



# AMEB NEWS

NEWSLETTER TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN  
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN TASMANIA

## Talented Trio

Talent and plenty of practice were key ingredients in the success of Caroline Airey and Rebecca Munnings who last year were awarded their Associate Diploma (AMusA) in Pianoforte. Aged only 14 and 15 years respectively, Caroline and Rebecca have worked hard and consistently since they commenced exams in the late 1980s – this is reflected in the Honours results they have gained in all their exams from Preliminary to Grade 8. And their musical talent is not restricted to keyboard – Caroline has achieved a High Distinction for Grade 6 Cello, and Rebecca a Credit for Grade 6 Flute.

Closely following in the footsteps of these two high achievers is 13-year-old Lian Yong, the winner of the 1995 AMEB Grade 7 Pianoforte Award, which is sponsored by the Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association. Lian also has an impeccable record of Honours results in her piano exams, as well as a Credit for Grade 5 Violin.



Rebecca Munnings, Caroline Airey and Lian Yong. (Photo courtesy of *The Mercury*, Hobart)

Caroline, who attends Friends School, is a pupil of Eileen Johnson, and Rebecca and Lian from St.

Michael's Collegiate, are taught by Gaye Teniswood and Annette Stilwell, respectively.

## Message from the State Chairperson

By now many of you will have heard that I have accepted a new position as Provost and Director of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music at Griffith University. As I will be undertaking a joint Professorship here at the Tasmanian Conservatorium and at Griffith until the end of April, I will continue as State Chairperson of the AMEB until that time, with the able assistance of our Deputy Chair, Conservatorium Lecturer in Composition and Music Theory, Raffaele Marcellino.

While I am naturally looking forward to the challenge of working in a larger institution, I am sorry to be

leaving the Tasmanian Conservatorium and the AMEB at a time when both organisations are taking a new direction with the introduction of contemporary/jazz courses and syllabuses. However, the foundation for these and other changes in music education at the tertiary level and within the community are now firmly in place for implementation by the competent staff at the Conservatorium and the AMEB. I am confident that music in Tasmania will continue to prosper, particularly with the educational opportunities provided via the Conservatorium's Community Access Programme and the AMEB, and the developing relation-

ship between the Conservatorium and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

There are two forthcoming items of interest I would like to draw to your attention. Firstly, the AMEB is to have its own special news section in the music magazine *Soundscapes*, commencing in the February/March edition. This will enable teachers to keep abreast of trends in music education, and will include articles on composers and pieces in the syllabuses, as well as advice from well known performers. Secondly, the *New Music Tasmania* festival will be presented in April, by the Tasmanian Conservatorium, the

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TSO and Pipeline. It will feature over fifty new music events, including performances by internationally renowned musicians, British soprano, Jane Manning, and Canadian trombonist, Alain Trudel.

I hope to see many of you at the festival, and in the meantime would like to thank you for your support and assistance over the last three years.

Simone de Haan



## Associate Diploma

Important changes have been made to the practical Associate in Music Diploma. The practical prerequisite has been removed and the written prerequisite has been changed to an additional requirement, i.e. it need not be completed until **after** the practical exam. Full details – Reg. 19, Page 9 of 1996 Manual.

## AMEB enquiries

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## Musicians' busy year

1995 was a busy year for two young men from North and North-West Tasmania – Jason Geeves, 24, of Launceston and Kevin Johnston, 25, of Forth.

Jason, a Department of Social Security adviser in Hobart was awarded his Associate Diploma (AMusA) in Singing, gained a Credit for Grade 5 Musicianship, played euphonium in the Launceston Salvation Army Band and sang the tenor solos in the Launceston Philharmonic Society's production of Handel's Messiah. A student of Mrs Maria Coenen of Launceston, Jason will be attending the Tasmanian Conservatorium this year to further his singing skills.



Jason Geeves  
(Photo courtesy of *The Examiner*, Launceston)

Apart from working as an electrician, spending time with his wife and two children, playing in the Ulverstone Town Band and at the Uniting Church, Kevin Johnston also managed to sit for three AMEB exams in 1995. He gained Honours for Grade 5 Piano and Grade 3 Theory of Music, and a High Distinction for Grade 4 Tenor Horn.

