

## Nine Festivals and Big Savings

It's the start of festival season, from Germany to New Mexico and Portugal to New Hampshire--and *marimba one* is joining in the celebrations by offering a \$2,000 savings at each.

The season runs from March to October, beginning next month with the world's largest music fair, Musikmesse in Frankfurt, Germany.

At this festival, as at all the others, *marimba one* is presenting its special instrument--combining our Enhanced Keyboard with our Basso Bravo resonators, producing a far-reaching and stunning sound.

These are all the festivals and the dates:



- Frankfurt, March 20-24: Pick up your marimba at the end of the show.
- Nuremberg, Germany, April 12-15: the 4th annual International Marimba Competition, at which we offer a 3000-series marimba with free shipping.
- Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 6-9: Virtuoso Ivana Bilic will be judging this show, which features participants interacting with artists doing a variety of style from Africa, Latin America and American jazz. Here, too, take your choice of a 3000 or 4000 instrument at a \$2,000 discount.
- Tomar, Portugal, June 25-29: Famous soloist Katarzyna Mycka has been invited to give concerts

and master classes at the 5th Percussion Festival. We'll offer a promotion on a 4000 series marimba with cases.

- Chosen Vale, New Hampshire, July 2-14: Acclaimed marimbist Nancy Zeltsman will teach at this seminar, which features visionary percussionists working outside of their comfort zones to play compositions from different composers. To receive this special, contact [percussion@marimbaone.com](mailto:percussion@marimbaone.com) or call (888) 990-6663.
- Salzburg, Austria, July 30-August 5: Here, virtuoso Ivan Bilic will serve as judge at the International Marimba Competition, which showcases the world's aspiring marimbists.
- Stuttgart, Germany, Sept. 22-30: Busy marimba virtuoso Ivana Bilic adjudicates at this competition and we'll have two marimbas on offer.
- IBMW Marimba Week, Croatia, October 8-13: concurrent with the Samobor Music Festival, this Marimba Week led by Ivana Bilic offers classes and performances. Participate and save on a 4000-series marimba with Enhanced Keyboard and Basso Bravo resonators.
- PASIC takes place in Austin, October 31-November 4 this year. *marimba one's* big booth will feature artist demonstrations and three marimbas at a \$2000 discount.

### Elsewhere In This Issue

Samuels on Sound.....	2
Coming To You: A Master Tuner.....	2
Final Assembly.....	2
IKMMA: The Academy.....	3
The Best Mallet Bag Ever.....	4



# Samuels on Sound

By Ron Samuels, Founder, Marimba One

My ideas about voicing marimbas are the same as for any high quality musical instrument such as a piano, a violin, or a marimba. It is highly desirable as you play chromatically up and down the instrument that the sound is very even and balanced in terms of the ring time of each note along with the amplitude of the harmonic content.

One of the first important lessons I learned when I began building marimbas in the early 1980's was

that to build a single good keyboard you need to have many extra bars from which to select your keyboard.

One of the ways we approach keyboard voicing here at *marimba one*® is that we maintain an inventory of 75 to 100 sets of keyboards at all times.

By having thousands of bars from which to select each keyboard, we can guarantee a marimba that is masterfully voiced.

All of our keyboard voicing is done by our master tuners. We match the resonance and harmonic character of each bar to its neighboring bars so that every keyboard we create sounds and feels as if it is from a single piece of wood.

***Do you have a question for Ron? He'll be glad to answer. Email [percussion@marimbaone.com](mailto:percussion@marimbaone.com).***

---

## Coming To You: A Master Tuner

Rather than you sending your instrument to us for retuning, *marimba one*® is inaugurating the equivalent of a house call.

We are sending our master tuner, Brian, to Korea from April 9-12 to



retune marimbas for our customers.

The trip is handled through our Korean distributor, Cosmos Corporation. Brian will be at Cosmos Headquarter in Seoul to work his craft and discuss each customer's needs.

---

## Greg: Final Assembly

Greg, a very careful man, is the last person to touch your marimba in our shop before you receive it assembled and packed in a crate.

He is in charge of Final Assembly, which he described as a "multi-tasking balancing act," requiring him to put together a hand-made, custom instrument.

"It's not an assembly line at *marimba one*®, like it is at other marimba-makers," the New Jersey native says. "Instead, I actually assemble every single instrument at the end after all the various departments have worked to make their individual components."

The self-described former "snowboard bum" came out to the Pacific coastal town of Trinidad, just miles north of Arcata, on an invitation to house-sit. After a variety of jobs, he found his niche at *marimba one*® six years ago.

Essentially, he is in charge of quality control, of scores of assemblies and hundred of parts.

What's his favorite part of the painstaking job? "Building the finest instruments and listening to ridiculous music all day," he says with a laugh.



