

# New Kalimba Instructional Materials Now Available



Kalimba Magic now has a complete line of kalimba instructional books specifically designed for the legendary Hugh Tracey Kalimbas

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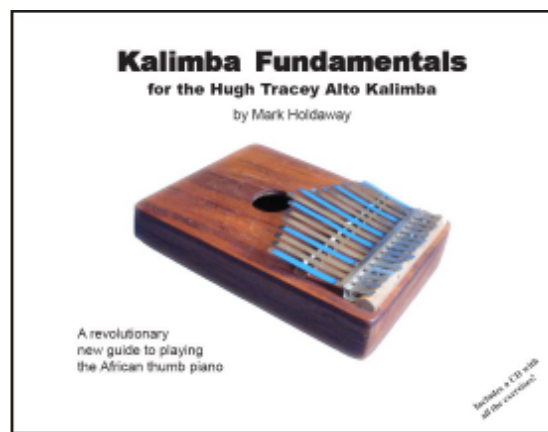
Playing kalimba has always been easy and simple for me - instead of an intellectual activity, it has always been more of an intuitive and physical activity. But when I started teaching people how to play kalimba two years ago, I ran into a problem: how do I convey these "dance steps" my thumbs do to my students, and how do I get them to remember?

The answer came as a gift to me and my students: **Kalimba Tablature**. Unlike musical staff, which requires an extra conceptual step between the written page and the played notes, Kalimba Tablature is a map of the kalimba, simply showing you which kalimba tines to play and when. It is more immediate, more intuitive, more closely related to the dance of your thumbs on the kalimba tines. The Kalimba Tablature has been applied to the **Hugh Tracey Alto, Treble, and Pentatonic** kalimbas, the **8-Note Kalimba**, and the **African-tuned Karimba**. And in addition to books for each of those kalimbas, now there is some wonderful software which aids in reading and writing your own Kalimba Tablature for any kalimba.



*Kalimba tablature shows you exactly which tines to play*

The **Alto Fundamentals Book** covers everything you need to know about the 15-note Alto kalimba to get moving: care and tuning of the kalimba, taking care of your thumb nails, how to read the tablature, how to play chords and scales on the kalimba, exercises to aid right-left integration, and several songs you can play on the Alto Kalimba. While this book starts at a level where anyone can use it, the music is fairly advanced by the end. 32 pages, CD included.



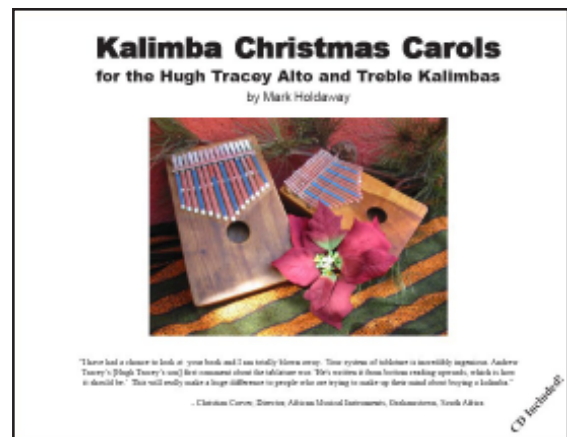
The **Treble Fundamentals Book** is a duplicate of the Alto Kalimba, but the tablature has been modified for the 17-note Treble Kalimba. The Treble and Alto kalimbas' ranges overlap quite a bit, so some exercises are identical, and some are played an octave higher, or in harmony, on the Treble Kalimba. If you happen to have both the Treble and Alto Kalimbas and books, the Alto and Treble exercises will fit together nicely. 32 pages, CD included.

Today, the diatonic scale "Do-re-mi-fa-sol-a-ti-do" is used in most music around the world. Traditionally in Africa, almost half of all kalimbas were tuned to a 5-note, or pentatonic, scale. The music in the **Pentatonic Book** is specifically written for the 11-note Hugh Tracey Pentatonic Kalimba. The music is not traditional African music, but it's rhythmic and physical nature reflects the African roots of this kalimba's scale. 48 pages, with 75 exercises and songs in tablature and on CD. In addition, the KTabS Reader software is included with this book.

