

# Year in Review



Australian  
Music  
Examinations  
Board

—  
2020-2021

# A message from our Chair and CEO

It goes without saying that 2020-2021 was a challenging year for many, a year like no other.

In some areas of Australia, and many other countries around the world, learners and teachers of performing arts were plagued by rolling Covid-19 lockdowns and restricted face-to-face activities. In other Australian cities and towns, the impact may have been less severe but the uncertainty of a global pandemic still loomed.

At AMEB we were determined to do whatever we could to support the community and keep people connected.

From online workshops and fun competitions, to exams that could be taken via pre-recorded video, our team worked tirelessly to ensure people continued to have access to quality education and inspiration.

And we were humbled by the wonderful feedback from teachers, parents, schools and learners.

Some special thanks are in order after such a tremendous effort:

- To the AMEB Ltd team – thank you for remaining positive, keeping morale high, continuing to be incredibly diligent and productive, and demonstrating such strong and focused leadership throughout the year.
- To the enormous extended team of AMEB examiners, consultants, partners, our colleagues in the AMEB state offices and others working together with us – thank you for your undeniable passion and expertise, and for making our work possible.
- To the Members of AMEB Ltd – thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

We invite you to discover more by taking a wander through this Year in Review.



**Mike Tyler**  
Chair, AMEB Ltd



**Bernard Depasquale**  
CEO, AMEB Ltd

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This report presents a synopsis of the activities and outcomes delivered by AMEB Ltd during the 2020-2021 financial year.

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# Near and far.

In a year overshadowed by Covid-19, our aim was simple:

## **Help people stay connected to performing arts education.**

Why would this matter when we were in the midst of a global pandemic? Because studies have shown that learning an instrument or performing art goes far beyond the development of important skills and brain function. It also helps us to relax, relieve stress and tension, and express ourselves.

In a time of such disruption and uncertainty, surely that's something we could all benefit from.

So we continued to focus on what we do best at AMEB, delivering inspiring educational resources and qualifications in the performing arts, for teachers and learners of all ages and stages.

And we adapted, making changes to overcome the constraints of lockdowns, travel restrictions and distance. Changes that allowed students to keep learning and achieving their goals, safely. Changes that supported the livelihoods of teachers in the performing arts community.

## **Benefits of learning music and performing arts**



**Enhanced brain function**



**Better working memory**



**Increased coordination**



**Improved attention and concentration**



**Stronger spatial intelligence**



**Improved social skills**



**Expression, creativity and joy!**

We moved all of our events online so that people could participate from anywhere or view the recordings when it was most convenient for them.

We created new webinars and online workshops to help teachers stay connected, keep up to date with pedagogical developments and resources, hear from special guests and leading practitioners, and continue with their professional development.

Students were able to complete their music, dance, speech and drama exams from the safety of home, via video recordings.



Our well-established online theory platform, AMEB Online Learning and Exams, became even more valuable and sought after with teachers using it to teach remotely and assess students' progress, and students able to sit their theory exams anytime, anywhere.

We continued to source and supply quality print music and resources to retailers and customers across Australia and internationally, through our Encore and Print Music Works brands. And we responded to thousands of queries and requests for assistance from teachers, parents and learners.

We're proud of the ways in which AMEB was able to continue inspiring, supporting and connecting people with performing arts education throughout 2020-2021.



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**IMAGE CREDITS – THIS PAGE**

1. Photo – Adobe Stock
2. Students from Red Music + Dance in Brisbane who completed the first PAA Musical Theatre Grade Exams in Australia, in early 2021. Photo – supplied
3. Photo – Adobe Stock