# Katarzyna Mycka

## Founder of IKMMA

*Katarzyna Mycka was interviewed by Nicole Riggs, Marketing Director at marimba one®.*

I started the International Katarzyna Mycka Marimba Academy (IKMMA) in 2003 after noticing that many teenage students were in need of teachers who were marimbists themselves.

My aim was to create something that gives students a chance to play with people who are active players in that field.

At IKMMA, I accept only 32 participants. Thanks to the support of different companies, we had the same number of marimbas made available during the academy.

Rather than do a master class where you have a group listening to somebody, I set up a schedule so that every single student gets an individual lesson every day.

The faculty in 2011, besides myself, included Svet Stoyanov (Bulgaria), Peter Sadlo (Germany), Hermann Schwander (Germany), Emmanuel Séjourné (France), Pedro Carneiro (Portugal) and Shoko Sakai (Japan).

In addition, everyone is scheduled for chamber music performance in marimba ensembles. In nine concerts that we presented during IKMMA, we performed 22 chamber music pieces, many of them world or European premieres.

This schedule means that you have to come to the academy with some music prepared. Everyone goes on stage for at least two chamber music pieces. There are rehearsals every day, and the students experience the pressure of getting the piece ready in a certain amount of time.

All the concerts were very well-attended, not only by marimba fans but also by the local community. In fact, the audience overfilled the venue every night. People respond to the friendly sound of the marimba.

In terms of repertoire, I receive new



*At IKMMA 2011, I was invited by Katarzyna Mycka to play in a concert centered on my compositions. It was a collaborative effort between the students and the faculty. Beyond borders, we shared magical musical moments, seeking to give the best of ourselves. It was a beautiful experience.*

-- Emmanuel Séjourné

pieces well in advance of the actual playing at the academy, and I research scores as well. It's a win-win situation because when piece gets played at IKMMA, it often becomes well-known. That's the case of Rudiger Pawassar's 'Sculpture in Wood' for example, which was premiered at IKMMA a few years ago.

I don't necessarily choose difficult repertoire because that is best learned over a semester (or more) during the school year. At the academy, the aim is to be able to perform in concerts during the 10 days we have together.

Besides chamber ensembles, I also consider who might be ready to play a solo piece. This depends on the individual preparation of the student.

The students are international -- from

Japan to Thailand to Germany to Spain to the U.S. But by rehearsing together every day, they form genuine connections and learn the process of making ensembles.

If one of them decides to travel, he or she will likely already know another marimba player in another country and they can plan on playing together (maybe a piece they rehearsed at IKMMA). It becomes possible for them to organise a concert in their area and put on a program of chamber music. This is a very intimate art of making music, where you exchange, accept and respect your chamber music partner, since the "group" is so small.

My aim is to form musicians in a spirit of acceptance, respect and musical friendship. That's why IKMMA is not just a 'fun camp'--it's a thoughtful attempt to give the students the tools and connections necessary for them to make a living out of making music.

-----

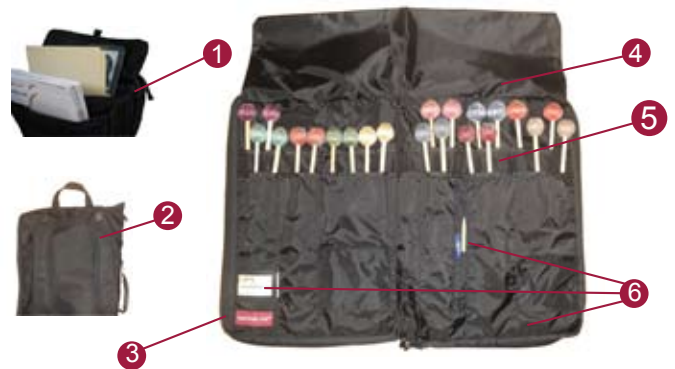
*Katarzyna Mycka who performs with Mandelring String Quarter, plays on marimba one marimbas only. She is touring the West this March with stops in Vancouver; Brookings, OR; Los Angeles and San Diego, CA; and Tucson, AZ. See [www.marimbasolo.com](http://www.marimbasolo.com).*

Happy New Year!



Quatror Puls' At Maurice Ravel Conservatory, Paris

## The NEW Mallet Bag



### *Functions as a backpack*

- 1 3-part front divider, including gusseted pockets that easily handle your music sheets, documents and notepads/iPads.
- 2 Ergonomic soft-grip handle. Reinforced adjustable straps.
- 3 Strong PU-coated nylon fabric reinforced at stress points. Oversize zippers for ease of use and durability.
- 4 Protective flap for use when hanging on a marimba.
- 5 Dual-layer staggered pockets for easy reach of mallets. Holds 18 pairs in orderly fashion. Capacity for many more.
- 6 Built-in organization: pencil holder, zippered pockets, business card display.



**marimba one**

follow us  
on facebook

Marimba One • PO Box 786 • Arcata CA 95518 • +1(707)822-9570 • [www.marimbaone.com](http://www.marimbaone.com)