

# AMEB News

Newsletter from the Australian Music Examinations Board in Tasmania | February 2011



## Love that Piano!

There is a six year age difference, but Olivia Eade and Jeremy Yang have at least one thing in common – a love of piano playing. “It’s just one of my favourite things to do,” Olivia explains. And her prescription for success in AMEB exams – “Practise really hard, always listen to the teacher and try your best” – was spot-on. The ten year old St Aloysius student and piano pupil of Jodie Williams, gained a High Distinction for her Second Grade Piano for Leisure exam, winning the Geoff Long Music Award for the second year in a row. Examiner, Victoria Burley reported that Olivia demonstrated “Confident musical work, with her playing showing real promise.”

Similarly, it was second time around for the 2010 winner of the McCann’s Music Award, sixteen year old, Jeremy Yang who first won this Award in 2007.

“I love to play the piano to relax, especially after a hard day studying at school,” says the Year 10 Hutchins School student. In 2010 Jeremy gained the prestigious diploma, Licentiate in Music Australia (LMusA) with Distinction. AMEB Federal Examiner, Dr Mark McGee of the University of Melbourne described Jeremy’s exam as: “A performance of considerable musical authority, displaying music mastery and understanding of the styles represented.” A former student of the late highly-respected piano teacher, Eileen Johnson, Jeremy was prepared for this exam by his current teacher, Shan Deng of the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.

*Photo courtesy of The Mercury*



## Message from the State Chairperson

I am pleased to have the opportunity of introducing myself to you in this Newsletter. I have recently been appointed Acting Head of the Conservatorium of Music and as such also take on the Chairmanship of the AMEB State Committee.

Prior to this appointment I was Deputy Head of the Conservatorium, Director of Contemporary Music and the Southern Gospel Choir. Although I have not previously been

directly involved with the AMEB, I am well aware of its vital facilitative role – through its graded syllabuses and assessments – in assisting both studio and school music teachers in developing and fostering the talents of young students. During 2011 the Conservatorium will endeavour to contribute to your efforts through our other community out-reach programmes.

As your representative on the AMEB Federal Board, I am pleased to be able to let you know of some exciting recent developments. Firstly, the ever-popular *Piano for Leisure* syllabus has been completely revised with new grade books containing works across a spectrum of styles, including movie themes, jazz pieces, and popular classics. To assist teachers and students, the Board has also released a series of *Piano for Leisure Handbooks Series 3* for Preliminary to Seventh Grade inclusive, comprising CD recordings and detailed analyses of the structure and forms of the pieces. I am delighted to tell you that one of the recording artists on these excellent CDs is our own AMEB Examiner and accompanist at the Conservatorium, Karen Smithies.

*Continued overleaf*



## Message from the State Chairperson (cont.)

Singing teachers and students will be pleased to learn that the *Singing* syllabus has been totally restructured and now includes Preliminary and First Grade examinations in Level 1 and a Certificate of Performance to conclude Level 2. To support this new syllabus, the Board has released a series of grade books, *Singing Series 2* (High or Medium/Low Voice), from Preliminary to Fourth Grade.

Last year AMEB initiated examinations over the internet for written subjects up to Second Grade. Teachers, parents and students have appreciated the convenience of exams being available at any time during the year. The Board will gradually be extending the grades offered online as well as including Speech and Drama.

Finally, on Friday 26 August we will be holding the annual AMEB Lunchtime Concert in the Conservatorium Recital Hall. Talented young students will provide an hour of high quality entertainment on a range of instruments and voice across a variety of styles. Hopefully, I will meet many of you there.

In the meantime I wish you all the best for the 2011 performing year.

**Dr Andrew Legg,**  
State Chair TAS, AMEB  
Acting Head Conservatorium of Music  
University of Tasmania

## 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. Pictured wearing his AMusA Diploma stole is 19 year old trumpeter, Curtis Willcox, who participated in the Launceston Ceremony in August 2010.

Curtis began his tuition on cornet as a six year old with Chris Lusted, Bandmaster of the Ulverstone Municipal Band. At ten years of age he sat for the first of his eleven AMEB exams under Chris' guidance. A student at Marist Regional College in Burnie, Curtis also received great support from the staff of the music department. In Year 10, he had a week's work experience with the Melbourne Army Band. This was very successful and he was invited to return in Year 12 for further experience and to audition to become a musician in the Australian Army Band Corps (AABC) which has six full-time and five part-time bands throughout Australia. By gaining his AMusA Diploma Curtis was qualified to receive accelerated training under AABC's entry standards. Following three months' basic soldier training at Kapooka, NSW, he is now pursuing his dream of a career in music at the Defence Force School of Music in Victoria.



## Top North-West Pianists

Practice and dedication paid off for piano students Riley Fletcher (12) of Somerset and Ellie House (17) of Smithton. Riley gained Honours for his Second Grade Piano exam and won the Fosters' Music Award for the most promising candidate in the North-West. Examiner, Lynda Nicholls of Launceston reported that Riley gave "a very musical performance, already showing a real understanding for phrase, tone and technical control." Riley started learning piano as a seven year old with teacher, Lyn Loudon of Somerset. A confident and enthusiastic performer, Riley loves an audience and enjoys playing in concerts at his school (Somerset Primary), in eisteddfods and even in exams!

