International Marimba and Steelpan Festival in 2017!

Yours in marimba music!

Joan Lithgow and The Education Africa Festival Committee.
August 2016

