



AMEB NEWS

NEWSLETTER TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN TASMANIA

Tasmanian Mini-Concerto Competition

On 22 July 2000 an 'Australian First' in the education of young musicians was held in the Conservatorium Recital Hall. Four young pianists of AMEB Grade 3-4 standard competed as finalists in the inaugural Tasmanian Mini-Concerto Competition.

A joint project of the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra Council and AMEB (Tas), the competition created an opportunity for young developing musicians to play as soloist with an orchestra. Repertoire was especially composed by Raff ele Marcellino, Ian Munro and TYO Artistic Administrator, Russell Gilmour.

In Round 1 candidates played two contrasting pieces of AMEB Grade 3-4 standard. Successful competitors proceeded to Round 2 where they performed one movement from one of the three concerti with the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra.

Under the guidance of conductor, Celeste Quinn, each semi-finalist rehearsed with the orchestra for thirty minutes. They were assessed on technical control, musicianship, ability to follow direction, and confidence in playing with forty young orchestral musicians. As adjudicator, Dr Maria Grenfell noted: 'It was a fascinating day; the semi-finalists ranged from the candidate whose feet did not even reach the pedals, to one who had the orchestra excitedly keeping up with her well-rehearsed tempo!'

Four finalists, Sam Sheppard (11), Amelia Short (11), Maria Moles (11) and Claire Candy (12), were chosen to perform the complete concertos in the Final, which was adjudicated by a panel of four chaired by composer and distinguished pianist, Ian Munro. To an enthralled audience, the young pianists



Maria Moles, winner of the inaugural Tasmanian Mini-Concerto Competition.

played with polish and aplomb. Following long deliberations the adjudicators awarded the first prize of \$250.00 to Maria Moles of Launceston, with Claire Candy of Hobart receiving a special commendation.

This unique competition has already attracted the attention of educators and musical organisations outside Tasmania. Following its overwhelming success in 2000, the competition will be extended this year to include young woodwind players – exciting new concerti are currently being created! Details and registration form are included with this newsletter.

(More photos on page 3)

AMEB enquiries

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Message from the State Chairperson

As you may know, I was appointed as Professor of Music and Head of the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music in January last year. I assumed the State Chairmanship of AMEB in mid-2000, and for me this was like renewing an old acquaintance, for as a flute student in my youth, I entered many AMEB exams. Though I was born in the United States, I lived in Melbourne from 1971 to 1976 and attended the Canberra School of Music to study flute and composition in 1976. After graduating from Canberra and working as a flautist, teacher and composer in Melbourne, I returned to the USA in 1990 to study for my Masters at Queens College, City University of New York followed by my Master of Musical Arts and Doctor of Musical Arts from Yale University.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to return to Australia and to Tasmania in particular. Through Chairing the State Committee and being on the Federal Board of the AMEB, I think we will be able to move forward into the new century retaining all of the superb traditional aspects of AMEB while seeking new paths of innovation for our young musicians.

Earlier this year I met with the Federal Chairman of the AMEB, Professor Warren Bebbington, Head of Music at the University of Melbourne. Prof. Bebbington visited each State to discuss ways in which we might streamline the development of our syllabuses and publications, and en-



AMEB Federal Chairman, Professor Warren Bebbington (left), and Tasmanian State Chairman, Professor Douglas Knehans.

sure that they are meeting the needs of teachers and students. With this in mind, we have included in our Federal Website (www.ameb.edu.au) the facility for you to view syllabuses in the initial stages of development and to provide input and feedback throughout the process. If you do not have internet access we will gladly mail the documents to you as each syllabus is developed. Syllabuses currently being reviewed/developed are Violin and Piano for Leisure.

I would like also to draw your attention to our new Ensemble Performance syllabus. This is available on our Website or from the State Office, and offers assessments in Woodwind, Strings, Percussion, Band and Mixed Ensemble. This is a particularly exciting syllabus as it

provides students with the opportunity to play together and to experience the joys of music-making through the collaborative process of ensemble music that is so central to rounded musical experience.

Since arriving in Tasmania, I have endeavoured to make contact with as many teachers and students as possible. I plan to continue meeting teachers and students in the New Year and hope that if you have any ideas, questions or suggestions you will not hesitate to contact the office and share them with us.

Best Wishes for a productive and achievement filled 2001!

*Douglas Knehans
State Chair, AMEB
Professor of Music,*

Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music

Graduation Ceremony

Successful AMEB diploma students may receive their awards at the University of Tasmania's Graduation Ceremonies held in Hobart and Launceston each year. A noteworthy participant in the Launceston 2000 Ceremony was Angela Polden (pictured, right) of Devonport who

gained her Associate Teacher in Music Australia (ATMusA) in Pianoforte. This was Angela's second AMEB diploma, having gained her Singing Associate in 1990. Angela has 15 years teaching experience in the Devonport area and has a special interest in composition.



Awards sponsored by TMTA

The winners of the 2000 AMEB Seventh Grade Pianoforte Award were: Amy Wiles of Burnie, Claire de Freitas and Ramanan Daniel of Hobart. These three students are exceptionally talented, all gaining a High Distinction for their Piano exam, with Ramanan being only 13 years old; 16 year old Amy gaining Honours for Sixth Grade Clarinet, and 16 year old Claire recently gaining second place in a national song-writing contest.

Winner of the inaugural Jennifer Filby Memorial Award (\$100) for the best candidate in AMEB Fifth Grade Theory or Musicianship was 18 year old William Lane (pictured) of Cygnet. A pupil of Rodney McDonald, William has also gained Honours for all his practical exams since he sat for Preliminary in 1993. Last year William achieved a High Distinction for Eighth Grade Viola and has recently been awarded a Tasmania Uni-



Above: William Lane, Winner of the inaugural Jennifer Filby Memorial Award

versity Scholarship to study at the Conservatorium of Music.