Kevin attributes his success to his early involvement in music through the Salvation Army and to his teachers, Kitty Ranson (Piano) and Chris Lusted (Tenor Horn). He plans to continue his music studies, and is aiming to gain an Associate Diploma.



Kevin Johnston  
(Photo by Don Carter, *The Advocate*)

### Graduation ceremony

From 1996 successful AMEB Diploma candidates may receive their certificates at the University Graduation Ceremony held in Hobart in May each year. Details about academic dress, etc. will be sent to candidates from this office in March.

### Violin workshop

Ways of teaching violin technical work will be the main topic at a Workshop to be presented by AMEB Examiner, Marjorie Hearn, on Sat-

urday 27 April. It will be held in Room 205 (E Block), Launceston College, Paterson Street, Launceston from 2-4 pm. Entry Fee – \$5.00.

### New service for teachers

This year teachers will have the opportunity of receiving an overall report on all their exam candidates. The report will be in addition to the individual report on each candidate, and will be available for a fee of \$10.00 via the exam entry form.

# Exam Cancellations/Transfers Policy

## Cancellations and Refunds

Teachers should advise the AMEB Office immediately they decide to cancel an exam. Refunds for cancelled exams will be made on *medical grounds only*. Subject to acceptable substantiation, the refund will be 50% of the entry fee.

## Transfers of Practical Exams:

It is the teachers' responsibility to advise the AMEB of dates/times when their candidate/s are not available for practical exams, by completing the section on the entry form "Dates not available for practical exams". Reasons for

non-availability on particular dates/times might include TCE/tertiary exams, school camps, religious observances, etc. The scheduled times for exams are arranged having regard to the availability of both the majority of candidates and the examiners. Therefore the availability of transfers is limited by these factors. Within these constraints, every effort will be made to avoid scheduling the candidates at a time when they have indicated that they are not available. If this is not possible, the entry fee will be refunded.

Where teachers, on receipt of the Exam Notices, realize that their candi-

date/s are unable to sit on the date/time stipulated on medical grounds or due to other exceptional causes such as those listed above, they should contact the AMEB Office immediately. Subject to acceptable substantiation, and on payment of a transfer administration fee of 50% of the entry fee, it may be possible to allocate another date/time at the same or an alternative Centre.

If a transfer is not possible within the current exam session, a credit note for the entry fee less 50% will be issued to the teacher. *The candidate should be re-entered for the next session and the credit note returned (plus any outstanding balance in accordance with the current fee schedule) with the new entry form to the AMEB Office.*

## Meet some AMEB Examiners



Pictured, above, at the 1995 Annual Examiners' Seminar are:

**Back Row:** Lindy Hingston, Aileen Jenkins, Marlene Lette, Jennifer Filby, Bruce Lamont, Cherelle MacInnes, John Menadue.

**Fourth Row:** Ken Monk, Margaret Reid, Sue Williams (Trainee), Pru Farnsworth, Gillian Chapman, Helena Bury (Trainee),

Marilyn Smith, Marjorie Hearn.

**Third Row:** Gary Wain (Trainee), Rob Clark, Jim Lade, Lyndal Edmiston, Frances Farrington, Erica Davidson, Douglas Mackie, Joseph Ortuso.

**Second Row:** Leon Stemler (State Committee), Ian Burk, Christine Ross, Ailsa McCristal, Don Gurr, Lyall Beven, Victoria Burley.

**Front Row:** Linda Nicholls, Marita Crothers (State Manager), Simone de Haan (State Chairperson), Annette Stilwell, Beryl Sedivka, Jody Heald, Sue Pickering, Rae Marcellino (Deputy Chairperson).

**Absent:** Rennie Herbert, Eileen Johnson, Vern Keep, Roslyn Langlois, John Morriss, Bill Pierce, Chris Waller.

# Syllabus changes and developments

## New Syllabuses:

**Euphonium and Organ.** The 1996 Manual contains new syllabuses for these instruments. The syllabuses are offered as alternatives to the syllabuses in the 1995 Manual. Candidates may choose to present for examination using either the new or the old syllabus, but not a combination of both.

