



Report on the National Marimba Festival

Sacred Heart College

16 June 2016

Introduction

- The Inaugural National Marimba Festival was held on 16 June 2006 at St Dominics School, Boksburg.
- Exactly 10 years later, The Marimba Education Foundation marked the 40th anniversary of Youth Day by hosting the National Marimba Festival at Sacred Heart College, an institution well respected over many decades, for its dedication to educating students from under-resourced backgrounds.
- The National Lottery was the sponsor for this event.

The Partnership

The Marimba Education Foundation approached the Sacred Heart College with a view to hosting the Festival at the campus of the College in Observatory, Johannesburg.

- The venue is very central.
- The venue has close proximity to budget accommodation for the many bands visiting from out of town.
- The school's infrastructure, staff and pupils will ensure a successful running of the event.
- Synergy exists between MEF and the school in terms of outreach to the youth of our country.
- Sacred Heart has a strong cultural programme, including an excellent marimba band.

The Venue

Sacred Heart College offered MEF the use of its beautiful sports hall, which provided the perfect space to host the competition. A stage was erected, sound amplification set up and the hall was made available to us from 48 hours prior to the festival, in order for schools (and MEF itself) to deliver instruments well ahead of the day of the competition. The venue was set out in such a way that all instruments faced the adjudicators' platform, with a large spectators' stand brought into the venue for maximum audience accommodation.

Secondary venues were also made available for the drumming and the dance workshops which ran concurrently with the competition.

Lunch, which was provided to all participants, was served from the main school hall, while the adjudicators and VIP's were accommodated in the school staff room.

The festival office, where results were captured and collated, was set up in a classroom conveniently adjacent to the sports hall.

The Competition

The Adjudicators were carefully selected for their variety of knowledge and experience. The competition was marked separately by each adjudicator and marks were added together to ensure fairness. The adjudicators were as follows:

Ms Bronwyn Clacherty

Respected percussionist and specialist in African Marimba Playing and Fusion

Dr Alvin Pietersen

Respected lecturer in Music and Jazz studies – University of Northwest

Dr. Johnny Meko

Founder and Principal of Music Academy of Gauteng

The Participants

SUMMARY	
Participating Institutions	30
Number of participating marimba players	508
Number of Schools	19
Number of Community/Youth Centres	11
Provinces represented	Eastern Cape - 7 Western Cape - 1 Northern Cape - 2 Northwest Province - 1 Limpopo - 1 Gauteng - 18

	Name of Band/School	Town of Origin	Province
1	Access Music Project	Grahamstown	Eastern Cape
2	Aqua Vista Primary School	East London	Eastern Cape
3	Duncan Village Marimba Band	East London	Eastern Cape
4	Loyiso High School	Zwide	Eastern Cape
5	Sakhisizwe High School	Zwide	Eastern Cape
6	Sterkspruit Community Centre	Sterkspruit	Eastern Cape
7	Zwide Marimba Band	Zwide	Eastern Cape
8	Ditawana Primary School	Soweto	Gauteng
9	Dominican Convent School	Johannesburg	Gauteng
10	Masibambane College	Orange Farm	Gauteng
11	Friendly Drummers	Brakpan	Gauteng
12	Lukholweni Primary School	Soweto	Gauteng
13	Hillbrow Community Centre	Johannesburg	Gauteng
14	Holy Rosary School	Edenvale	Gauteng
15	John Wesley Community Centre	Etwatwa	Gauteng
16	Kingsway Centre of Concern	Honeydew	Gauteng
17	Parktown Girls High	Johannesburg	Gauteng
18	Sacred Heart College	Observatory	Gauteng
19	Vuleka SSB	Randburg	Gauteng
20	St Dominics High School	Boksburg	Gauteng
21	St Dunstan's College	Benoni	Gauteng
22	Motheong Primary School	Mamelodi	Gauteng
23	Thembalihle Primary School	Soweto	Gauteng
24	Tom Newby	Benoni	Gauteng
25	Makeba Marimba Group	Midrand	Gauteng
26	Marico Marimba Band	Groot Marico	Northwest Province
27	Masakhane Arts & Culture	Upington	Northern Cape
28	Ggaabo Ngwao Cultural Group	Kuruman	Northern Cape
29	Mmanare High School	Polokwane	Limpopo
30	Women Unite	Cape Town	Western Cape

Competition Winners – First, Second and Third place

(Trophies presented to the winners in each category)

1	Primary School Set Piece Small Ensemble (1-10 players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	John Wesley Community Centre Aqua Vista Primary School Women Unite	
2	Primary School Set Piece (Large Ensemble (11+ players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Aqua Vista Primary School Holy Rosary School Kingsway Primary	
3	High School Set Piece Small Ensemble (1-10 players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Hillbrow Music Centre Masibambane College Loyiso High School	
4	High School Set Piece (Large Ensemble (11+ players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Sakhisizwe High School Parktown Girls Dominican Convent School	
5	Open Set Piece Small Ensemble (1-10 players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Friendly Drummers Hillbrow Music Centre Women Unite	
6	Open Set Piece Large Ensemble (11+ players)	1 st 2 nd	Zwide Marimba Band Ggaabo Ngwao Cultural Group	
7	Open Mixed Ensemble	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Sacred Heart College Friendly Drummers AMP 2	
8	Primary School Own Choice Small Ensemble (1-10 players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	John Wesley Community Centre Holy Rosary School Hillbrow Music Centre	
9	Primary School Own Choice Large Ensemble (11+ players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Lukholweni Primary School Kingsway Primary Tom Newby School	
10	High School Own Choice Small Ensemble (1-10 players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Hillbrow Music Centre Sakhisizwe High School Marico Marimba Band	
11	High School Own Choice (Large Ensemble (11+ players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	AMP Parktown Girls Sakhisizwe High School	
12	Open Own Choice Small Ensemble (1-10 players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	AMP Friendly Drummers Hillbrow Music Centre	
13.	Open Own Choice Large Ensemble (11+ players)	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Ggaabo Ngwao AMP Zwide Marimba Band	

The Workshops

Drumming: The Drumming Workshops, were run by Michael Sibanda. This provided an opportunity for marimba players to improve their djembe drumming skills. The djembe drum is the most popular percussion instrument for a marimba band and the workshops were well attended and very well received. There were 4 workshops in total, each an hour in duration.

Dance: A variety of styles were demonstrated and taught in the dance workshops run by Thandi Swartbooi. Four workshops lasting an hour each were held during the course of the day.

The Crew

11 teachers from Sacred Heart College managed teams of a total of 30 scholars who helped run the various aspects of the festival. All helpers were presented with a peak cap with a festival logo on the front. Teaching staff was paid an agreed honorarium for the day.

The Catering

MEF catered for 541 people, with lunch packs prepared by the catering team at Sacred Heart College.