Our values

Inclusion  
Excellence  
Leadership



Community  
Creativity

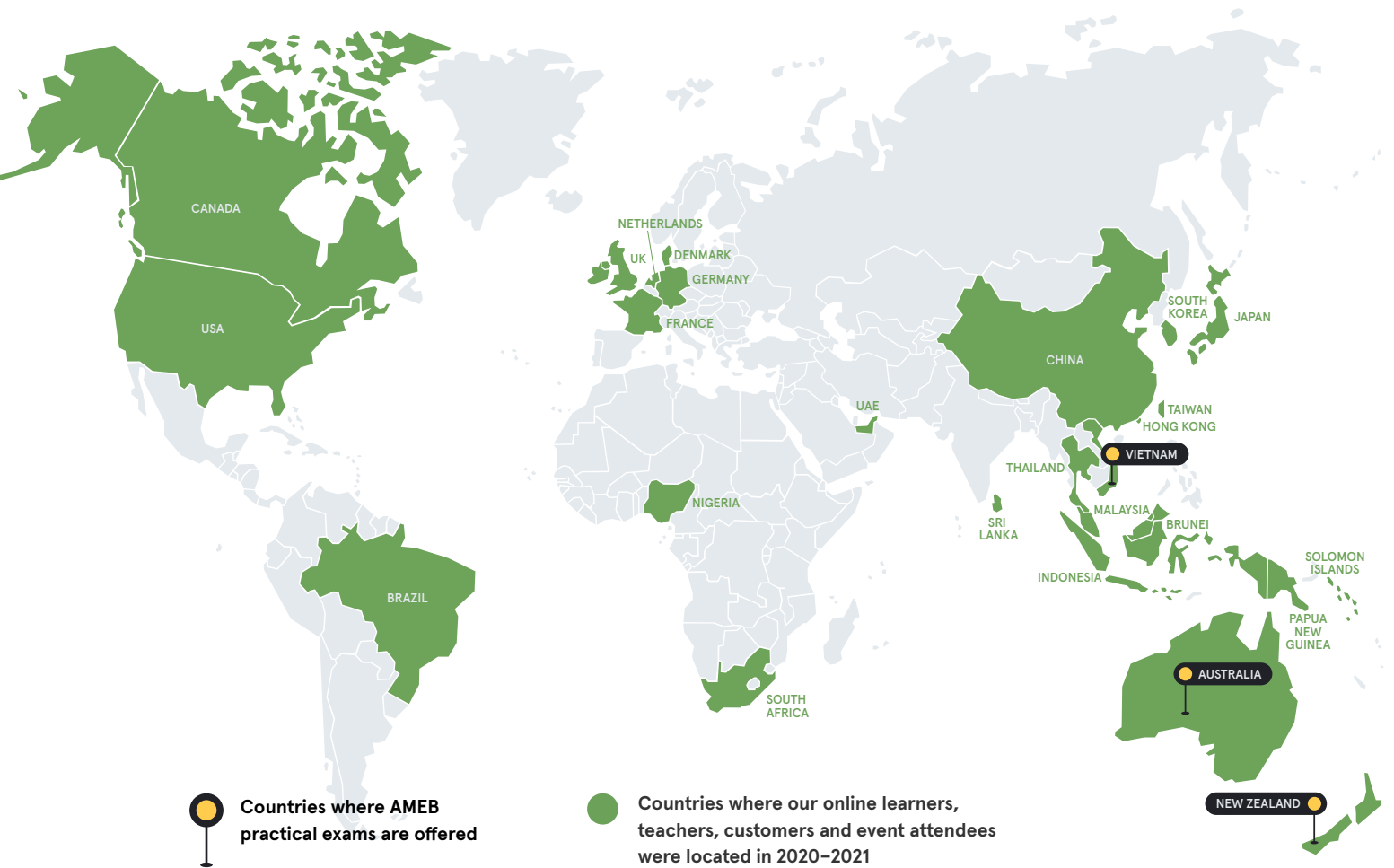


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IMAGE CREDITS - THIS PAGE

Both images - Adobe Stock

Near and far.



My sincere thanks for all the support you have provided over 2020. I have really appreciated the emails, workshops/webinars, and encouragement during a difficult year for us all as teachers and students.

Being in an isolated area, it is not easy to get to workshops in a 'normal' year due to distances involved. With more restrictions imposed last year it was wonderful having online resources to help and inspire us.

