

Music Voyage Newsletter



Dear friends and supporters,
What a year it's been for Music Voyage, full of growth, performances, new partnerships and unforgettable moments for our young musicians. Here are some of the highlights from across our schools and programmes.

Heritage Day: A celebration of community

Our Heritage Day event at Music in the Meadows was a standout moment this year. Music Voyage musicians joined forces with partner schools and community groups, including the Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Pipe Band and the Kath & Crew Band to create a vibrant, joyful afternoon of music.

The marimba and violin players from Lions River Primary, choirs from Hawkstone Primary and Howick Prep, the Howick High School Band and Howick Choristers completed the line up. It was a wonderful blend of people, music and heart – a reminder of how powerful collaboration can be.

Percussion Workshops bring new energy to our schools

Another highlight was hosting percussion workshops at Corrie Lynn and Hawkstone Primary with the talented Justice Hakata. Learners from Grade R to Grade 7 explored rhythm, movement and creative expression, while teachers observed and gathered fresh ideas to use in their classrooms.

The workshops sparked excitement and added a new dimension to the music programmes, something we hope to continue building on in the new year.



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A big year for Lions River Primary

Long-time Music Voyage partner school, Lions River enjoyed several moments in the spotlight in 2025. Their recorder players delivered exceptional performances at the PMB Eisteddfod, achieving gold for all four pieces, a remarkable achievement and a real confidence boost for the group.

The Music Voyage brass band, recorder and violin groups at Lions River Primary played to an enthusiastic audience at the school's annual awards ceremony. For many children, it was the first time performing in front of a crowd, a milestone worth celebrating.

We were also delighted to welcome Philippa Kerr to the Music Voyage teaching team this year. Philippa now leads violin lessons at Lions River Primary, and the learners have embraced her teaching with great enthusiasm!

Welcome to the team, Philippa!





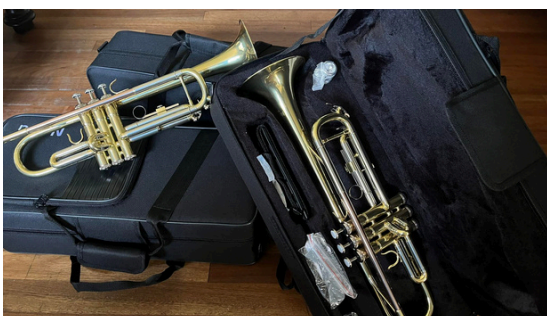
MANIC MARIMBA IN BALLITO

Performances, competitions and adventures

Through the year, our Music Voyage musicians took part in a variety of outings and events:

- Our marimba team enjoyed many lively performances (and milkshakes!) at Piggly Wiggly in the Midlands whose ongoing hospitality is always appreciated.
- **The group also travelled to Ballito for the Manic Marimba competition, proudly wearing new uniforms donated by the Debs & Squires committee at Ashton International College Ballito. A much-anticipated beach stop rounded off the day. Thanks to the team at Ashton College for their support. (see images above)**
- Our players also joined a marimba concert at St Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara, taking part in fun ensemble activities and connecting with young musos from other schools.

These outings and performance opportunities give our learners valuable experience on stage while building confidence, teamwork and a strong sense of belonging. We can't overstate the importance of these outcomes.



Growing our instrument collection

Another exciting experience this year was the Music Voyage team's unboxing of brand-new instruments made possible through generous donations: trumpets from **Lucky Beans EU** and a full collection of recorders from **Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School**.

Aside from the awe and wonder of receiving new instruments, these additions allow more children to participate and progress, something we strive for each year.



Looking ahead to 2026

As the year draws to a close, rounded out by our end-of-year function on Saturday 6 December, we are grateful for every child, teacher, partner school and supporter who forms part of the Music Voyage family.

Your belief in the power of music continues to transform the lives of our young community.

We look forward to an inspiring 2026 with new projects, partnerships and many more melodies to share.

With warm, festive wishes,

Katherine and the Music Voyage team

Thank you for your support!



Our Marimba Band is available for bookings in 2026! We love performing at local events to give our hardworking young musicians the chance to show off their skills. Please contact Katherine on 0824139843 to make a booking!