



## Bored? - No way!

When Eamonn Shorter won the State Final of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Championship last year, his subject was "Two words that should be banned" - his words being "I'm bored". Well there's no way that Eamonn would ever be bored! A keen cricketer, he enjoys public speaking, dancing (both tap and stage), singing in community events and performing in musical theatre - in 2012 he won an award for his role in the Launceston Musical Society's production of "Oliver".

The 14 year old Launceston Church Grammar student also excels at both piano and cello. In 2013 he gained a High Distinction for Cello Grade 6 with teacher, Margaret Hoban, and a High Distinction for Piano Grade 7 as well as Honours for Grade 4 Theory of Music with teacher, Robert Deavin.

Strings Examiner, Nara Dennis said that Eamonn's "pieces showed command of the instrument and a wonderful musicality", while Piano Examiner, Kent Furmage described him as "a confident and convincing performer who played with expression and style". Little wonder that Eamonn was awarded the Barratt's Music Award for the most outstanding candidate in Northern Tasmania.



Photo courtesy of The Examiner

## Message from the State Chairperson

2013 was a successful year for the AMEB in Tasmania, with many students of a pleasingly high standard presenting for examination. The introduction of four school terms did necessitate some adjustment to the timing of examination sessions, however through close liaison with other organisations, such as eisteddfod societies, we were generally able to ensure that students were not overcommitted and that our exams ran smoothly.

As a result of the popularity of the additional piano grade exam session offered in Hobart on one Sunday in September each year, it has been decided to extend this extra opportunity to students in the north of the State. In 2014 candidates will be able to sit for piano exams from Preliminary through to Grade 8, as well as for P Plate Piano and the Certificate of Performance on Sunday 21 September in Launceston. Entries for this session will close on Friday 4 July.

At the federal level, the Board has recently released two new syllabuses: Percussion and Double Bass. The introduction of exams at Preliminary Grade for both these instruments will be an incentive for beginners who will also be excited by the pieces included in the brand new Grade books, which extend from Preliminary to Grade 4. In a new venture for the AMEB, this year it is planned to hold a webinar (online workshop) on the Double Bass syllabus. If you would like to register to receive more information about the webinar, please email: [ameb.music@utas.edu.au](mailto:ameb.music@utas.edu.au)

Piano teachers will be pleased to hear that work on Series 17 Grade Books is progressing well. When this new series is released, teachers may continue to use the current grade books - Series 15 and 16.

## Message from the State Chairperson (cont.)

Of particular interest to teachers of all instruments and voice is the fact that the Aural Tests in Section III of the practical exam subjects are currently undergoing a long-overdue review. We are looking forward to updating the tests and bringing them into line with the best current pedagogical practice. Rest assured, however, that prior to any changes being made we will be providing examples, new resources and lots of information about the tests.

With best wishes for 2014.

**Associate Professor Andrew Legg**  
State Chair TAS, AMEB  
Director, Conservatorium of Music  
& Deputy Head,  
Tasmanian College of the Arts  
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 her Associate in Music Australia (AMusA) Diploma stole is pianist, Sonya Pigot who participated in the Launceston Ceremony in August 2013. Sonya gained Honours for her first exam as a seven-year-old in 2004. She achieved Honours or High Distinctions for all her subsequent Piano grade and Theory of Music exams. In addition, she commenced Violin exams in 2008 with equal success, completing Grade 7 in 2013. Under the guidance of Piano teacher, Shan Deng, Sonya gained her Licentiate in Music Australia (LMusA) Diploma in Piano last year. This year Sonya will be in Year 11 at St. Michael's Collegiate.

## McCann's Music Award

2013 was a busy year for 14 year old Monty Wain of Tolmans Hill. As well as winning the Junior Division of the Australian Maths Competition, competing in the Rubik's Cube National Championship, participating in the AYO's Young Symphonists' Program and attending his tap dancing lessons, Monty also sat for three AMEB exams and won the McCann's Music Award!

An outstanding candidate, he gained Honours for Grade 7 Piano and Double Bass, and a High Distinction for Grade 8 Double Bass. Monty, a student at Taroona High School, learns piano from Jody Heald of New Town and double bass from Michael Fortescue of Hobart.