With ten AMEB piano exams and four theory exams to her name, Ellie House is a seasoned performer. In 2010 Ellie - who is also a pupil of Lyn Loudon - gained her Associate in Music, Australia (AMusA) Diploma. This award represented the culmination of eight years of hard work and commitment for the Year 11 Marist Regional College student. But for Ellie it was a labour of love and very worthwhile. As for the future, Ellie is keeping her options open.



Courtesy of The Advocate

## AMEB Family Open Day 2010

On Sunday 25 July, 35 young soloists and 3 ensembles from North and North-West Tasmania performed to an enthusiastic audience at this special event held at Launceston Church Grammar.

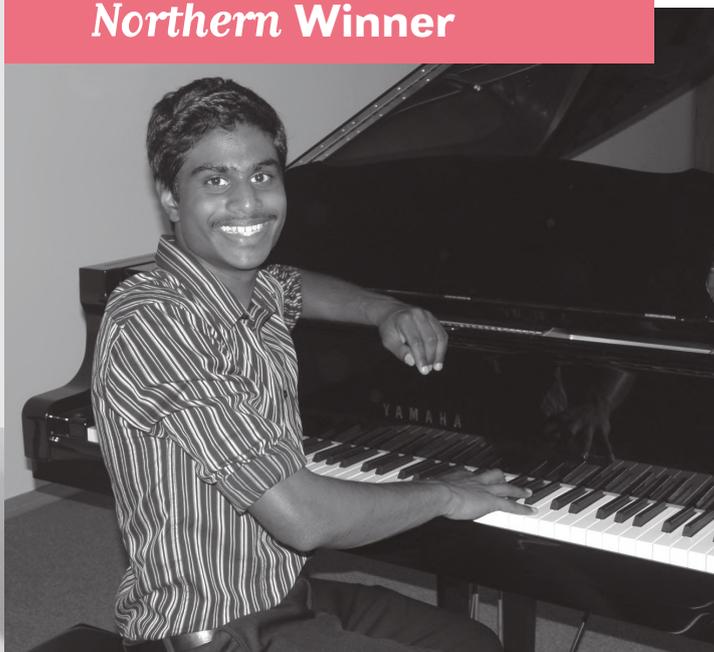
Pictured performing are 13 year old cellist, Charlotte Sulzberger, 12 year old drama student, Tess Argent, who gave a convincing portrayal of the Judge from *Toad of Toad Hall*, and 13 year old guitarist, Darcy O'Malley, who was also the winner of the Hobart Guitar Society Award for 2010.



Clockwise from top:  
Charlotte Sulzberger,  
Darcy O'Malley,  
Tess Argent



## Northern Winner



Winner of the 2010 Barratt's Music Award for the most outstanding candidate in Northern Tasmania was 16 year old, Kartik Kunasegaran who gained Honours for Eighth Grade Piano. A pupil of Robert Deavin, Kartik is a Year 10 student at Launceston Church Grammar where he is the recipient of both an academic and a music scholarship.

Kartik sat for his Preliminary Piano exam in 2004 – the same year that he and his family arrived from Singapore. Since then he has gained a High Distinction five times and Honours four times for his Piano/Piano for Leisure exams – and this is not even counting his Theory of Music and Trombone exams!

Kartik has a busy life – in 2010 he was a finalist in the Business Educators Australasia Tasmania program for planning a business enterprise, and also won the Launceston City Council's Award for Artistic Excellence in the Under 16 Piano Section of the Launceston Competitions. He plays trombone in Grammar's concert band, sings in vocal ensembles and acts in the school musical productions. In his spare time he plays soccer and is a Zumba dancer!

## Online Examinations

AMEB exams are now available online in Theory of Music, Musicianship and Music Craft to Second Grade, with Speech & Drama and further grades of the theoretical

syllabuses in development.

Candidates receive their results and a critique of their responses directly after sitting the exam. Online exams may be accessed through [www.amebexams.edu.au](http://www.amebexams.edu.au)

## Other Award Winners 2010

**Musicians' Union of Australia Awards** - through the *PPCA Performer's Trust Foundation*: Siobhain Galea (Violin), Jack Adolph (Euphonium) and Thomas McKay (Saxophone)

**Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association (TMTA) Award for Seventh Grade Piano**: Sonya Pigot

**Jennifer Filby Memorial (TMTA) Award in AMEB Fifth Grade Theory**: Matthew de Hoog

**Australian String Association (AUSTA) Award for Violin**: Julia Parker

**Geoff Long Music Awards for Piano for Leisure**: Mieka Tabart (Preliminary), Madeleine Wanders (First Grade), Albert Wyatt (Third Grade)

**MacFie Music Awards for Violin**: Yuvini Perera and Shenara Perera (First Grade), Kristina Radin (Second Grade), Jessica Littler (Third Grade)

# Syllabus Information

## New Syllabuses

### Piano for Leisure, Singing and Viola

2011 sees the release of two new syllabuses - Piano for Leisure and Singing - and the evaluated version of the Viola syllabus. These syllabuses are supported by new publications (*see Publications*) and will be available for examination from 2011.

