



Diplomas All Round!

Winner of the Musicians' Union Award for the most outstanding AMEB candidate in Strings in Tasmania in 2014 was 15 year old Monty Wain of Tolmans Hill, pictured on far left with his equally talented family members.

In 2014, Monty gained a High Distinction for his Double Bass Associate in Music, Australia (AMusA) Diploma examination. Examiners, Brett Rutherford and Margaret Reid (with double bassist, Robin Brawley) said that Monty gave a virtuosic performance showing a mature musicality and technical competence.

Music runs in the Wain household with Dad, Gary Wain being Principal Percussionist in the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Mum, Nara Dennis, a well-known Strings teacher. Not only that, all family members have now completed their AMusA Diploma: last year, brother, Vivian (19 years) gained his on Bassoon, while older sister and talented



flautist, Arabella (21 years) was awarded her Diploma in Singing in 2009. Surprisingly, both parents achieved their AMusA not on their main instrument – Percussion (Gary) and Viola (Nara) – but on Piano in 2008 and 1979 respectively. Little wonder then that all three children are also accomplished pianists!

Message from the State Chairperson

With its recent release of Series 17 Piano publications, the Board is fulfilling one of its major functions of offering all students access to some of the best repertoire for study and examination purposes. Piano teachers will be delighted with the new Grade Books which contain over 125 "favourites" including 25 Australian compositions. Recordings & Handbooks provide teachers and students with the opportunity to hear the works performed by two of Australia's top concert artists: Caroline Almonte and Peter de Jager – as well as background information and analyses of each work.

An exciting new development this year will be the gradual release of Recorded Accompaniments – commencing with *Flute Series 3* for Preliminary to Grade 3. These Recorded Accompaniments can be used as a practice tool and in the examination room as an alternative to an accompanist. The Board strongly encourages playing with an accompanist whenever this is possible, however we are aware that not everyone has immediate access to an accompanist, especially in regional areas. With the release of the

Recorded Accompaniments, AMEB will concurrently release its first app, called *MyTempo*. The app will allow students to slow down or speed up the accompaniment to a tempo of their choice for practice purposes.

I am pleased to report that we had an excellent response to the new September Piano examination session offered in Launceston for the first time last year. In view of this, we will hold this session again in 2015. Similarly, the workshop on *Online Written Exams* held in Hobart in 2014 was very well received and so we will be presenting the workshop in Launceston in 2015.

With best wishes for 2015

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 with their teacher, Jody Heald, are pianists, Joanne Li and Matthew Bohmer, who were presented with their Associate in Music Diplomas (AMusA) at the Hobart Ceremony in August 2014. Fifteen year old Joanne will commence Year 11 at St Michael's Collegiate this year, while twenty year old Matthew will complete the third year of his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Tasmania.



Hobart Guitar Society Award

Winner of this award for 2014 was 19 year old Oliver Marshall of Legana.

Oliver, who is a pupil of Gareth Koch of West Launceston, gained a High Distinction for Sixth Grade Classical Guitar.

Examiner Edrick Corban-Banks reported that Oliver's performance – all from memory - had been of an extremely high standard and an absolute delight to listen to. Oliver commenced playing electric guitar at 11 years of age, switching to classical guitar three years later. He is active on the Launceston music scene, playing in two rock bands as well as with the Tasmanian Guitar Trio.



Email Newsletter

AMEB's bimonthly 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.

Sample Answers: Theory of Music and Musicianship

Past written papers for Musicianship and Theory of Music from Grades 1 to 4 now come with sample answers. Sample papers and answers can be purchased and downloaded from the AMEB Online Shop at www.ameb.edu.au/shop. More sessions will become available throughout the year.

Tops on Violin

Photo courtesy of The Advocate

When Examiner Jo St. Leon of Hobart, heard Jonathan Kositsin play for his Sixth Grade Violin exam she wrote in her report that it was an immensely enjoyable exam and praised him for his memory work. She said that Jonathan had a rare affinity with the music and that his technical work was outstanding. For his efforts Jonathan gained a High Distinction and won the *Foster's Music Award* for the most outstanding candidate in North-West Tasmania.

Ten year old Jonathan also gained a High Distinction for his Theory of Music First Grade exam in 2014. A pupil of Lily Doherty of Stanley, he has been learning the violin since he was six years old. He is home-schooled and lives on a hobby-farm with his four siblings, all of whom learn the violin apart from the 18 month old baby! Music is certainly in the family with mother playing the piano and father the violin.



Yamaha Music Award

The inaugural winner of this award for the most outstanding candidate in Fourth Grade Piano was eleven year old William McCann of Ranelagh. A pupil of Jody Heald of New Town, William impressed Examiner Tanya Rebikov who awarded him a High Distinction and commended him on his confident, convincing performance and memory work.

