

BAMBAMUKOTA (THE GRASSHOPPER)

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MARIMBA 1
MARIMBA 2
MARIMBA 3
SHAKER
CONGAS
BASS MARIMBA
CONTRABASS XyLOPHONE

MBA. 1
MBA. 2
MBA. 3
SHK.
CNG.
B. MBA.
CBX

PERFORMANCE RECIPE

- Start with one bar of drums.
- Add Bass Marimba; play once through (four bars).
- Add Marimba 3; play once through (four bars).
- Add Marimba 2 and Marimba 1; play once through (four bars).
- Add percussion and contra bass; play the tune three times through.
- Feature the bass marimba and drums only; play twice through.
- Bring everyone in; play twice through; simmer to a boil.
- Feature Contra Bass, Marimba 3, and drums only; play twice through.
- Bring everyone in; play twice through, simmer to a boil.
- Feature Marimba 2 and drums only; play twice through.
- Add Marimba 1 to Marimba 2 in a duet; play twice through.
- Add Marimba 3 to Marimba 1 and 2 in a trio; play twice through.
- Add bass marimba to Marimba 1, 2, and 3 in a quartet; play twice through.
- Add percussion and contra bass; play four times through.

At this point on the recording, I added two extra parts above the Marimba 1 line, first a 5th above, then a 3rd above that, just to give the piece a bit of extra spice.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Bambamukota (The Grasshopper) gets its name from the melodic character of the Bass Xylophone part. The piece starts with a “grasshopper-like” octave leap which repeats throughout the piece. The Marimba 3 part is challenging because of its constant stream of double stops (two notes at once).

Bambamukota, a word from the Karanga dialect of the Shona language spoken in Zimbabwe, means “grasshopper.”