Thank you all for your creative ideas and support.

# Create. Learn. Teach. Grow.

We believe there are several key ingredients to a successful and enjoyable learning experience. Goals and structure. Modern and inclusive pedagogy. And content that is fun, accessible and aligned to the learner's ability and interests.

Our syllabuses, publications and online learning platforms provide exactly that.

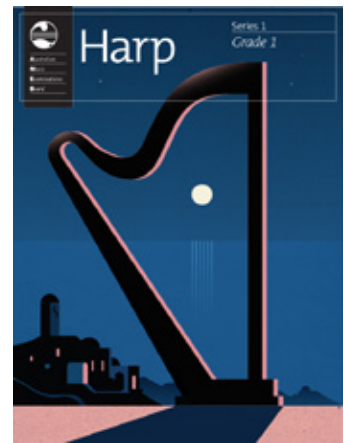
They cater for everyone from beginners to university-level, spanning classical to contemporary genres across music, dance, speech, drama, communication and media.

## Pedagogy

- The art or science of teaching and educational methods.
- The instructional techniques and strategies that allow learning to take place.

**In 2020–2021,  
we enhanced  
our vast range  
yet again**

New Harp syllabus and supporting publications, including AMEB's first ever grade books for harp. These provide a more approachable and accessible pathway for harpists at all levels, and cater for both pedal and lever harp.



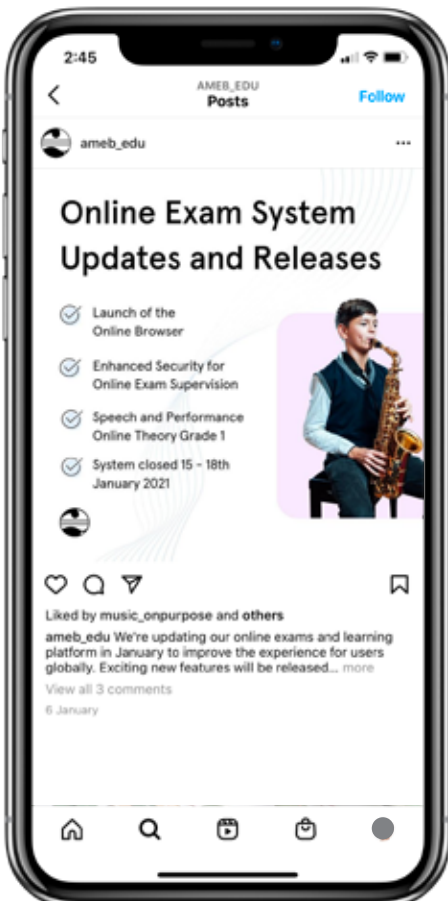
The fourth book in our Theory of Music Integrated Course and Workbook series. Engaging and interactive content, with downloadable solutions to all questions provided.





New Lower Brass Technical Work books. These provide new streamlined technical work for trombone, euphonium and tuba, laid out in a straightforward and logical format for each grade. They also use methods of study that are more engaging for students.

New RockschooL Ukulele syllabus and grade books. These include a diverse range of repertoire, supporting resources and a step-by-step pathway for learners to progress gradually.



Browser-based online music theory exams. These can now be accessed on any computer or device through our AMEB Online Learning and Exams platform.



**YAY for browser-based exams!!!  
I can't wait to be able to do them  
that way 🙌🙌🙌**

Instagram / @jeanne\_marie333

# Engage, play and listen.

We were very excited to announce the return of the AMEB Online Orchestra in 2021, with an original commissioned piece based on an Aboriginal songline.

The song, called 'Morning Star and Evening Star', was written by Candace Kruger, a Yugambeh yarrabilgingun (songwoman) and Indigenous ethnomusicologist from south-eastern Queensland, with co-writers Lann Levinge and Isobella Kruger. It is based on an Aboriginal lullaby sung to Lottie Eaton (nee Levinge), who then shared it with both Candace and Lann.