## Email Newsletter

In 2013 AMEB Federal Office produced its first email newsletter. Typically the newsletter contains a feature article on a topic of interest to teachers, students and parents, a focus on a particular

syllabus, a chance for Theory questions to be answered, an interview with a prominent musician, celebrations of the achievements of AMEB students, promotional offers and more. Register to receive the newsletter at [www.ameb.edu.au](http://www.ameb.edu.au) or email [online@ameb.edu.au](mailto:online@ameb.edu.au)

## Talented Brother and Sister

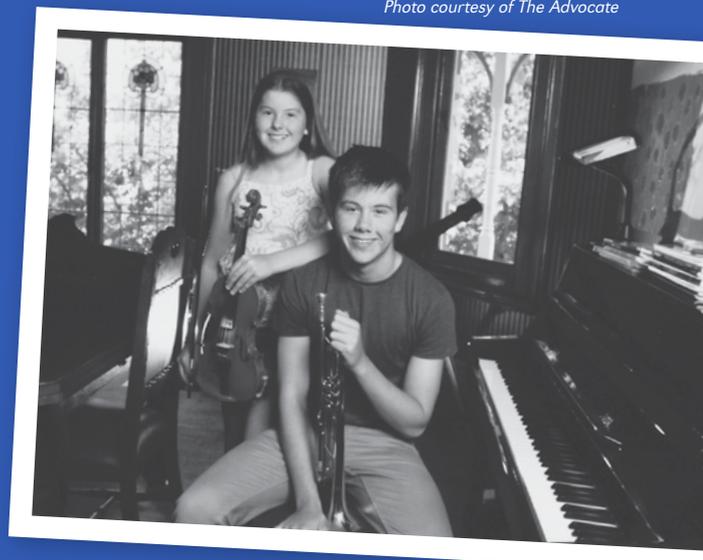
There is lots of music in the Grieve family home – with 14 year old Liam playing his trumpet and his 11 year old sister, Maeve practising her violin, or both vying for time at the piano.

This year Liam gained High Distinctions for Grade 4 Piano and Grade 3 Theory of Music, while Maeve achieved Honours for Preliminary Grade Piano and a High Distinction for Grade 1 Piano.

Piano Examiner, Kent Furmage reported that Liam “played with style and confidence”, while Maeve’s Examiner, Karen Smithies said that Maeve “showed musicality and maturity in her performance”.

Liam is a student of Mrs Lyn Loudon of Somerset, and Maeve learns from Mrs Petrina Jahnz of Forth. They attend Burnie High and Burnie Primary School, respectively.

Photo courtesy of The Advocate



## Foster's Music Award

Photo courtesy of Neil Plain



When you play an instrument such as the harp you really have to think ahead – how will I transport it to the venue, will there be steps to manoeuvre, will I have time to tune it properly? Seventeen year old Emma McMahon of Leith has not let these difficulties stand in her way. For many years she has successfully competed in the Burnie and Devonport Eisteddfods, played with the University Wind Orchestra, and in the orchestra for the Devonport Choral Society's musical productions. Last year Emma delighted Hobart audiences with her performances at the AMEB Concert and the TMTA's Government House concert. She also successfully completed her AMusA Diploma on Harp as well as gaining Honours for Grade 5 Theory of Music and Grade 8 Piano - making her a well-deserving recipient of the Foster's Music Award for the most outstanding candidate in North-West Tasmania. In 2014 Emma will commence Year 12 at Don College and continue her music studies with teachers, Michael Jefferies (Harp) and Angela Polden (Piano).

## Online Exams

Online exams in Theory of Music (Grades 1-5), Musicianship (Grades 1-4) and Music Craft (Preliminary-Grade 4) can be taken at any time and come with unlimited practice exams. Candidates

receive their results instantly for lower-grade exams and within 3 to 4 business days for higher-grade exams. Successful candidates will receive their certificate in the mail after completing their exam. Higher-grade exams will be released throughout the year. Online examinations are available from [www.amebexams.edu.au](http://www.amebexams.edu.au)

## Other Award Winners 2013

**Musicians' Union Awards** - through the *PPCA Performer's Trust Foundation*: Audrey Ma (Clarinet), Julia Parker (Violin), William Maher (Trumpet)

**Jennifer Filby Memorial (TMTA) Award in AMEB Fifth Grade Musicianship**: Evangeline Drinnan and Joanne Li

**Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association (TMTA) Award for Seventh Grade Piano**: Luke Bombardieri and Yuvini Perera

**Australian String Association (AUSTA) Award for Violin**: Ziah Cooper

**Hobart Guitar Society Award**: Angus McConnell

**Geoff Long Music Awards for Piano for Leisure**: Lewis Morphet (Preliminary), Ilona Hansson (First Grade), Madeline Hill (Second Grade), William Thorpe (Third Grade)

**MacFie Music Awards for Violin**: Eloise Jones (First Grade), Isabella Cawthorn (Second Grade), Harry Breslin (Third Grade)

# Syllabus Information

## New Syllabuses

### Double Bass

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of its new Double Bass syllabus, available for examination in all States from 2014. As well as the comprehensive review of the technical work requirements culminating in *Double Bass Technical work* (2013), for the first time ever this syllabus features AMEB Grade Books for Double Bass that begin at Preliminary and extend up to Grade 4. The Grade Books include exciting and challenging repertoire in a range of styles and the syllabus also features wholly revised Manual Lists that draw on some of the most attractive recent publications for the Double Bass. This syllabus now includes two new examinations, Preliminary at the beginning of the syllabus and the Certificate of Performance to cap Level 2 examinations.

