

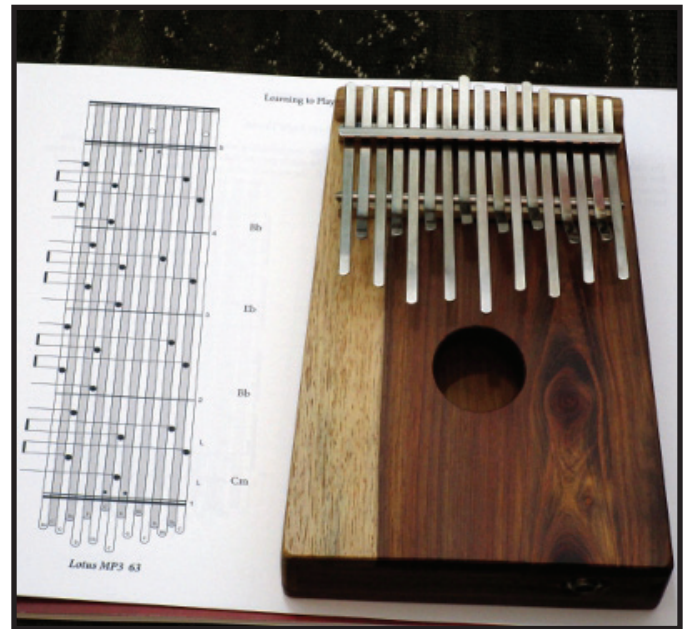
Getting the most out of your SaReGaMa Lotus Karimba

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SaRaGaMa is a new age artist who uses the karimba in some of his recordings. He was gifted a Hugh Tracey African-tuned Karimba that was hopelessly out of tune, and he embarked on a course of inventing interesting and useful tunings that would help him create the music he wanted.

The Lotus tuning is named for the YouTube video "Kalimba Solo for Lotus", which he wrote for his newborn daughter Lotus. After several years as a sleeper, the Lotus YouTube video went viral and is the most watched kalimba video on earth.

In response to public demand, Kalimba Magic began to convert the Hugh Tracey African-tuned karimbas into SaReGaMa-tuned karimbas.



This year I will celebrate 30 years of playing kalimba, and I must admit that the kalimba is one of the best things in my life. Over those 30 years, I figured out a lot about how to play the kalimba and how to keep it sounding good, and I share a lot of that information with you to help you get the most out of your kalimba experience:

Most important is keeping your kalimba in tune:

www.kalimbamagic.com/tuning

If your kalimba develops a buzz on one of the tines:

www.kalimbamagic.com/fundamentals

If you want to learn more about the SaReGaMa Karimbas:

www.kalimbamagic.com/lotus

If you want to learn about SaReGaMa the artist:

<http://saregama-music.blogspot.com/>

Frequently asked kalimba questions:

www.kalimbamagic.com/info/faqs

Most people use their thumbnails to play - learn about nail care:

www.kalimbamagic.com/thumbnails

Learn how to read kalimba tablature (which is used in all books):

www.kalimbamagic.com/tablature

Learn about KTabS, the Kalimba Tablature Software:

www.kalimbamagic.com/ktabs

We have started a new series of Kalimba Tips:

www.kalimbamagic.com/tips

Follow the Kalimba Magic blog:

www.kalimbamagic.com/blogs

Kalimba Tablature

Kalimba tablature is a map of the kalimba with note symbols placed on the tines you need to play, starting at the bottom of the page and working up to the top. The gray columns represent the shorter upraised tines, and the white columns represent the longer straight tines. All of the Kalimba Magic instructional materials use this intuitive yet powerful and expressive tablature. In short, the tablature shows you exactly where to put your thumbs at each instant in order to play the song it represents.

SaReGaMa's "Solo for Lotus" is Available as a Download

The download includes the full YouTube hit song as 19 pages of tablature, 10 pages of two-handed staff notation, and a MIDI file.

