

Arcata, California, USA
September, 2012

The Marimba That Started It All

It was 25 years ago that music professor Dennis Plies placed an order for a marimba and moved Ron Samuels to quit his woodworking job and jump into building marimbas full time.

This summer, Dennis felt that his 25-year-old marimba could benefit from an overall upgrade. So he and his wife Barbara came to our shop in Arcata, California, with their beloved instrument.

The craftsmen at *marimba one*® upgraded his frame, refitted the instrument with all-new hardware, retuned the keyboard and the resonators. They did it according to the same motto that Ron gave to Plies when he took his original order: “perseverance and honest workmanship.”

Plies acknowledged Ron’s expertise, saying, ““You have altered the percussion world worldwide... I feel famous with the original model.”

While the bars on his marimba had maintained their



Ron with Dennis Plies and the “original” marimba

pitch, the tuning technique has since evolved.

marimba one® continues to lead the field with keyboard retuning and Basso Bravo® resonator upgrade (see page 4).

Mallets: Buy 2 Pairs, Get 2 Pairs FREE U.S. only

Here’s a great bargain from our dealers, Steve Weiss Music and Percussion Source, but it ends on September 16.

Buy two pairs of mallets, Double Helix or Wave Wrap, and get two pairs of equal or less value free!

The Double Helix is our best-seller. This mid-weight line was developed to bring out the warmth of the fundamental through the range of the marimba. They are made with one synthetic yarn and one wool yarn wrapped with relaxed tension. These mallets come in six levels of hardness.



The Wave Wrap mallets cover a larger range of the marimba than any other mallet. It is our most articulate and responsive series to date. The blend of wool and nylon yarn minimizes contact sound and enhances articulation. These come in five levels of hardness.

These deals are available in the U.S. only. Order the mallets at our participating dealers.

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Samuels on Sound

Basso Bravo® resonator voicing

By Ron Samuels, Founder, Marimba One

Our pioneering work on resonator acoustics means that we have won approval for a patent to be issued soon—for the creation of Basso Bravo® resonator voicing.

We have also developed harmonic filters for our resonators--a first for marimbas.

The sound of Basso Bravo® resonator voicing is truly the sound we have always dreamed of for the bass end of the marimba.

Here is how it sounds: If you

imagine a graphic equalizer for a stereo system where you turn up the volume on the fundamental of the marimba's bass end and turn down the volume on the overtones that are present in both the bass resonators and bars, this is the sound of Basso Bravo® voicing. It is a distinctly warmer, darker, and louder bass sound.

We pinpoint specific harmonics in the resonators that we feel detracts from the warm round sound we are looking for. We

then build into the resonator the harmonic filter to reinforce the *marimba one*® sound we are looking to create.

Our patented process allows us to engineer the specific harmonic content of each Basso Bravo® resonator so that the timbre of all the resonators is the same.

Do you have a question for Ron? He'll be glad to answer. Email percussion@marimbaone.com.

Brian: The Master Tuner

Brian, the Master Tuner at *marimba one*®, says that what you need to bring bars to a correct pitch is “a good ear and good hands.” For this master tuner, the strobe tuners are the necessary quantifier, but the ear is the qualifier. He ought to know since he has tuned well over 100,000 bars in the last decade.

The Seattle native started as a woodworker and landscaper and went to luthier school in Phoenix so that he could discover how to build guitars. But he found his true calling when he arrived in Arcata (“I knew I was home,” he says) and was trained to tune at *marimba one*® by founder-owner Ron Samuels.

Marimba tuners are a rare and precious breed. “There’s not a lot written about tuning, so I essentially learned by ear to mix and match the bars to create a uniform sound across the keyboard,” Brian says.

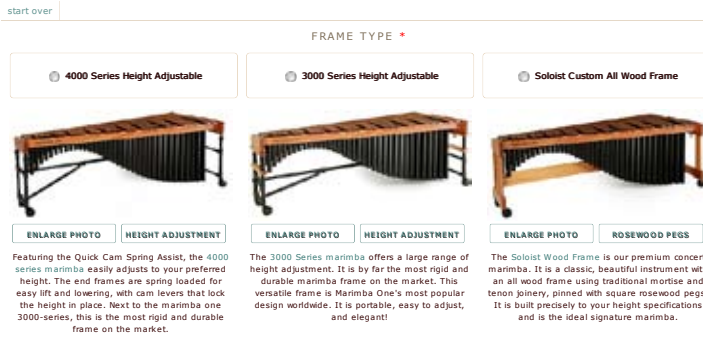
After more than a decade of tuning marimba keyboards, Brian’s expertise has no equal. He and his support staff do everything from determining which pieces of rosewood in their raw form will be selected to become concert quality marimba bars, to drilling and shaping the bars, and to the tuning of the bars. Each bar is individually hand tuned. At *marimba one*®, tuners match the resonance and harmonic character and overall timbre of each bar to its neighboring bars, drawing from an inventory of over 100 sets of keyboards. The result is that every keyboard sounds and feels as if it’s from a single piece of wood.

“I love the challenge of it,” says Brian. “Every piece of wood is unique, and so it is sometimes frustrating but always interesting.”



Build A Virtual Marimba

Now you can assemble the marimba of your dreams with the help of the virtual marimba builder, the on-line innovation by **marimba one®**,



the world's premier maker of concert marimbas. We spent months designing and developing

the user-friendly app to let percussion enthusiasts choose and construct their ideal marimba.

Just pick a frame, choose any of three octave ranges, then select acoustic options: Traditional, Enhanced or Premium keyboard voicing, and then either Basso Bravo or Classic resonator voicing.

You can also get a printable copy of your virtual marimba--with a color photo, specifications and pricing. "The goal was to clearly and simply present the available acoustic options on our instruments, so as to offer ever better service to our customers," said Nicole Riggs, marketing director at **marimba one®**.

Play with it right here: www.marimbaone.com/build-your-dream-marimba.

Around The World With **marimba one®**



Photo Winner

Alonso Acosta takes shelter under the S-curve shape of the resonators



Judges and prize winners at the Salzburg Marimba Competition, Austria. Special congratulations to Elise Liu for winning the Young Talent Award. Below, Christian Sobbe, Florian Kluge and Georg Mausolf at Rolltrepe Halle, Saale, Germany.



UPGRADE YOUR MARIMBA TO BASSO BRAVO

If you want a warmer, darker sound on your marimba, upgrade to Basso Bravo resonator voicing. Our Basso Bravo resonator technology essentially turns up the volume on the fundamentals and turns down the volume on the overtones.

We now offer an upgrade that is easy to install on your marimba.

“I can't believe how easy it was!”

--Eugene Novotney, Committe Chair, PAS New Music Research

“Just wanted to say that you are about the most organized folks in the industry! The special instructions and shipping materials were easy to understand and well laid out! Had a student help me and finished in less than an hour.”

--David Eyles, Director Percussion Studies, Concordia



TO UPGRADE YOUR MARIMBA
HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

1

CALL US

Dial (888) 990-6663 to get started.

2

REMOVE & SHIP

Take off the 8 resonators (C2 to G2)
and ship in the box provided.

3

UNPACK & REASSEMBLE

Your amazing new BASSO BRAVO resonators.

4

LISTEN TO THE WARM BASS

Aaaaahhhhhh!

Learn more at marimbaone.com

Visit us at PASIC, Oct. 31 to Nov. 3 in Austin, TX. Booths 43, 81-83

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