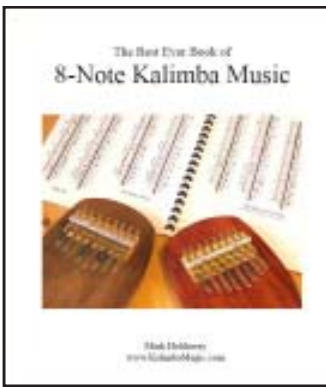




In Africa, each group of people had their own Kalimba designs, with unique note layouts and unique scales. Hugh Tracey spent a large part of his life travelling through Africa and documenting those different scales and note layouts and the music each made. One of the most ancient of those scales is now available on the African-tuned Karimba, a modern version of the mbira's forerunners. The **Karimba Book** explores the layout of this ancient instrument and seeks to understand the music that can be played on it purely from its note layout. Includes advice on African and Western tunings, different ways of understanding the structure of this instrument, natural melodic and harmonic elements, and the sorts of rhythms that naturally pop out of this instrument. 42 pages, with 50 exercises and songs in tablature and on CD.



To many people, the Kalimba is a simple and primitive instrument. To me, the Kalimba is an instrument of wonder, beauty, and joy. Those feelings totally come through the music in the **Christmas Carols for Alto and Treble Kalimbas Book**. The 25 Christmas Carols in this book start out simple with melody-line-only renditions of *Up on the Housetop* and *Jingle Bells*. We exploit the ease of kalimba harmony in songs like *I Saw Three Ships* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. And we develop counterpoint in *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* and *Oh Holy Night*. On the accompanying CD, each carol is played through once "as written" and once in "improvisational mode" to inspire you to do the things that can't be written down on paper. Note that 3/4 of the songs are written for the Alto and only 1/4 are written for the Treble, but an Alto-Treble conversion chart is included. Also, all 25 carols have been written out in KTabS format (not included) for both the Alto and the Treble kalimba. 32 pages, with CD.



Most children (and some adults) are overwhelmed by the prospect of dealing with 17 different notes. Fortunately, the 8-Note Kalimba gives us all a simple place to start. The **Best Ever Book of 8-Note Kalimba Music** gives instruction on reading the tablature and gradually leads the student through the familiar songs and nursery rhymes that you can play with only one octave. The songs gradually become more difficult towards the end of the book. With 50 songs and pattern exercises in tablature and on CD, this book is 42 pages long.



In March 2006, I shipped a Treble Fundamentals book to Sharon Eaton. She was so thrilled with the Kalimba Tablature that by June, she and her husband Randy had working software for Windows computers that wrote kalimba tablature. Called **KTabS**, for **Kalimba Tablature Software**, it does a whole lot more than just write. It also reads kalimba tablature, highlighting each note as you should play it, and will sound those notes on your speakers using your computer's midi soundcard. You can configure KTabS for virtually any kalimba, and templates for all the Hugh Tracey kalimbas are available online. You can select any midi sound you want (harpsichord? marimba? banjo?), and you can link two or more parts together for simultaneous playback for ensemble writing. AND, the music from all of the Kalimba Magic books is available in KTabS format. KTabS is a wonderful toy and a great tool. I use it every day, and I encourage you to download the demo version today. More information on KTabS can be found at <http://ktabs.theirhouse.org>



Sharon Eaton and I have now come out with a wonderful package of classical tunes arranged for the Alto and Treble kalimbas, including melodies and harmonies of classical pieces by Pachobel, Bach, Beethoven, Handel, Holst, Dvorak, Satie, Wagner, and Musorgsky. The **Classical Alto and Classical Treble K Packs** are available only in KTabS format (not in hard copy) from <http://ktabs.theirhouse.org>.

At KalimbaMagic.com, we've struck upon a great idea - treating the kalimba as a real instrument that requires its own music - and we are enjoying ourselves as we discover where that idea takes us. You can expect many more books of great kalimba music coming out of KalimbaMagic.com in the future!

<http://www.kalimbamagic.com>