

SINGING WOOD MARIMBA CENTRE POLICIES



Singing Wood is a community-based music school whose primary goal is to give people of all ages the opportunity to experience joy through playing marimba music from Africa. We host guest musicians and sponsor workshops and events that celebrate music, culture and community. We believe that everyone is musical in nature and can enjoy playing music with others.

Class Format

At Singing Wood, we teach marimba **ensemble** classes – focusing on building both individual and ensemble musical skills while also building repertoire. Every student has an assigned part on each song that we learn and every student will have an opportunity to play every instrument over the course of learning several songs.

Tuition

Tuition for adult marimba classes is \$20 *per class*, pre-paid monthly for as long as you want to retain a spot in the class. For most months, this translates to \$80. Kids' classes are run in 6-week sessions with the \$80 tuition due at the first class of the session. Tuition invoices are sent via email just before a new month/session begins and payment is due at the first class of each month/session. Tuition is not pro-rated for absences – you pay for classes whether you attend or not.

In the unfortunate event of a check being returned for insufficient funds, you will be charged an additional \$10 administrative fee.

Discounts for Multiple Classes and Families

For students who want to take more than one class each week and for students who have multiple family members taking classes, we offer a multiple class discount to encourage you to do so! You receive 10% off your total monthly tuition if you are registered for 2 classes and 25% off your total monthly tuition if you are registered for 3 or more classes.

Financial Aid

Some sliding scale is always available for cases of financial need. Work-study and barter situations can also be negotiated.

Student Absences

If you know that you will miss a class, it's important that you please let us know. It makes a difference when even just one student is absent. We can better plan for your absence if we know in advance. **Please write your name on the studio calendar for the date(s) that you expect to be absent. Use the green marker under the calendar.** Thanks!

SINGING WOOD MARIMBA CENTRE POLICIES

Communication

We rely on the phone numbers and email addresses you give us to contact you, so please make sure we have your correct information. If you provide us with accurate contact information, we will ensure that you receive notification of class cancellations, community information and other Singing Wood news.

Privacy

We will provide a contact list of student names, phone numbers and email addresses to members of your class to be used for Singing Wood purposes (carpooling, missed lesson information, community building, etc.). We will not distribute your information to anyone outside of your class.

Class Cancellation

On occasion, the instructor may have to miss a class. In this situation, you will be given notice of class cancellation using e-mail addresses or phone numbers provided to Singing Wood. Your next tuition bill will reflect a credit or a makeup class will be provided.

Schedule Changes

Sometimes a student's life situation changes in a way that introduces a scheduling conflict with marimba class. If this happens to you, please let us know. There is value to keeping ensembles intact and in retaining students and so we're happy to make efforts to mitigate such situations (i.e. we do what we can to **not** lose a student).

Leaving a Class

Being part of a marimba ensemble is a unique and wonderful shared experience. Because of the interdependent nature of an ensemble's players, we request that you give **at least a few weeks advance notice** if your life should shift such that you need to leave the group.

Behavior

A socially acceptable standard of behavior is expected from even our youngest students. All students should be able to take direction, stay on task, and respect the instructions of staff and teachers. Inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal at the sole discretion of the Singing Wood director.

Lost and Found

Items left at Singing Wood will be placed near the studio door. Periodically these items will be cleared out and donated to charity. Please take your belongings home with you!

SINGING WOOD MARIMBA CENTRE POLICIES

Singing Wood Student Benefits

Practice Marimbas

Practice is important, so we have rental marimbas available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment is expected in advance – prepay for as many days (or weeks) you want. \$1 per day, \$5 per week, \$20 per month. These instruments are primarily used by people who are learning leads, since leads are more complex and require work at home while the other parts generally can be mastered during class time. If you think you'd like to buy an instrument of your own, new practice marimbas can be purchased for roughly \$300 and used performance quality marimbas sometimes are available as well. Sadly, our local marimba builder's workshop was lost in the 2020 wildfires and so we don't currently have a local option for new performance quality marimbas.

Student Library

Singing Wood maintains a library of African music CDs (marimba and otherwise) for students to borrow and enjoy at home. You'll find the library in the break room of our studio. Please feel free to check out these items when you're in studio. No more than three items at a time and items are due two weeks after you check them out. Write your name and the date on the CD's card and leave the card at the studio. A full catalog of available material can also be found in the Student Resources section of our website.

Student Showcase

Each Spring, Singing Wood hosts a student showcase in which all current students are encouraged to perform with their class. The showcase is a time for friends and family to share in the music you have been working on. Each performance is digitally recorded and the recordings are posted to the Student Resource section of our website for student use – **student** and **tatenda** will give you access to this private area of our website. Videos are posted to the Singing Wood Students' YouTube page.

Summer Marimba Picnic, Winter Marimba Party

Each Summer, Singing Wood hosts an annual marimba picnic. Folks bring food and marimbas from home, we set everything up and play marimba music out under the trees. Anyone who knows a part can jump on an open marimba and play along. We do the same thing indoors on a date around Singing Wood's February anniversary date.

Community Halloween Concert

Each Halloween, Singing Wood supports its students in participating in the Santa Cruz Marimba Community Halloween Marimba Concert. This event gives students the opportunity to perform on the sidewalks of Santa Cruz just before or after Halloween with members and students from the local classes and bands.

SINGING WOOD MARIMBA CENTRE POLICIES

Marimba Band Recruiting

Besides our top-notch performance group, the Singing Wood Marimba Band, there are two other bands in Santa Cruz who also play Zimbabwean marimbas – SadzaMoto and Kuzanga. If you have hopes of playing in a band someday, we hope that you will first talk to Laura about your prospects of playing in our Singing Wood band – nearly all of our past and current band members were Singing Wood students! And if one of the other bands should invite you to join them and that's what you want to do, *please* also consider your classmates and what your departure will do to the ensemble(s) that you've helped to build at Singing Wood. Please try to continue with your class at least for a while to help them transition. It really is important to be aware of the interdependency we all have as ensemble players and of the responsibility each player carries for the integrity of the whole.

SINGING WOOD MARIMBA CENTRE POLICIES

Student Information and Release Form

Student Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

I have read and understand the Singing Wood Marimba Centre policies stated above. I further acknowledge that music activities involve risk of physical injury and I assume all responsibility and waive all claims for injury, loss, or damage arising at any time in connection with any activity at the Singing Wood Marimba Centre. I understand that Singing Wood is not responsible for monitoring drop-off and pick-up of students.

Print Name if Guardian: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name(s): _____

Phone Number(s): _____