



AMEB NEWS

NEWSLETTER TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN TASMANIA

AMEB celebrates with 75th anniversary concert



The TYO Junior String Group, conducted by AMEB Examiner, Catherine Prideaux

On 2 October last year the AMEB, with assistance from the Musicians' Union of Australia (PPCA Trust Fund), staged a special 75th Anniversary Concert at the University Centre. The concert featured the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra conducted by Paul Radford and Professor Simone de Haan, the TYO Junior String Group conducted by Catherine Prideaux, as well as performances by leading AMEB soloists from each region of the State.

The concert was enthusiastically received by an audience of over 300, which included the National Manager of AMEB, Ann Blore, members of the Tasmanian AMEB State Committee, and Musicians' Union Secretary, Denis Shelverton.



Celeste Quinn of Hobart with the TYO



Melanie West of Launceston

Survey on timing of written exams

The AMEB is currently seeking the views of teachers regarding the most suitable times of the year to hold Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama written examinations.

As these are national examinations they must be held on the same day throughout Australia. Please let us know your preferences, by completing and returning the questionnaire enclosed with the 1994 entry form.

Message from the State Chairperson

Welcome to the new examining year.

During my first year as Head of the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music and State Chairperson of the AMEB, I have been endeavouring to establish new links with the various artistic bodies in the community. I believe that through mutually beneficial discussions and a sharing of ideas, we will be better able to determine collectively the direction which music-making in Tasmania should take in the future. In 1994, with this in mind, the Conservatorium will be introducing a new programme for all Tasmanians (not just tertiary students) through its Community Music Access initiative.

There will be three distinct areas of activities within this programme: Early Childhood and Primary Music, Young Conservatorium, and General Interest courses. Some of these courses will be of assistance to private music teachers who are just starting out in their own studios, whilst others will benefit teachers who are already established. These courses are currently confined to Hobart, however, it is planned in the

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long term to develop programmes in each major region of the State.

The AMEB provides a vital link between you, the private music teacher, who may be operating in an isolated area in terms of musical access, and the Conservatorium. I would be pleased to hear from you regarding any ways in which you believe that we could assist you in your teaching practice.

The success of the AMEB in developing standards of performance is to a large extent attributable to the input of teachers from each State. Here in Tasmania we are indeed fortunate to be part of a large, proudly-Australian examining system. We are, at the same time, because of our small distances and closely-linked community, able to be a caring, flexible, locally-based body with the capacity to respond to the needs of teachers and candidates.

As you can imagine, 1993 has been an extremely busy year for me, but as the new courses and programmes at the Conservatorium settle down, I look forward to visiting and meeting teachers from other areas of the State. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or ideas about how we might improve our examining system, please write to me.

Best Wishes for 1994!

Simone de Haan

Graduation Ceremony 1994

On Sunday 22 May, the AMEB will be holding a special Graduation Ceremony at which candidates who gained their Associate or Licentiate Diplomas in 1993 will be presented with their certificates.

The Ceremony will be held at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay at 2.30 pm, and will include a performance (violin/piano) by Jan and Beryl Sedivka.

Diploma holders from pre-1993 who

would like to participate in this event will be presented with a special commemorative certificate.

All recipients of certificates are invited to wear academic dress at the Ceremony. This comprises a black gown and a special stole, the colour depending upon the type of Diploma awarded. We first announced the proposed Ceremony in the June Newsletter last year and to date have received responses from 15 former AMEB diplomates, including two who gained their diplomas in the 1950's.

If you hold an AMEB diploma of any type and have not yet responded but would like to be involved in the event, please telephone the AMEB office on (002) 21 7317 as soon as possible.

Arrangements for hire of academic dress, etc. will be advised by mail in March.

Admission is free and all teachers, students and their families, and friends of the AMEB are most welcome to attend. Please mark this event in your diary!

Workshops & Courses 1994

In April/May this year, AMEB will be presenting a series of Workshops throughout the State. These will provide an opportunity for demonstrations of new syllabus pieces and general discussions about preparing for examinations. Details and application forms will be sent out next month for return to this office by early April.

The Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music is to introduce an innovative series of community education access programs during 1994. Of particular interest to music teachers will be the classes on "Teaching piano to beginners" and "Extending the skills of the established studio teacher". Classes, open to all age groups, will also be offered in AMEB Theory and Musicianship Grades 1-5. Enrolment forms for all courses described in the Community Music Access Brochure are available from Helen Todd on Telephone (002) 21 7335.

