



IRIE VIBES MARIMBA BAND



The **Irie Vibes Marimba Band** was formed in preparation for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. The band toured around France and hosted a number of marimba workshops and concerts, before returning to South Africa in time for the World Cup, during which they had numerous performances.

The group, which was founded by Zimbabwean marimba player Rodger Murevanhema, started out as a two-piece called Rovangoma Vibes. The duo was soon joined by additional marimba players from Zimbabwe and South Africa, and the band was renamed to Irie Vibes. The group now performs regularly across Port Elizabeth, and is occasionally joined by some of Rodger Murevanhema's most promising marimba students.

Through their outreach project "Give Back", Irie Vibes regularly offer their services to the Cheshire Home facility for people with disabilities. Rodger also hopes to establish an arts academy to teach African cultural instruments to disadvantaged children.

NOTABLE VENUES

- The Boardwalk
- Radisson Blue Hotel
- News Café
- Nelson Mandela Metro University
- Super Sport Casino
- Dagwood



MEMBERS

Rodger Murevanhema (Soprano/Tenor/Baritone/Bass Marimbas)

Rodger is an accomplished marimba player, bass guitarist, drummer and keyboardist, and has been a member of a number of bands in South Africa as well as in his home country of Zimbabwe. He was introduced to the Mbira, a traditional African instrument, at the age of eight, and has had a passion for traditional African music since then. He has performed in a number of countries around the world and has taken part in many cultural events, including the African Cup of Nations in Ghana. Rodger was also a member of well-known Zimbabwean band, African Rhythm.

Rodger's talent on the marimba was recognised by his music teachers in high school, and he was appointed to teach the instrument to his fellow students. During the three years that Rodger taught at the school, the marimba band received a number of awards. Currently, Rodger teaches marimba at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Summerwood primary, Grey high, St Georges College. Also he held a lot of marimba classes and workshops with tourists in Port Elizabeth.

Andrew Kandiwa (Baritone and Bass Marimbas)

Andrew has been performing with his church choir and other ensembles from a very young age, and was part of a successful a capella group in Zimbabwe which released an album in 2003. Andrew is also trained as a sound engineer and producer, with experience at the Zimbabwean Angel Voice Records studio where he was also the studio's graphic designer. He moved to South Africa in 2008 and met a fellow musician, Rodger Murevanhema in 2009. Andrew currently works as a functions coordinator at a Port Elizabeth hotel.

Ree Maziwisa (Bass Marimba)

Ree was part of the Prince Edward Secondary School Band which won a number of awards in his home country of Zimbabwe. After moving to South Africa in 2008, Ree met up with fellow band members, Andrew Kandiwa and Rodger Murevanhema to form the Rovangoma Vibes Marimba Band. Apart from being a musician, Ree is currently studying Law through UNISA.

Siphokazi Kawa (Baritone Marimba)

Siphokazi's passion for music started when she joined the school band as a drummer at the age of 12. She met Rodger as a marimba teacher at NMMU where she learned marimba as part of NMMU Marimba band, and later joined Irie Vibes. Siphokazi is studying journalism at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Z'lungile Ntsimbi

Z'lungile has loved music since she can remember! She learned the guitar and drums from a young age, and performs with her church band. Z'lungile is studying music at NMMU where she learned Marimba as part of NMMU Marimba band.