**ATMusA.** The new Associate Diploma in Music Teaching syllabus was released in mid 1995 and is now included in the 1996 Manual.

**Percussion.** The new syllabus in Percussion for Level 1 – First to Fourth grades is now available as a separate publication. Levels 2 and 3 will follow. The syllabus covers all percussion areas and enables candidates to be proficient on both tuned and untuned percussion. Areas covered are: Snare Drum, Multiple Percussion, Keyboard and Timpani. **Drum Kit** will be provided as part of the separate **Contemporary Popular Music Courses**.

## Alterations to Syllabuses in the 1996 Manual:

**Pianoforte.** Teachers' attention is drawn to changes in the syllabus for First, Second and Third Grade Piano from 1996. In these grades the number of works required to be presented for exams has been adjusted. Please consult Pages 41, 42 and 44 of the 1996 Manual.

**Trombone and Tuba.** These syllabuses have been evaluated and minor adjustments made to them in the 1996 Manual. However, there is a one-year changeover period for candidates who have prepared for exams using the syllabus from the 1995 edition of the Manual. The old Trombone and Tuba syllabuses from the 1992 Manual will be withdrawn from the end of 1996. From 1997 only the syllabuses in the current Manual may be used for exams.

**Trumpet and Horn.** At the end of

1995 the old syllabuses in Trumpet and Horn were withdrawn. From 1996 only the syllabuses in the current Manual are available for exams.

**Speech & Drama.** Several important changes have been made to this syllabus. Firstly, an early grade for beginner students has been included, entitled *Introductory*. Secondly, the diplomas now include provision for specialisation as either a *Teacher* or a *Performer*. Thirdly, a new award has been approved, the *Fellowship in Speech & Drama, Australia*. Details of this award (the highest offered by the AMEB) can be found on Page 22 of the 1996 Speech Manual. Fourthly, the practical and theoretical sections of the Speech & Drama grade syllabus have been separated. As a result it is no longer necessary for a student to pass a written exam to gain a practical certificate for Fourth to Seventh grade.

**Speech in Action.** This syllabus, which is designed to develop everyday communication skills, has been adjusted in the 1996 Manual to include a higher level – the *Certificate in Speech Communication, Australia (CSCA)*.

## Teacher comment invited

Suggestions are welcome on the following new syllabuses which will continue to operate as alternatives to the old syllabus until evaluation has been completed: *Singing, Guitar, Cello, Double Bass, Organ, Euphonium, ATMusA and Percussion*. A comment page can be found in the back of the 1996 Manual. Please return comments to:

AMEB Federal Office  
3/175 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne  
Vic. 3000.

# Publication News

The following new AMEB publications will be available from leading music retailers during ~~1996~~ 1997 ✓

- **Violin Sight Reading Book** – this new title will complement the Violin Grade Books and Technical Work Books. The book contains many practice examples of sight reading at the level required for grade exams.
- **Theory/Musicianship Sample Exam Papers** – these new booklets will comprise sample exam papers for student practice and helpful hints for teachers and students. An Answer Book will also be available.
- **Contemporary Popular Music** – courses for this new syllabus are in production and a brochure giving details will be available prior to the release in 1996. Please contact this office to be included on the mailing list for the brochure.
- **Violoncello Grade Books** – these new books will contain pieces for Level 1: Preliminary to Fourth Grades.

Details of other AMEB publications are printed on the back cover of the 1996 Manual. The attention of **Piano Teachers** is drawn to the three volumes of **Extra List** books which were released last year. These contain graded works for use in the Extra List requirement for Second, Third and Fourth grades. **Violin Teachers** should note that both the 1989 and the 1995 editions of the **Violin Technical Work Books** may be used for exams until further notice. ✓

## Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- 1996 Manual of Syllabuses (Music) \$8.00 + \$3.00 postage
- 1996 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech) \$7.00 + \$0.85 postage
- 1995-1998 Percussion Manual \$5.00 + \$1.25 postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama Papers. \$1.00 + postage (minimum order for mailing – \$4.00)
- Musicianship Cassettes (includes copy of Aural paper). \$3.50 + postage.