

# Marimba Songs

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by Jon Madin

Songs for kids with easy  
marimba and xylophone  
arrangements



includes 2  
music CDs

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*Our chromatic marimba made by the Deagan Company in Chicago in the 1920s.*

# Introduction

These songs have been written or arranged with marimba or xylophone accompaniments in mind.

Many of the pieces can be played instrumentally. A number of the songs are based on marimba pieces I have been using for some time. For example, *Tram Song* has as its instrumental section a piece called *Steppin Down*.

With these instrumental pieces, I've often felt that the missing ingredient is the children's voices.

Here are a few ways these songs might be used.

Kids can sing along with either of the CDs.

One group of kids can play the accompaniment while a choir sings the song.

An individual or small group plays while the others sing and vice-versa.

I love it when a piece is played at a school concert and the rest of the school sings along.

The 'alphabet songs' like *I Just Love ABBA*, *Cincinnati City*, and *Blue Danube Waltz* can be sung and played by the same group.

## Simple Playalong Parts

To get started with a song, the kids can play one of the simple playalong parts. For example, with *The Crocodile Opera* chorus, you can simply play 4Cs, 4Bs, 4As, etc., all the way down the scale. Add Es, Ds, Cs as well if you like.

With *Tram Song*, two of the easy marimba parts are sequences -- the same pattern repeats, but starting on a different note.



South Geelong  
Primary School  
Choir.

# Martina Kallina



CD Track 1

Jon Madin

Try playing the simple play-along parts first with the CD. An approach to learning the instrumental section is described on page 6.

I've suggested including the sung echoes in verses 3 and 4. *Martina Kallina* can be played as an instrumental piece by alternating the play-along parts with the instrumental part. The song melody can be played on recorder.

## Simple playalong part

The two middle lines and the bass line

etc.

## Introduction

Song Melody	
Sung Echo	
Simple Accompaniment Parts	
Instrumental Melody	
Bass	
Alternate Bass Pattern	

in - a Kal - lin - a, she played it in the key of C

Mart - in - a Kal - lin - a, She played it in the key of C

(F) (C) (G) (C)

Percussion (when required)

High  
Low etc.

Instrumental Melody

First section Second section

Sewing machine Variation on second section

(Right beater plays Cs throughout)

**INSTRUMENTAL**

**VERSE 1**

She played a marimba.  
She tapped it lightly on the keys.  
Martina Kallina,  
She played it in the key of C.

**INSTRUMENTAL**

**VERSE 2**

She played it at midnight.  
We heard it softly on the breeze.  
A crotchet, a quaver.  
She called it the Marimba Symphony.

**INSTRUMENTAL**

**VERSE 3**

We told a conductor  
He oughta play that symphony.  
Martina Kallina  
Would play the marimba, he agreed.

**INSTRUMENTAL**

**VERSE 4**

They played it in Sydney,  
In Fiji, and on the ABC.  
Allegro con brio  
In Rio and in front of royalty.

**INSTRUMENTAL**

# The Waterfall



CD Track 10

Jon Madin

## Simple playalong part

The marimba line that goes with the verses (no Bb's necessary).



The instrumental melody is also quite easy.

This song can be meaningful if you want it to be. I like the sound of 'rolling' tremolo marimba playing, hence the long instrumental sections.

Before playing it, try practicing tremolo playing. Use tiny, rapid, alternating taps.

Bb bars are required for this song.

## Introduction



## Instrumental

Melody

Accompaniment

Bass

System 1: Treble clef, one flat key signature. Notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords: C, F, C, F, Bb.

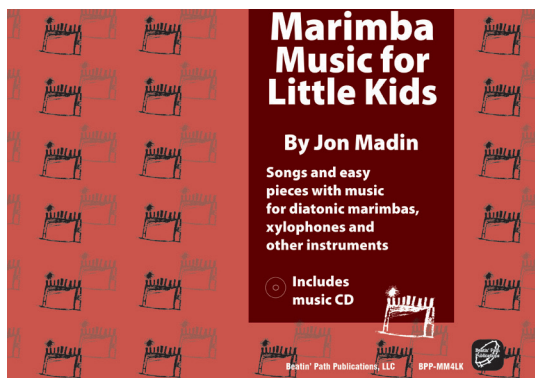
System 2: Treble clef, one flat key signature. Notes: A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords: F, C, F, C.

System 3: Treble clef, one flat key signature. Notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords: Am, Bb, C, C, Bb, C, C, Bb, C.



Peace Park at Hiroshima.