Grading Descriptors

To assist teachers and candidates, the 2001 Music Manual on page 17 (Reg. 29 – Assessment System) now includes grading descriptors for practical examinations.

2000 Workshops

In conjunction with local music stores, McCann's in Hobart and Barratt's in Launceston, AMEB held two Workshops in each centre on the new Piano syllabus. Presented by AMEB Examiner, Jody Heald (pictured below, left), the Workshops proved very popular with teachers.

The Australian Strings Association (AUSTA) and AMEB presented a Cello Masterclass in Hobart on 25 June. Pictured below giving some bowing tips to fourteen year old Caroline Ball, is Conservatorium lecturer, Christian Wojtowicz.



Tasmanian Mini-Concerto Competition

Amelia Short (below) and Sam Sheppard (centre) with TYO, and Claire Candy (right) with MC for the evening, the Lord Mayor of Hobart Ald. Rob Valentine.



Syllabus information

New Syllabuses

Ensemble Performance

This new syllabus covers all grades from First Grade to Licentiate diploma level. Examinations will be offered in Woodwind, Strings, Percussion, Brass and Mixed Ensemble. School music teachers should find this syllabus particularly helpful.

Copies of the new syllabus can be obtained from the AMEB Website www.ameb.edu.au or the AMEB office.

Speech & Performance Theory

A new syllabus, Speech and Performance Theory is included in the 2001 Speech Manual. This syllabus is offered as an alternative to the old Theory of Speech and Drama syllabus. From 2001 candidates may present for examination using either the new or the old syllabus. The syllabus chosen must be presented in its entirety. Written examinations in Speech will be held on Thursday 3 May and Thursday 23 August. For details, contact the AMEB office on telephone: 6226 7317.

New Syllabus in development Piano for Leisure

A new syllabus in Piano for Leisure is being developed by the Board. It is anticipated that announcements about completion of this syllabus will be made later this year.

Amendments to Syllabuses Piano

The new Piano syllabus commenced in 2000. Some corrections to the syllabus have been made in the 2001 Music Manual.

Teachers are reminded that candidates may present for examination using either the new syllabus or the old syllabus from the 1999 Manual. One year's notice will be given advising of the withdrawal of the old syllabus. The syllabus chosen must be presented in its entirety and no combination of syllabuses is accepted for examination. Refer to the syllabus in the 2001 Manual for all details of requirements.

LTMusA

This new syllabus commenced in 2000 and replaces the TMusA syllabus. These are teaching diplomas and apply to senior candidates, usually teachers who are extending their qualifications. Note that the 2001 Manual contains a correction to the prerequisite for the LTMusA syllabus.

AMusA and LMusA

All practical music syllabuses at Associate and Licentiate level have been adjusted. The requirement for Aural Tests and Sight Reading in Section II has been removed. From 2001, only General Knowledge will be examined in this Section.

Withdrawal of syllabuses

Oboe and Electronic Organ

At the end of 2000 the old version of these syllabus was withdrawn. From 2001 only the syllabuses in the current Manual may be used for examination.

Syllabus Publications

Percussion – edition for 2000-2005

A new edition of the Percussion Syllabus Manual covering First to Eighth grades is now available. The compulsory etudes required for the Technical Work are printed in this syllabus. Copies are available in printed form from retailers or from the AMEB web site at www.ameb.edu.au

CPM

For all details regarding Contemporary Popular Music, refer to the individual books for Keyboard, Bass, Guitar, Drum Kit and Vocal. All examination requirements for CPM are contained in these books.

Speech Manual

All Speech subjects are included in this Manual, which will be current for two years, 2001 and 2002. Proving particularly popular with classroom Drama teachers is the Drama & Communication syllabus, which is designed for ensemble work.

Publication News

Piano

Piano Grade books – Series 14: This series covers Preliminary to Seventh grades and applies to the new Piano syllabus. Note that Series 12 and 13 can also be used in the new syllabus, as well as the Studies and Baroque titles.

Recordings – Series 14 grade books: Recordings to accompany the Series 14 grade books have also been issued.

Piano Technical Work Book: A new edition has been released and contains all the technical work required in the new Piano syllabus.

Piano Anthology – Level 2: This publication focuses on Australian works for the Piano syllabus, for use in Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grades of the new syllabus.

A Piano Sight Reading Book containing new material is in preparation for use with the new syllabus from 2001.

A new Piano Preliminary Grade Supplementary Book has just been released for use with the new syllabus from 2001. At the end of 2001, the 1981 edition of Preliminary Grade Supplementary book will be withdrawn.

Flute

A new series of Flute Grade books, First to Fourth grades is to be issued this month. In addition, a Flute Sight Reading Book has just been released.

Clarinet

A new series of Clarinet Grade Books, First to Fourth grades will be released this month.

Singing

A Sight Singing book for singers has just been released to accompany the Singing syllabus.

Details of other AMEB publications are printed on the back cover of the 2001 Manual.

Technical Work Books

In Violin, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone and Singing syllabuses the early editions of the technical work book are now withdrawn.

At the end of 2001 the old editions of the technical work books for Oboe and Guitar will be withdrawn.

Publications available from the AMEB State Office

- 2001 Manual of Syllabuses (Music) \$9.50 + postage
- 2001-2002 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech) \$7.70 + postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama Papers \$1.70 + postage (minimum order for mailing - \$5.00)
- Musicianship Cassettes (includes copy of Aural paper) \$4.50 + postage

*All prices quoted are GST inclusive