

Boka Marimba

Greetings from Boka Marimba! We are Portland's original African-style marimba band. We have been thrilling audiences in the Pacific Northwest with the exuberant music of Zimbabwe and Southern Africa for more than 20 years. Boka Marimba is a ten piece band, blending soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass marimbas, drum set, percussion, and vocals to create a unique and irresistible sound. Our music is upbeat, danceable, fun to watch, and appeals to listeners of all ages.

The members of Boka Marimba have diverse musical credentials, including backgrounds in jazz, percussion, and voice, but they all share a common love for Shona music. The sheer pleasure of playing is the glue that bonds the band together, and the desire to share this music with others is the fuel that fires Boka Marimba.

Boka Marimba performs at many festivals and concert series' each year, as well as weddings, corporate events, private parties, benefits and public dances. Workshops with group members are also available.

Please see our Performance Credentials page for a listing of past performances. You can also explore our website and find audio and video clips of our recent work. Even better, check our performance schedule and come see us live!

We look forward to playing at your next special event!

For more information on booking Boka Marimba please contact:

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Raves

Boka Marimba is beyond outstanding....I am not one to dance in public but this group was so good that within minutes my toe was tapping, and it spread throughout my body to where I was doing what everybody else was doing...on foot and moving to the beat. You have to go down to Saturday Market and hear them live.

Jim, a fan

Father's Day Weekend 2009 at Saturday Market was so great! We listened to marimba music all the way home to Iowa. Blessings to Boka Marimba and the sounds of joy. Ayi-yi-yi-yi!!

Ed, a fan

There is nothing that can match the uncontrollable rush of excitement that sweeps over a crowd when the resonant, pounding depth of the baritone marimba joins the lead soprano's melodic introduction to a traditional song. Bad-mood types and cynics flee the premises or succumb to the cyclic rhythms.

Willamette Week
Portland, Oregon

This was some of the best entertainment of my life. I tried to stay seated but finally had to get up and dance.

Elderly gentleman at music festival
McMinnville, OR

Just had to write and tell you all how much we enjoyed hearing you perform at the Hipbone Studio last Sat. night. I've heard Boka several times since the band formed, and the sound you all make has matured big time! Just had to tell you. Keep On!

- Steve Einhorn and Kate Power (former owners of Artichoke Music)

I visited the Portland Saturday Market the last weekend with some out of town family and was utterly captivated by your music. It was incredibly energetic, positive and simply beautiful. I, along with my aunt, bought a CD and have been enjoying it for the past week.

-email from a fan