# Other Books by Jon Madin



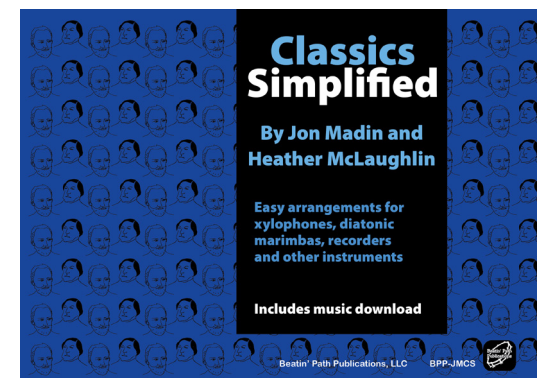
## **Marimba Music for Little Kids**

is a collection of songs with simple tuned percussion parts associated with them. For the youngest children - 5-6 year olds - the songs involve lots of actions and only a few specific notes.



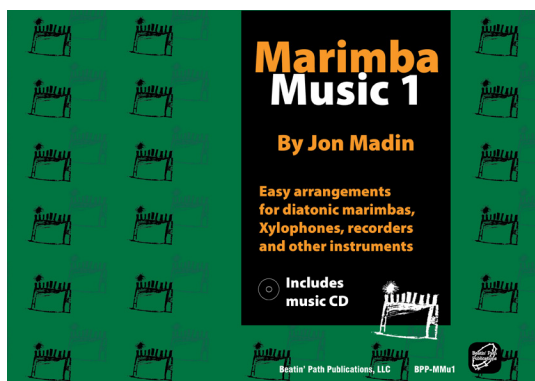
## **Make Your Own Wacky Instruments**

Illustrated instructions for making homemade musical instruments for schools, parades and just for fun. The designs range from rubber glove hooters to blue barrel drums. Many of the instruments are suitable for classroom construction, while others require a more technical approach.



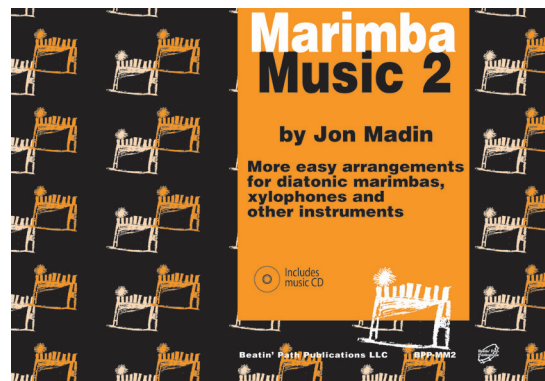
## **Classics Simplified**

Playing these pieces on homemade marimbas or Orff xylophones is a perfect way to introduce children to the classics. These paraphrases of popular classics include: A Little Night Music, Blue Danube Waltz, Brahms Lullaby, Can Can, and many more.



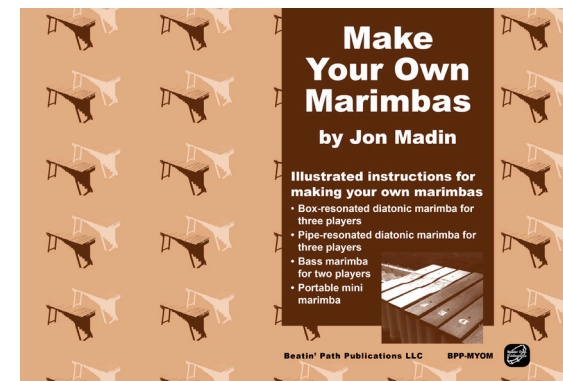
## **Marimba Music 1 (book and CD)**

Simple arrangement for diatonic marimbas, xylophones and other instruments. The pieces are designed to include easy and more challenging parts to suit multi-level classes. Children can progress to harder parts and harder pieces. The accompany CD is instrumental only.



## **Marimba Music 2 (book and CD)**

This is similar to Marimba Music 1, except that the pieces are pitched at a slightly higher level. They are suitable for upper primary and junior high school classes. This book includes a marimba arrangement of the Heel Toe melody, a simple 12-bar song and tunes inspired by Indonesian, African and Reggae music.



## **Make Your Own Marimbas**

Illustrated instructions for making three-player box or pipe-resonated marimbas, a bass marimba and a portable minimarimba.



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[https://bppub.net/BPP\\_Marimba\\_Music](https://bppub.net/BPP_Marimba_Music)

## Profile

My background includes teaching classroom music at both primary and secondary levels. Prior to that my work history included film editing, taxi driving and playing in lots of bands. I have two degrees, neither of which came from the internet.

Along the way, I have played in Australian bush bands and multicultural dance music bands (featuring Israeli music especially) choirs, early music ensembles, an orchestra, bluegrass and old-timey bands, an African drumming ensemble and a marimba trio. Put these influences together with the music I like to listen to, reggae and klezma especially, and my early experiences of church music and 'light classics' around the house, and you get the motley collection of songs presented here.



*Jon Madin*

***Books and CDs available from:***  
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**302 East College Street**  
**Bridgewater, VA 22812**

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