



McCann's Music Award Winner

When Sheng-Yuan Lynch was 3 ½ years old, his mother bought a piano for herself to take up playing again. Sheng-Yuan immediately became interested, especially in classical music, and started playing little tunes from memory. He made rapid progress and in 2014, under the guidance of teacher, Shan Deng, gained a High Distinction for his first piano exam - Sixth Grade!

Last year at age 10, Sheng-Yuan gained a High Distinction for Eighth Grade and was awarded the McCann's Music Award for the most outstanding AMEB candidate in Southern Tasmania. Examiner, Karen Smithies reported that Sheng-Yuan gave a polished presentation across all areas of his examination.

A student at The Hutchins School, Sheng-Yuan excels at his schoolwork, particularly maths, and loves sports.



Message from the State Chairperson

2016 promises to be an exciting year for AMEB with the recent release of our new *Musical Theatre* syllabus and the formation of a partnership between AMEB and the UK-based examining body, *Rockschool*.

Musical Theatre was launched in Melbourne in November last year by one of Australia's best-loved actor/singers, Lisa McCune. Designed by musical theatre experts from around Australia, this syllabus has been eagerly awaited by students and teachers whose particular passion is musical theatre. The syllabus has a strong focus on musical and vocal development, and candidates will be required to demonstrate aspects of characterization and a knowledge of the dramatic context of the songs they perform.

Musical Theatre will cater for students from beginner to diploma level, and will include a set of supporting publications. With its carefully graded repertoire and assessments, *Musical Theatre* will provide students with a structured pathway by which to develop their skills and the opportunity to gain greater performing confidence.

Rockschool is a vibrant contemporary music program of exams and qualifications for guitar, bass, drums, vocals, piano, band-based keyboards and bands, and comes with the significant support and endorsement of the contemporary music industry in the UK. It specialises in music of the most popular genres in a range of rock, pop, metal and funk styles. Its qualifications are now globally recognised with tens of thousands of exams conducted in the UK and 33 other countries around the world.

The program offers comprehensive syllabuses and a range of exam support materials which are regularly updated by musicians across the academic, music industry and live performance sectors to ensure the music remains current and authentic.

Adding the *Rockschool* syllabuses to the AMEB's suite of syllabuses provides an opportunity to strengthen the AMEB's presence in the contemporary music sector with provision of challenging and rewarding exams that develop technique, musicianship and performance ability in musicians of all ages and backgrounds.

With best wishes for 2016

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 at the Hobart Ceremony in August 2015 is 17 year old Isobel Latimer who was presented with her Associate in Music Diploma (AMusA) in Singing. A pupil of Suzanne Ortuso, Isobel has just commenced 12 months mentoring with soprano Louise Page OAM, through the *Australian Talented Youth Project*. Isobel was one of 11 music, dance and drama students, aged from 16 to 25, to be selected for this national project. This month she will give a performance at Parliament House in Canberra as part of the project.

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, promotional offers and more.

Register to receive the newsletter at www.ameb.edu.au

Hobart Guitar Society Award

Winner of this award for his Fourth Grade Classical Guitar exam was 11 year old James Skinner of West Hobart - pictured here with his sisters, Kate (left) and Stephanie (right). A pupil of Bert Somssich, James was recently invited to play in a master class hosted by the Australian Guitar Trio. He also completed Grade 2 Theory last year and enjoys singing with the school choir at Lansdowne Crescent Primary.

Big sisters, Kate (16) and Stephanie (14) are equally talented musicians, with Kate, a pianist and singer, and Stephanie a cellist and pianist. Both girls have successfully completed many AMEB exams, as well as playing various instruments in ensembles at The Friends' School.

So there is plenty of music happening in the Skinner household!



Violin Virtuoso

For her Eighth Grade Violin exam, thirteen year old home-schooled Anastasia Kositsin of Mengha played an enormous program of three major works from the repertoire entirely from memory - and earned herself a High Distinction.

Examiner Nara Dennis nominated her for the **AUSTA Trophy** for best performance on Violin, and reported that Anastasia's exceptional technical work underpinned all the demands of her pieces.

A pupil of Lily Doherty of Stanley, Anastasia is the eldest of four children, three of whom learn from Lily, with the 2 ½ year old about to pick up the bow!



