

Marimbas a success

THE introduction of marimbas in 1983 was perhaps ill-received by some members of staff, but the Marimba Club is one of the most successful to have been introduced at Milton.

A very large part of this success must be attributed to Miss Amanda Louth. Her personal experience, her dedication, her discipline and her appeal to the boys gave the Marimba Band an enviable spirit which led to an honours award at the 1984 Eisteddfod.

This spirit is all the more remarkable in that the musicians are drawn from Form I to Form VI. They practise willingly and enthusiastically at any time, including lunch hours, and their music is whittled throughout the school.

The music covers African traditional, Western commercial, reggae, jazz and their own compositions. They can produce the throbbing beat which sets feet

tapping and hips jerking or a haunting, zither-like sound, evocative of soft light and company of your choice. However, the best time to hear them is when they are practising on their own, evolving simple melodies and complicated rhythms with a Bach-like provision.

They have been interviewed and filmed by an American/Canadian camera team for North American television and they enthralled the visiting Tubingen Chamber Orchestra from the Federal Republic of Germany. Equally enthralled was the Deputy Prime Minister, Cde Simon Muzenda who became one of the band on his visit to Milton.

Any occasion is the right occasion for the Milton Marimba Band; variety shows, festivals, competitions, a tourist fair at the Bulawayo Sun, weddings, fashion shows, fund-raising for other people and entertaining the public at the Zimbabwe Trade Fair.