William, who has just completed Grade 5 at The Friends School, also gained a High Distinction for Second Grade Theory of Music.

As well as piano, he also learns clarinet, and is a keen sportsman, playing soccer, cricket and swimming with local clubs in Hobart.

Other Award Winners 2014

Musicians' Union Awards - through the *PPCA Performer's Trust Foundation*: Johanna Ellis (Flute), Lily Robertson (Euphonium)

Jennifer Filby Memorial (TMTA) Award in AMEB Fifth Grade Theory of Music: Jasper Quilliam and David Winkler

Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association (TMTA) Award for Seventh Grade Piano: Jennifer Cable

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

Barratt's Music Award: Eamonn Shorter

McCann's Music Award: Genevieve Stather

Geoff Long Music Awards for Piano for Leisure: Matthew Taylor (Preliminary), Owen Mulcahy (First Grade), Meika Choroszy (Second Grade), Fletcher Munt (Third Grade)

MacFie Music Awards for Violin: Thomas Donegan (First Grade), Yvette Cross (Second Grade), Patrick Goddard (Third Grade)

Syllabuses and Publications

New Syllabuses

Piano Series 17

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of Series 17 – a full suite of Grade Books and Recording & Handbooks (Preliminary to Grade 8) available as an additional resource for users of the current Piano syllabus. Series 17 includes exciting and challenging repertoire in a range of styles, representing a wealth of new options for candidates and their teachers.

The works featured in Piano Series 17 will be added to the Piano syllabus in the 2015 *Manual of syllabuses* and 2015 downloadable digital syllabuses. Beyond this, there will be no alteration to the Manual Lists in the current syllabus and no grade book series will be withdrawn as a result of Series 17 being added.

The following publications may be used with the existing syllabus:

- *Piano Series 17 Recording and Handbooks* (2014)
- *Piano Series 17 Preliminary – Grade 8* (2014)

There will be no alteration to the technical work in the current syllabus, which is set out in the *Piano Technical Work book* (2008).

AMEB Manuscript and Manglescript Pads

During 2014 AMEB released two manuscript pads for the use of students and teachers. The Manuscript Pad has 75 pages of standard manuscript paper for practising theory, sketching musical chords and ideas, and even composing music. The Manglescript Pad is fun manuscript paper for colouring-in and creativity for young music students. Manglescript combines 10 unique, engaging and mangled manuscript scenes placed between standard manuscript pages.

Recorded Accompaniments

From 2015, AMEB will start releasing recorded accompaniments for use in study and examinations. Where AMEB recorded accompaniments are available, candidates may perform with those recordings in examinations. Recordings will be available as CDs from AMEB's Online Shop, from AMEB Preferred Retailers and as downloads from iTunes and other digital music outlets. For more information refer to www.ameb.edu.au

MyTempo app

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of its very first practice app, MyTempo. MyTempo allows students to speed up, slow down and loop any recording through their smartphone or tablet. MyTempo corresponds to the release of AMEB's recorded accompaniments, allowing users to practise with the accompaniment at any speed they choose. MyTempo is available for both Apple and Android devices and can be purchased from the relevant app stores.

Revised Syllabus

Theory of Music

A revised version of the Theory of Music Syllabus appears for the first time in the 2015 *Manual of syllabuses*. There have been no changes to Grades 1-6; these grades remain the same as previously published. Grade 7 has been removed so candidates now progress from Grade 6 to Diploma level. Three new diplomas have been added at Associate and Licentiate level: Musicology, Harmony & Counterpoint and Orchestration & Arrangement. This will allow candidates to complete a Diploma in their own area of interest or skill.

Withdrawals

From the beginning of 2015, the following syllabus is no longer available for examination:

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

From the beginning of 2016, the following syllabuses will no longer be available for examination:

- **Percussion** (2013 digital downloadable syllabus)
- **Double Bass** (last printed in 2013 *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 Trumpet, Trombone and Euphonium syllabuses will undergo review in 2015. The Oboe syllabus review will continue in 2015. If you wish to participate in the syllabus review process, please visit the Federal Office website, 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

Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- **2015 Manual of Syllabuses (Music)**, \$17.00 + postage
- **2015 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)

A new brochure *The AMEB Advantage* is now available to assist teachers in explaining to parents the benefits of AMEB examinations.

**All prices quoted are GST inclusive*



AMEB Enquiries

For enquiries or additional copies of this Newsletter, contact Marita Crothers, State Manager, AMEB, Private Bag 63, Hobart 7001, Telephone: [03] 6226 7317, Facsimile: [03] 6226 7318, E-mail: ameb.music@utas.edu.au or visit our website at www.ameb.utas.edu.au