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Lotus Solo by SaReGaMa - Kalimba Tablature

T=107

Learning to Play the Lotus-tuned Karimba - a 58-page Book with Music Downloads

Below is a sample page from our instructional book for the Lotus karimba - it is a bit easier to work than the "Solo for Lotus", but will provide a broader base of understanding to help you play this very interesting instrument.

Learning to Play the Lotus-Tuned Karimba

Upper Row, Left Thumb, and Skipping Tines

This exercise starts out using just the left thumb on just the upper row tines. Just like the previous exercise, it starts on a "middle C" - but on the far left of the upper row. That is important - there are four different "C" tines on your Lotus karimba, two of those are "middle C" tines, one on the left and one on the right.

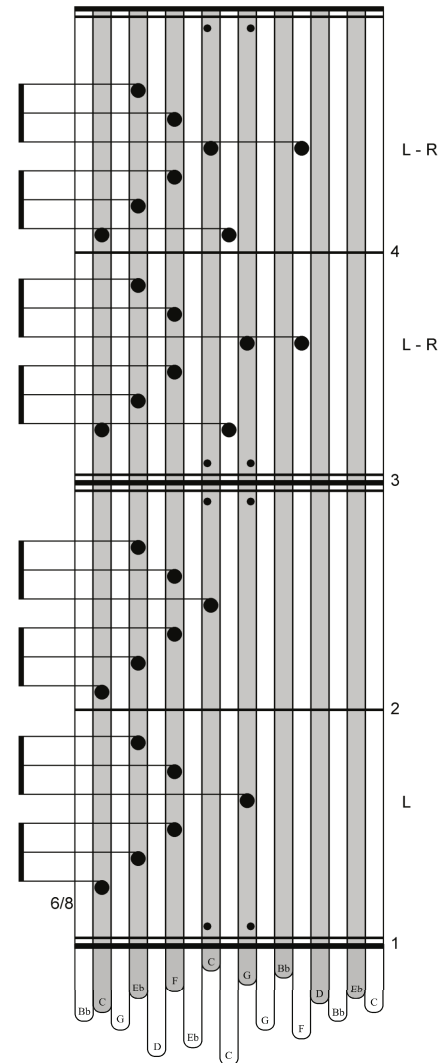
The first measure goes up the scale - that is, it jumps past the "high C" tine and goes from "F" to "G". This "high G" is often played by the right thumb, and the "L" marking indicates you should reach over and play it with your left thumb. The second measure marches the left thumb over without skipping any tines, which makes for a different feeling in this music. The two measures are identical except for the high note in the phrase, which alternates between "G" and "C".

Once you can do the first section without stress, you are ready to add a few notes played by the right thumb. These are all lower notes. Think of the left thumb as playing a melody and the right thumb as playing accompaniment - or a rhythmic and harmonic structure that enhances or supports the melody. In general on kalimba, both thumbs can play melody roles, and both thumbs can play accompaniment roles. The general situation is that melody and accompaniment just happen, and both left and right thumbs alternate between elements of melody and accompaniment in quick succession.

One aspect of the Lotus tuning which makes it so friendly is that all four quadrants of the instrument - upper left, upper right, lower left and lower right - can produce pleasing melodic fragments all by themselves. This means that instead of always dealing with the complex situation of two thumbs continuously playing both roles of melody and accompaniment, the two thumbs can sit in their roles as "melody" or "accompaniment" for several bars before changing into something else.

After you master the full two thumb pattern, experiment! For example, try this: keep the left thumb pattern the same, keep the right thumb notes on the same beats in the pattern, but experiment with notes other than the low "C" and low "F" that are written in this exercise. If you find alternative notes that you like, go ahead and write them into this book in red so you can come back later and play them again.

Similarly, can you come up with a different left thumb pattern that fits with the right thumb's accompaniment?



Lotus MP3 05

Learning to Play the Lotus-tuned Karimba is also available as a Download

If you don't want to pay for shipping, you can get the Lotus book as a download. The book will arrive as a downloadable PDF which will include a URL from which you can download the MP3 and KTabS files for each exercise

