



Marimba Education Foundation  
Contact: Hildé Gordon  
Mobile: +27 82 896 7189  
Email: hilde@mef.org.za

## 2012 National Marimba Festival - Winners

The competition winners were as follows:

Primary School Set Arrangement SG – (Small Group 1-10 players)	SMYLe
Primary School Set Arrangement LG – (Large Group 11+ players)	Aquavista / SMYLe
High School Set Arrangement SG	SMYLe
High School Set Arrangement LG	Parktown Girls High
Open Set Arrangement SG	Hillbrow Community Project
Open Set Arrangement LG	Aquavista / SMYLe
Primary School Own Arrangement SG	Rynfield Primary
Primary School Own Arrangement LG	Stoneridge Primary
High School Own Arrangement SG	Sakhisizwe Secondary
High School Own Arrangement LG	Parktown Girls High
Open Own Arrangement SG	Hillbrow Community Centre
Open Own Arrangement LG	SMYLe
Primary School Own Choice SG	Rynfield Primary
Primary School Own Choice LG	SMYLe
High School Own Choice SG	JM Ntsime
High School Own Choice LG	St Dominic's
Open Own Choice SG	Sakhisizwe / Voice Out
Open Own Choice LG	SMYLe

### Lucky Draw Winners

Marimba (sponsored by AMI)	Sakhisizwe Secondary
Set of Congas (sponsored by Lovemore Music)	Saheti
Casio Keyboard (sponsored by Casio)	Parktown Girls High

### Cash Prizes for Set Arrangements Section (sponsored by UNISA)

Aqua Vista / SMYLe  
Parktown Girls (High)  
Hillbrow Community Centre

## Participants

Achimoto  
Aquavista  
Brescia  
DeLa Salle  
Durban Girls College  
Gugulethu  
Hillbrow Community Centre  
JM Ntsime

John Wesley Community Centre  
KwaMashu  
Mananga College  
Marico Marimba Group  
Masealama  
Mmanare  
Parktown Girls High  
Roedean  
Rynfield Primary  
Saheti Saheti  
Sakhisizwe  
Samet  
Sithand Izingane Care Project  
SMYle  
Sophiatown  
Spitzkop Youth Dev  
St. Dominics  
Stoneridge  
Tenteleni  
Veritas College  
Victoria Girls High  
Voiceout Marimba Band

## Adjudicators

Mr. Michael Sibanda  
Mr. Dudley Trollope  
Dr. Johnny Meko

## The Festival Report

### Summary of Participants:

Number of participating marimba players: 30

Number of Primary Schools: 8

Number of High Schools: 7

Number of Schools entering both Primary and High School Categories: 3

Number of Community/Youth Centres: 12

Number of non-fee-paying participants: 174

Provinces represented:

Eastern Cape, Western Cape, North West, Limpopo, Mpumulanga, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal

The total number of participants (538 performers from 30 teams) was down on the previous year owing to various factors, including the economic climate and the emergence of a rival festival held only a week after our festival.

The Competition:

This year, for the first time, the duties of programme Director and Invigilator were separated. The competition ran smoothly with very few problems. Time was an issue, owing mostly to late entrants and a resulting increase in the number of items to be performed. Score sheets were presented to each participating group, and personalised certificates to each individual. A prize was awarded to an outstanding player in each group, as well as to the winner in each category. A new section which gave bands an opportunity to learn and perform specially arranged music for the Festival was well received. Samro supported the commissioning of the music and UNISA kindly sponsored prize money for the winners in each age group.

#### Workshops:

We hosted four workshops in total, two in drumming and two in traditional dance. The massed marimba item and the interactive drumming session were unfortunately cancelled at the last minute owing to the time factor.

#### Crew:

For the first time in our history, staff members from St Dominic's became an integral part of the running of the festival. From manning the registration process to supervising security, they played a critical part in the overall success of the festival. There were 18 such helpers and 50 pupils who carried out various duties.

#### Catering:

MEF provided 3 wholesome meals to 174 sponsored players.

#### Challenges

##### 1. Registration and Entry:

This remains a hurdle in both the planning and running of the festival. Teachers and band leaders seem unable to meet the dead-lines, which makes it impossible to compile a reliable time-line for the programme. In the 2 weeks leading up to the festival, the number of participants increased by 30%. As a result, the festival ran for almost 2 hours more than was originally expected. Registration and entry forms and processes need further refinement, though there were far fewer mistakes and queries than in the past.

##### 2. The Emergence of a rival festival

The International Marimba and Steel Pan Festival, termed "rival" because of a refusal on the part of their organisers to engage in dialogue with MEF in a co-operative spirit concerning festival dates.

Many groups, particularly those travelling from other provinces, found themselves having to choose which festival to support and sadly, we have seen a split down the middle of the previously united marimba community. This regrettable development is something which will be considered in the months ahead. This factor impacted seriously on the number of participating institutions at the 7th National Marimba Festival, and consequently.

#### Successes:

##### 1. Shorter Festival

The hosting of a 1-day as opposed to a 2-day festival was widely welcomed by festival supporters.

##### 2. Improved Partnerships:

Relationships with a variety of community groups were cemented and the possibility of partnerships and mutual support increased.

### 3. Increased Sponsored band involvement

The increase in the attendance of sponsored bands indicates an increase in marimba playing in under-resourced communities, and serves as a reminder of the core work of the Marimba Education Foundation, noting MEF's success in finding sponsorship support for those bands.

#### Conclusion:

The Marimba Education Foundation wishes to thank most sincerely, all participating bands, teachers, parents and supporters, for making the seventh National Marimba Festival such an outstanding success. We extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsors for their generosity and to our esteemed adjudicators for their valuable input and constructive comments. Finally, to St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls and Mr Loring, the principal: thank you for your continued confidence in MEF, your support of our mission, and for the enduring and consolidated partnership between the school and the Marimba Education Foundation.