This syllabus will be examined concurrently with the Double Bass syllabus that last appeared in the 2013 *Manual of syllabuses* for two years after the release of the new syllabus. During these two years the new syllabus will be evaluated and from the start of 2016 the previous Double Bass syllabus will no longer be available for examination.

The following publications may be used with the new syllabus:

*Double Bass Technical work* (2013)

*Double Bass Series 1 Preliminary – Grade 4* (2013)

The double bass technical work found in the old syllabus, which last appeared in the 2013 *Manual of syllabuses*, may not be used with the new syllabus. Technical work for the new syllabus may only be drawn from the AMEB publication *Double Bass Technical work* (2013).

### Percussion

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of its new Percussion syllabus, available for examination in all States from 2014. For the first time, AMEB has produced technical work publications for Percussion: all Technical work requirements for Level 1 (Preliminary to Grade 4) can be found in *Percussion Technical work Level 1* (2013), while all technical work requirements for Level 2 (Grade 5 to Grade 8) can be found in *Percussion Technical work Level 2* (2013). This syllabus also features AMEB's first-ever Grade Books for Percussion that begin at Preliminary and extend up to Grade 4. Note that in Level 1 of this new syllabus there are no manual lists and all repertoire is drawn from the AMEB grade books. The Grade Books feature a diverse range of works, carefully selected for their broad appeal and pedagogical value, and include a large number of works by celebrated Australian composers and percussionists. The syllabus also features wholly revised Manual Lists for Level 2 that draw on some of the most attractive recent publications for Percussion. This syllabus now includes two new examinations, Preliminary at the beginning of the syllabus and the Certificate of Performance to cap Level 2 examinations.

This syllabus will be examined concurrently with the Percussion syllabus, that last appeared as a 2013 downloadable single syllabus, for two years after the release of the new syllabus. During these two years the new syllabus will be evaluated and from the start of 2016 the previous Percussion syllabus will no longer be available for examination.

The following publications may be used with the new syllabus:

*Percussion Technical work Level 1* (2013)

*Percussion Technical work Level 2* (2013)

*Percussion Series 1 Preliminary – Grade 4* (2013)

*Percussion Sight-reading* (2013)

The Percussion technical work found in the old syllabus, which last appeared as a 2013 downloadable single syllabus, may not be used with the new syllabus. Technical work for the new syllabus may only be drawn from the AMEB publications *Percussion Technical work Level 1* (2013) and *Percussion Technical work Level 2* (2013).

## Withdrawals

From the beginning of 2014, the following syllabuses are no longer available for examination:

Bassoon (last printed in 2011 *Manual of syllabuses*)

Classical Guitar (last printed in 2011 *Manual of syllabuses*)

Violin (last printed in 2011 *Manual of syllabuses*)

From the beginning of 2015, the following syllabuses will no longer be available for examination:

Flute (last printed in 2012 *Manual of syllabuses*)

Once these syllabuses are withdrawn, only the form of these syllabuses printed in the most current *Manual of syllabuses* will be able to be presented for examination.

\*Please note, *Piano for Leisure Series 1* Grade Books are not being withdrawn and can still be used with the current Piano for Leisure syllabus.

## Syllabus Reviews

The Oboe syllabus review will re-commence in 2014. If you wish to participate in the syllabus review process, please visit the Federal Office website, [www.ameb.edu.au](http://www.ameb.edu.au)

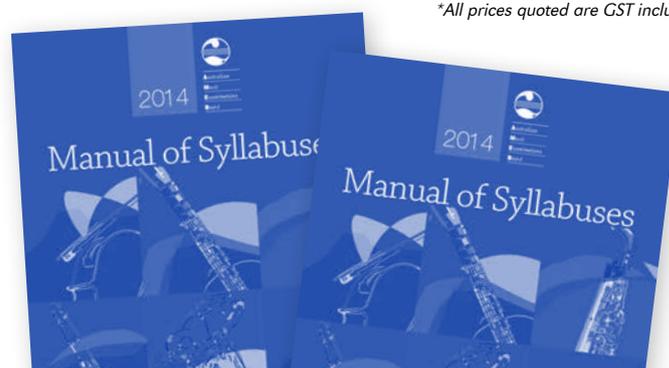
## Publications

All AMEB publications and syllabuses (as digital downloads) can be purchased from the AMEB Online Music Shop at [www.ameb.edu.au](http://www.ameb.edu.au)

### Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- 2014 Manual of Syllabuses (Music), \$16.00 + postage
- 2014 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech), \$12.00 + postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship, Music Craft and Speech Papers \$2.00 + postage (minimum order for mailing - \$5.00)

*\*All prices quoted are GST inclusive*



## AMEB Enquiries

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