

African Drumming and Marimba Programme at HS Ebrahim School

With the kind donation from Fulton Trust MIDI was able to introduce the African Drumming and Marimba Programme at HS Ebrahim School. The school has been a recipient of MIDI's projects since 2012. They are a school for the intellectually impaired and always encouraged their children to participate in MIDI programmes. The keen spirit and willingness from the children and staff allowed MIDI to easily introduce the music programme.

The donation was used for providing training sessions for 25 – 30 children and 3-4 educators and assistant staff from the senior phase, who are also members of the school choir. A weekly 2 hour session was facilitated by Justice Hakata. We officially began lessons on 13 June 2017, starting with 1 hour lessons twice a week. However children and staff felt the time limited, so MIDI changed the lessons to 2 hours once a week. This change benefited the children, as they were able to reflect previous lessons and have time to learn more beats, songs and dances. The music sessions ended in November 2017.

Some of the highlights of the 7 months included;

- Watching introverted children, lead the choir, develop their own beats, songs and dance.
- Adding a different, more exciting element to the choir.
- The choir group hosting a Christmas party for people with disabilities at Umgeni Hospital.
- Perform for local NGO's events, including Community Chest.
- Performing for their parents and other stakeholders at HS Ebrahim Prom Night.
- Department of Health joining the children's session.

The programme allowed MIDI to bring children together; to make music, to learn, to develop, to interact and to have fun.