New publications

The following new AMEB publications will be available from leading music retailers from mid-February:

- **Grade Books – Pianoforte Series 13–Preliminary to Eighth Grade**
- **Grade Books – Violin Series 6 – Preliminary to Seventh Grade**
- **Handbooks – Pianoforte Series 13–Preliminary to Eighth Grade**
- **Handbooks – Violin Series 6 – Preliminary to Seventh Grade**
- **Violoncello Technical Work Book** – to accompany the revised Cello Syllabus in the 1994 Manual.
- **Guitar Technical Work Book** – designed for use with the exciting new Guitar Syllabus in the 1994 Manual

Details of other AMEB publications are printed on the back cover of the 1994 Manual. Twelve months' notice will be given of withdrawal of publications.

Publications available from the AMEB State Office

- 1994 Manual of Syllabuses, \$7.00 + \$2.50 postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama Papers (pre-1994), \$0.80 + postage
- Musicianship Cassettes (pre-1994), \$2.50 + postage

Copies of 1994 papers and cassettes will be available after the examinations at a cost of \$1.00 and \$4.50 respectively, plus postage.

AMEB enquiries

For enquiries on any aspect of AMEB contact:
Marita Crothers,
State Manager AMEB,
GPO Box 252C, Hobart 7001,
Telephone (002) 21 7317
Fax (002) 21 7318

Additional items

Accompaniment

In practical examinations, works requiring accompaniment may not be heard or assessed without the provision of that accompaniment. An explanatory note is included in the Manual (see Page 10, Reg. 26) concerning the way in which results are downgraded when a candidate does not fulfil this requirement. Please note that accompaniment for Extra Lists is not obligatory.

Certificates

Certificates for the May and Mid-June/Mid-July examinations will be issued in mid-year; certificates for the remaining examinations will be issued at the end of the year. Any request for re-issue of a certificate should be accompanied by a re-issue fee of \$5.

Pianist Kate is a winner!

Eight year old Kate Zappner of Burnie was delighted to hear that she had gained an A+ for her Second Grade Piano exam in the 1993 October/November session. Mum and Dad were not too surprised, however, as Kate at six years of age had already received an A grading for Preliminary and at age seven an A+ for First Grade.

Kate's success has not been confined to her AMEB exams either! She has been a consistent winner in the Burnie Eisteddfod for the past three years, last year performing in seven different age piano sections, plus one recorder section and gaining three First Prizes, two Second Prizes, two Third Prizes and one High Commendation!

Kate learns the piano from her mother, Mrs Eva Zappner, but does not restrict herself to classical music — how could she when her father is well



Kate Zappner

known jazz pianist, Viktor Zappner! Already, Kate has performed alongside her father at local jazz concerts.

The long process of becoming an examiner

There are 42 examiners registered with the AMEB in Tasmania. Each examiner is a specialist in his/her field, so that if a candidate is seeking an examination in keyboard or woodwind or speech and drama, etc., then he/she will be allocated an examiner qualified to examine in these categories.

The procedure for becoming an examiner involves making application to the Tasmanian State Committee, giving details of academic/professional background, teaching experience, etc. — a form is provided for this purpose. If the application is approved by the State Committee, the Trainee Examiner is required to undertake training in 2 stages.

In the first stage, he/she "sits in" with several different experienced examiners. For the first two days the Trainee has observer status only, discussing standards and report techniques with the Supervising Examiner and writing sample reports. On the third day, the Trainee may act as examiner, but under the guidance of the

Supervising Examiner. Parallel reports may be written, but the official report is signed by the Supervising Examiner and countersigned by the Trainee. Each Supervising Examiner having contact with the Trainee in Stage 1 is required to write a short report on his/her progress.

Transition to Stage 2 is dependent on endorsement by State Committee in the light of the received progress reports.

During the second stage, the Trainee first of all refamiliarizes himself/herself with techniques learned in Stage 1. Then, in another session, the Trainee may act as examiner, but, as in Stage 1, the official report is signed by both the Supervising Examiner and the Trainee.

Subject to satisfactory progress reports the State Committee appoints the Trainee as Examiner on Probation. Upon completion of two years' satisfactory examining the State Committee may confirm the appointment. Only after this period does the Examiner's name appear in the Manual of Syllabuses.