Courtesy of The Advocate



Courtesy of The Examiner

Yamaha Music Award

Winner of this award for the most outstanding candidate in Fourth Grade Piano was 13 year old Lucy Aras of Devon Hills. A pupil of Robert Deavin of East Launceston, Lucy attends St Patrick's College and is the eldest of five children, two of whom also successfully completed piano exams with Robert.

As well as her skills on piano, Lucy gained a High Distinction for Violin in 2015 under the tutelage of Margaret Hoban of Launceston. Lucy says that an hour's practice each day was the key to her success!

Musical Theatre Workshop

All your questions about our new Musical Theatre syllabus will be answered by Examiner, Jane Edwards, at a Workshop for Teachers on Tues 8 March 2016 from 7.00pm-9.00pm in Lecture Theatre 113, 1st Floor, Conservatorium of Music, 5 Sandy Bay Rd, Hobart.

Register for this free Workshop by phone: 6226 7317 or by email: ameb.music@utas.edu.au

Date for Launceston Workshop to be advised.

Other Award Winners 2015

Jennifer Filby Memorial (TMTA) Award in AMEB Fifth Grade Theory/Musicianship: Angus Austin, Alice Coombes and Monty Wain

Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association (TMTA) Award for Seventh Grade Piano: Olivia Eade

Foster's Music Award: Julia Parker (Violin AMusA)

Barratt's Music Award: Eamonn Shorter (Cello Eighth Grade and Singing Fifth Grade)

Geoff Long Music Awards for Piano for Leisure: Eliza Cretan (Preliminary), Naoise Michelin (First Grade), Alice Eddleston (Second Grade), Sophie Newton (Third Grade)

Have Wheels – Will Travel!

Brass Examiner, Peter Quigley awarded sixteen year old Naomi Dickers of Ulverstone a High Distinction for her excellent performance across all areas of her Grade 5 EE Flat Bass Tuba exam. The home-schooled Year 11 student is a member of the Ulverstone Municipal Band – along with her two younger siblings, Erin (Tenor Horn) and Hannah (Cornet), both of whom also completed AMEB exams last year. Naomi has her sights set on attending the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, and while steps are a challenge, she is confident that with her tuba's set of wheels she will be able to get around Hobart!



Syllabus and Publications

New Syllabuses

Musical Theatre

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of its entirely new Musical Theatre syllabus, available for examination from 2016. The syllabus is accompanied by a series of supporting publications, including Grade books from Preliminary-Grade 4; the Technical work book covering Preliminary-Grade 8; the Sight reading book covering Preliminary-Grade 8 and a set of recorded accompaniments for Preliminary-Grade 3. This is the AMEB's first dedicated Musical Theatre syllabus and we hope that it proves a useful resource for teachers and students at all levels.

As with most AMEB syllabuses, Musical Theatre will be divided into three Levels: Level 1 includes Preliminary and Grades 1 to Grade 4; Level 2 comprises Grade 5 to Grade 8 and is capped by the Certificate of Performance; and Level 3 includes the Associate and Licentiate Diplomas. The syllabus will therefore cater for teachers and students at all stages of development.

The following publications may be used with the new syllabus:

Musical Theatre Series 1 Preliminary – Grade 4 (2015)

Musical Theatre Technical work (2015)

Musical Theatre Sight-reading (2015)

Musical Theatre Series 1 Recorded Accompaniments Preliminary – Grade 3 (2015).

New Examinations

Rockschool

The Directors of AMEB Ltd are pleased to announce a new partnership to deliver *Rockschool* exams and syllabuses in Australia through AMEB.

Based in the UK, *Rockschool* specialises in music of the most popular genres, and provides exams in guitar, bass, drums, vocals, piano, band-based keyboards and bands. The program offers comprehensive syllabuses and a range of exam support materials including grade books, companion guides, technical handbooks and backing recordings. Exams will be scheduled and administered by

the AMEB State Offices. *Rockschool* examinations will be offered from 2016 in two sessions: June and October.

For further information go to rockschool.com.au or ameb.edu.au

Withdrawals

From the beginning of 2016, the following "old" 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 continue in 2016. The Oboe syllabus review will also continue in 2016. 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:

- 2016 Manual of Syllabuses (Music), \$17.00 + postage
- 2016 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*

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