We were honoured to have the opportunity to bring this narrative to life, and we thank the Elders of the Yugambeh region for their permission to use the song.

This unique project provides a virtual performance opportunity for instrumentalists and singers everywhere – certainly something well suited to lockdown. Participants download the relevant music arrangements, rehearse, record their performance and upload it. We'll combine all the clips into one impressive virtual performance in late 2021.

This year's project also allowed participants and teachers to explore the cultural aspects of the song, its history, and how to sing the Aboriginal words. We developed Learning Resources to help with this, as well as Learning Plans mapped to the National Curriculum providing excellent ideas for teachers of different year levels.

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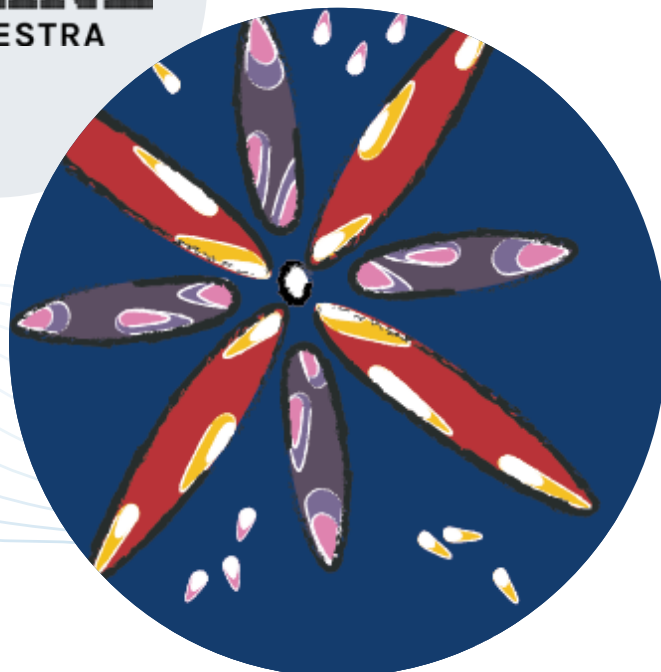
#### IMAGE CREDITS – PAGES 10 & 11

Aboriginal Artwork – Isobella Kruger, Yugambeh and Gowar language regions.

Aboriginal Design – Paula Nihôt, Gamilaraay language region.

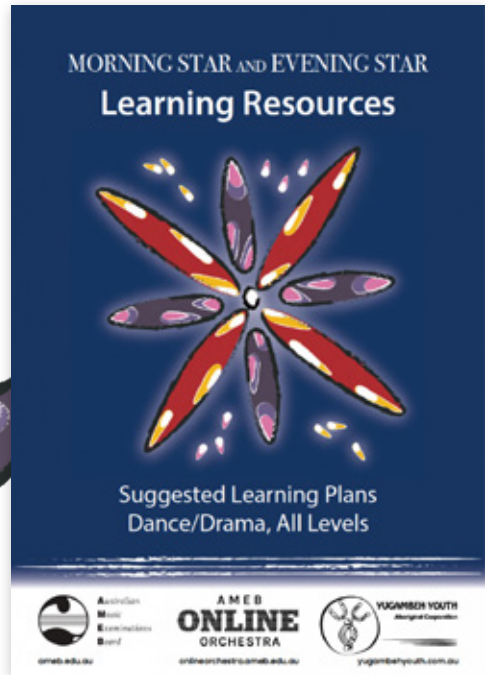


AMEB  
**ONLINE**  
ORCHESTRA





Wow, I'm absolutely loving this new AMEB Online Orchestra learning resource. Thank you for creating such a wonderful resource to use in Music Education to help students develop an understanding of the Aboriginal culture.



### MORNING STAR AND EVENING STAR Pronunciation Guide

**bahn'gany**  
 kagaru mulagan  
 wagahn ngulong  
 yarrabil jagun  
 ngandu

Spoken by  
Candace Kruger



We're delighted that this year's song is an Indigenous lullaby. With the 2021 Australia Day awards mainly going to Indigenous projects and individuals, we think that Morning Star and Evening Star is the perfect song for 2021.

