



AMEB NEWS

NEWSLETTER TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN TASMANIA

High achieving boys

Three male students gained outstanding results in last year's exams:

Ben van Tienen (17) gained the Diploma, Licentiate in Music Australia (LMusA) in Piano. This examination lasts for one hour and a concert standard of performance is demanded. Examiners, Max Olding and Beryl Sedivka, described Ben's presentation as revealing 'musicianly work and fine potential'. Ben commenced exams when he was eight years old, gaining Honours for every grade. A pupil of Annette Stilwell, he is already an established accompanist and musical director for local productions. Ben completed Year 12 at Guilford Young College in 2001 and plans to study at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music this year.

Campbell Banks (16) gained the Diploma, Associate in Music Australia (AMusA) in both Piano and Cello (with Distinction for Cello). He commenced exams when he was ten, gaining Honours for every grade. He learns piano from Jody Heald, and cello from Sue-Ellen Paulsen. For relaxation, he plays drum kit!

Like Campbell, John Eland (17) gained his AMusA in two instruments—Piano and Violin. John took his first exam at nine years of age, gaining Honours in every grade of his violin exams. His teacher for piano is Eileen Johnson and for violin, Lyndal Edmiston. Both John and Campbell completed Year 11 at Friends School last year.



Ben van Tienen, Campbell Banks and John Eland. (Photo courtesy of *The Mercury*)

Message from the State Chairperson

2002 promises to be an exciting year for AMEB with the release of three new syllabuses: Violin, Piano for Leisure and Certificate Teacher of Music Australia (CTMusA). All of these syllabuses

have been developed following extensive consultation with teachers and candidates by the AMEB Federal Office. Given the large number of syllabuses and publications it produces, you

will be surprised to learn that the Federal Office (which is located in Flinders Lane, Melbourne) comprises only three full-time and two part-time staff members.

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Message from State Chairperson

Heading this small team is new Chief Executive Officer, Catherine Lewis, who was appointed in June last year following the departure of Ann Blore, who served as National Manager for nearly 20 years. Many teachers who knew her will be pleased to hear that, in appreciation of her untiring services and commitment to AMEB, the Board has awarded Ann an Honorary Fellowship in Music Australia (HonFMusA).

In conjunction with the release of the Violin syllabus, AMEB in Tasmania is also introducing pre-preliminary assessments in violin, viola or cello, known as Strings Induction Tests. These will cater for the needs of your younger students (aged four and over) and will serve as a gentle initiation into AMEB exams. We plan to extend these tests to other instruments in the future.

The new popular piano syllabus, Piano for Leisure, is offered to those students who prefer a program of study which lies between the Contemporary Popular Music syllabus and the traditional Piano syllabus. Piano for Leisure will not only allow students to play works across a spectrum of styles, but will also provide an opportunity for them to perform their own compositions and arrangements!

The Certificate Teacher of Music Australia (CTMusA) has been created as an introduction to the ATMusA diploma. It has a practical approach which will appeal to experienced teachers who wish to undertake their first formal study in current pedagogy, and to those who simply have a desire to extend their knowledge and professional expertise. Young people considering a career in music teaching may also benefit from this foundation syllabus.

To assist you in understanding these new syllabuses, we will be presenting a series of Workshops during the year.

Best wishes for the new performing year!

*Douglas Knehans, State Chair, AMEB
Professor of Music, Tasmanian
Conservatorium of Music*

Tasmanian Mini-Concerto Competition

On Saturday 1 September last year a capacity audience in the Conservatorium Recital Hall heard six young finalists of AMEB Grade 3-4 standard compete in the second Tasmanian Mini-Concerto Competition.

A joint project of the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra Council and AMEB (Tas), the competition created an opportunity for young developing musicians to play as soloist with the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, under the guidance of conductor, Gary Wain. Repertoire was especially composed by Don Kay, Raffaele Marcellino, Ian Munro and TYO Artistic Administrator, Russell Gilmour.

The finalists were: Piano – Eloise Farr (14) and Joseph Havlat (7); Flute – Amanda Gale (13) and Stephanie Heather (15); Oboe – Jennifer O'Farrell (15); Clarinet – Beth Reader (15).