### Piano for Leisure

This syllabus has been completely redesigned, with new and exciting repertoire in the Manual lists and a carefully designed and appropriately sequenced regime of technical work drawn from the technical work of the recent Piano syllabus.

This new syllabus will be examined concurrently with the old Piano for Leisure syllabus that appeared in the 2010 Manual of Syllabuses until an evaluation of the operation of the new syllabus takes place. At the conclusion of the evaluation, the Board will give one year's notice of its intention to withdraw the old syllabus from examination.

The following publications may be used with the new syllabus:

*Piano for Leisure Series 3* (Preliminary to Seventh Grade)

*Piano for Leisure Series 3 Recordings and Handbooks* (Preliminary to Seventh Grade)

*Piano for Leisure Series 2* (Preliminary to Eighth Grade)

*Piano for Leisure Series 2 Recordings and Handbooks* (Preliminary to Eighth Grade)

*Piano for Leisure Series 1* (Preliminary to Eighth Grade)

*Piano for Leisure Series 1* CDs with notes (Preliminary to Eighth Grade)

*Piano Technical Work* (2008)

*Piano Sight Reading* (2004)

*Piano Technical Work* (2000 revised) may not be used with this syllabus.

This book may only be used with the Piano for Leisure syllabus that appeared in the 2010 Manual of Syllabuses.

### Singing

The new syllabus differs in significant ways from the old syllabus, featuring two new grades (Preliminary and First Grade) as well as the Certificate of Performance, a grade examination that acts as the cap for Level 2 examinations. Technical work in this syllabus is examined through accompanied vocalises. The structure of Manual lists allows a full exposure to the historical literature of the voice, including songs from music theatre and operetta that require a classical technique. Candidates in Level 1 are also required to present an unaccompanied song. The sight-reading requirements have been made more explicit and should give highly focused guidance to candidates preparing for examination with this syllabus.

This syllabus will be examined concurrently with the Singing syllabus that appeared in the 2010 Manual of Syllabuses until an evaluation of the operation of the new syllabus takes place. At the conclusion of the evaluation, the Board will give one year's notice of its intention to withdraw the old syllabus from examination.

The following volumes may be used with the new syllabus:

*Singing Series 2* (Preliminary to Fourth Grade) high voice or medium/low voice. Technical work for Level 1 is included in these volumes.

*Singing Technical Work* (Level 2)

*Singing Sight-Reading* (2010)

*Singing Series 1* Grade Books may not be used with this syllabus unless songs contained in the series have been listed in the Manual lists for the new syllabus. Songs drawn from these books may be used as Extra list works at teacher and candidate discretion. *Singing Technical Work* (revised edition 1998) may not be used with this syllabus. This book may only be used with the syllabus that appeared in the 2010 Manual of Syllabuses.

### Viola

The Viola syllabus in the 2011 Manual of Syllabuses is an evaluated version of the one in the 2010 Manual. During 2011 both versions may be presented for examination.

The Board has published two new publications to support the evaluated syllabus, extending the Series 1 Grade Books to Sixth Grade (*see Publications*). The following volumes may be used with both the 2011 and the 2010 syllabus:

*Viola Series 1* (Preliminary to Sixth Grade)

*Viola Technical Work* (2006)

## Withdrawals

### Piano and Viola

One year's notice is hereby given of the withdrawal of the old Piano syllabus, last printed in the 2008 Manual of Syllabuses, and the old Viola syllabuses in the 2006 and 2010 Manual of Syllabuses. From 2012 these syllabuses can no longer be presented for examination.

## General Syllabus News

### Theory and Musicianship

The Federal Board has decided that memorisation of folk songs is no longer required in either written or aural examinations in Theory or Musicianship. The change affects First-Fourth Grades in both syllabuses in the area of 'Memory'.

## Publications

### New releases

The Board is pleased to announce the release of the following publications:

### Piano for Leisure

*Piano for Leisure Series 3* (Preliminary to Seventh Grade)

*Piano for Leisure Series 3* Recording and Handbooks (Preliminary to Seventh Grade)

### Singing

*Singing Series 2* (Preliminary to Fourth Grade) high voice or medium/low voice. These volumes also include the technical work for Level 1.

*Singing Technical Work* (Level 2)

*Singing Sight-Reading* (2010)

### Viola

*Viola Series 1* (Fifth Grade to Sixth Grade)

### Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- 2011 Manual of Syllabuses (Music), \$15.00 + postage
- 2011 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech), \$11.00 + postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship, Music Craft and Speech Papers \$2.00 + postage (minimum order for mailing - \$5.00)
- Music Craft CDs - \$3.00 + postage

*\*All prices quoted are GST inclusive*

## AMEB Enquiries

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