In addition to these training stages,

the trainee examiner together with all AMEB Examiners, is required to attend an annual Examiners' Seminar. These Seminars may vary in format from time to time. For example, there could be "live" mock examinations of volunteer Tasmanian candidates or videotapes of actual examinations held in other States. Discussion then takes place about the standard of performance and the appropriate grading to be awarded. Guest speakers, who are experts in their field, for example, communications and educational psychology, may also present relevant sessions. In addition, seminars are generally arranged to coincide with the visit of the Federal Examiner to Tasmania, and his involvement helps to maintain national standards.

When sending out candidates' notices this year, we intend to give you not only the name of the Examiner who will be visiting your area, but also some details about his/her professional background.

Syllabus developments

Piano

Exciting new changes have been made in the piano syllabus, as a result of teachers' responses to a national market research survey undertaken by the Board in 1992. Firstly, a new List E, containing pieces in a jazz idiom has been introduced for Grades Second to Seventh inclusive. Details of pieces for this list appear in the 1994 Manual. A candidate may now choose to play:

- Lists A B C D
- OR A C D E
- OR A B D E etc.

Secondly, a new series of piano grade books, Series 13, will be available in mid-February for use in examinations from 1994. Accompanying the new series will be a set of handbooks for each grade giving valuable information on the pieces, how to prepare them and useful details in the general knowledge area.

The popular Series 11 and 12 will continue to be available for examination, together with the Studies and Baroque collections (1991), the Preliminary Grade Supplementary Book (1981) and the Scale Book (revised 1989).

Other minor changes regarding Technical Work, Triads and Deletions from the Lists are detailed in the Information Sheet for Teachers and Candidates which accompanies the 1994 Entry Form.

Violin

A new series of grade books will be released in mid-February to be used with this syllabus. Violin Series 6 provides grade books from Preliminary to Seventh Grade inclusive. Accompanying the new series will be a set of Handbooks for each grade providing practice hints, notes and suggestions about the pieces and general knowledge information.

Viola

From 1994 only the syllabus in the current Manual can be presented for examination. The old syllabus was with-

drawn at the end of 1993. The technical work from the 1993 edition Revised Viola Technical Work Book is the only technical work to be used from 1994. The old edition of this book was withdrawn at the end of 1993.

Cello and Double Bass

The 1994 Manual contains new syllabuses in these subjects, featuring extended grades and objectives to advise teachers of the skills which are intended to be reached at each level. A Technical Work Book will be issued in mid-February containing all the requirements for the new Cello Syllabus including written-out scales and exercises.

The old syllabuses (1993 Manual) may be used until further notice.

Flute and Clarinet

Some corrections to the parcels of scales in the upper grades are included in the 1994 syllabus.

Oboe, Bassoon and Saxophone

From 1994 candidates must present technical work from the Technical Work Book for the chosen instrument. No other technical work will be accepted.

Brass

Candidates may present for examination using either the new syllabuses or the old syllabuses for Trumpet and Horn (1991 Manual) and for Trombone and Tuba (1992 Manual). The chosen syllabus must be presented in its entirety.

The Euphonium syllabus for candidates who read the bass clef is included in the 1994 Manual.

Bandmastership

Please note that this syllabus was withdrawn at the end of 1993.

Guitar

A brand new Guitar syllabus appears in the 1994 Manual. Examinations now commence at Preliminary and the

repertoire has been expanded in all grades. For the guidance of teachers, each grade includes objectives to indicate the skills expected to be attained at each level.

A Technical Work Book will be available in mid-February containing all the requirements for the new syllabus including written-out scales and exercises.

The old syllabus (1993 Manual) may be used until further notice.

Harp

From 1994 only the syllabus in the Manual will be accepted for examination. The old syllabus was withdrawn at the end of 1993.

Singing

Candidates may present for examination using either the new syllabus or the old syllabus (1992 Manual).

Drama and Communication

This brand new syllabus offers a series of examinations in the area of performing arts. The examinations are especially designed for ensemble work and should appeal to both classroom Drama teachers and Speech & Drama teachers working in a private studio. The examinations are intended to develop: performance skills, language and interpretation skills, as well as negotiating and group decision-making skills.

Theory/Musicianship

Set works for 1994 and 1995 are those specified for 1993. No changes have been made to the set works. (A minimum of one year's notice of any changes will be given.)

Teacher comment invited

Suggestions and comments concerning any aspect of syllabuses are always welcome – please write to the Music Consultant, AMEB Federal Office, 3/175 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.