We are really enjoying our rehearsals and feel privileged to take part.

# Motivate. Support.

To help learners, teachers, parents and schools stay motivated and connected through 2020-2021, we offered an assortment of competitions, prizes and online networking sessions.

Puckapunyal Primary School was the deserving winner of our Rockschool x Ashton competition, receiving an instrument and book prize pack to get their music program up and running again after a fire destroyed their school in 2020.

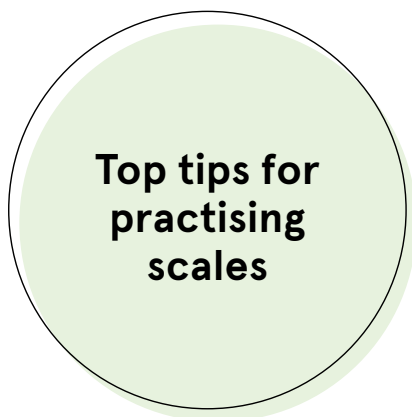
Following the launch of our Scale Helper Alexa skill, we gave away 10 Amazon devices to learners with the best creative tips for practising scales.

And to celebrate the release of our new Harp syllabus, we gave away a brand new harp to one lucky winner (courtesy of Carter Harps Australia and Camac Harps France) and book packs to eleven other exceptional entrants.

Bellissimo Flute Ensemble received \$1,000 worth of sheet music as winners of the AMEB Emerging Ensemble Encouragement Award in the Musica Viva Strike A Chord competition.

We also sponsored the 3MBS Radiothon, and participated in an Early Career Arts Administrators Meet Up to provide online connection and development to a cohort of emerging professionals.

In addition, we gave our voice to important issues in the performance arts education space. We supported the Music Education Alliance Victoria in their work to facilitate a safe and workable return to face-to-face music education following the major lockdowns in Melbourne in 2020. And following the release of the new report 'Music Education: A Sound Investment', we spoke about the importance of quality music education in primary schools.



## Top tips for practising scales



**Make them interesting! Mix them up, create songs, jam with them, sing with them, use the notes in a different order, have fun!**

– Katie



**Practicing scales is like brushing your teeth – it's better to do a little every day than lots only once a week!**

– Paul



**You can be your own teacher by recording yourself playing every so often to hear what you may be doing wrong!**

– Christine

# Together.

## How we stayed connected from afar

- Celebrated birthdays with home-delivered cake
- Welcomed two new team members and farewelled another
- Celebrated two 10-year work anniversaries
- Boosted morale through online chats, quizzes and a cake making class led by our own in-house masterchef!
- Welcomed an AMEB baby

The way we do things at AMEB is really important to us.

We want our people to feel nurtured, respected and included, to have the opportunity to grow, and to enjoy and feel proud of what they do – just like the community we serve. We managed to achieve all of this despite the lockdowns, remote working arrangements and uncertainty of 2020-2021.

It was also an opportune time to introduce our new contemporary Employee Assistance Program (EAP) focused on wellbeing, health and life.

Of course, our work wouldn't be possible without the fantastic team around us.

This includes our examiners, consultants, specialist advisory group and committee members, composers and arrangers, proof readers and players, our colleagues in the state offices, our partner organisations, and others that once again supported AMEB. We're very grateful for their dedication, expertise and time throughout the year.

The diversity of our extended team brings depth, strength and value to what we do. We're grateful to work together with them.

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### IMAGE CREDITS – THIS PAGE

Audience members at an AMEB event held prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.  
Photo – David Ng





**A**ustralian  
**M**usic  
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**B**oard

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WA



AMEB Ltd is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR).

We at AMEB respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, learn and create. We recognise their continuing connection to country, and draw inspiration from the music, dance, song and storytelling handed down through many generations.

We pay our respects to the Elders who came before us, are with us today, and are yet to come.

We commit to a reconciled and shared future.