The panel of four adjudicators, Maria Grenfell, Jane Dickie, Victoria Burley and Michael Fortescue, selected Amanda Gale of Launceston as winner of the Competition. A flute student of Mrs Jennifer MacDonald, Amanda attends Scotch Oakburn College. She was



Amanda Gale, Mini-Concerto Competition winner. (Photo courtesy of *The Examiner*)

presented with her prize of \$250 by AMEB State Chairman, Professor Douglas Knehans.

The adjudicators awarded a special commendation to Joseph Havlat of Hobart, who at only 7 years of age was the youngest competitor and who played the entire concerto from memory!

In 2002 this unique competition will be held in the second half of the year, and will be extended to Violin, as well as Woodwind and Piano. Details and registration forms will be included with our June newsletter.

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. A noteworthy participant in the Hobart 2001 Ceremony was 22 year old Christina Borzak (pictured) of Hobart who was awarded a Distinction for her Associate in Music Australia (AMusA) Diploma in Pianoforte. On the same day, Christina also graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Botany and Zoology. A pupil of Elizabeth Berger, Christina commenced her AMEB exams as a ten year old. She also plays clarinet in the Australian Army Band Tasmania and the Hobart City Band.



Christina Borzak was awarded a Distinction for her AMusA Diploma in Pianoforte.

Drummer girl!

In November last year, seventeen year old Pippa Swan of Hobart became the first female student in Tasmania to sit for AMEB's Contemporary Popular Music (CPM) syllabus in Drum Kit. Currently a pupil of Ben Smart, Pippa commenced studying drum kit as a nine year old with the late Norm Crothers.

For her assessment at Advancing Step 2 level, Pippa was required to play two set works and three free choice pieces in a variety of modern styles from Rock, Jazz, Latin, etc. She chose to play one of her pieces with three 'live' musicians, and the remaining four works with the backing CD provided with the CPM course book. In addition, Pippa was tested on technical, aural and reading skills, as well as improvisation. For her excellent performance in all areas, Pippa was awarded a High Distinction.



Pippa Swan, first Tasmanian female student in AMEB's CPM syllabus in Drum Kit.

Awards sponsored by TMTA

The winner of the \$100 AMEB Seventh Grade Pianoforte Award was: Eva Lerchbacher, pupil of Lyn Loudon of Burnie.

The \$100 prize for the Jennifer Filby Memorial Award for the best candidate in AMEB Fifth Grade Theory or Musicianship was shared between Serena Graham, pupil of Ruth Parsons of Devonport, and Erin Wilson, pupil of Lynette Smith of Hobart.

Starring role

AMEB Speech & Drama graduate, Sarah Triffitt (pictured below) plays the leading female role in a new 95 minute feature film, *Gettin' Out* written and directed by Clive Brooks of Guerilla Productions. With an all Tasmanian cast and featuring original music by local composer Mat Bond,



AMEB Speech & Drama graduate, Sarah Triffitt.

AMEB enquiries

For enquiries or additional copies of this Newsletter, contact
Marita Crothers
State Manager, AMEB
GPO Box 252-63
Hobart 7001
Telephone: [03] 6226 7317
Facsimile: [03] 6226 7318
E-mail:
Marita.Crothers@utas.edu.au
Visit AMEB's website at
www.ameb.edu.au

the film will have its premiere in Hobart in early April this year.

A former pupil of Aileen Jenkins, Sarah gained her AMEB Associate in Speech & Drama Australia (ASDA) in 1996. Since then, she has prepared students for AMEB exams in the primary after-school program at St. Mary's College, as well as in her private teaching studio. Sarah also teaches articulation and phonetics to singers at IHOS Experimental Opera Company.

Syllabus consultation

The Theory and Musicianship syllabuses are under review. You are invited to take part in the AMEB's consultative syllabus review process. If you would like to participate, please send your contact details to the Project Manager at the AMEB Federal Office or e-mail to: projectmanager@ameb.net

AMEB/TMTA Singing Workshop

On 12 November 2001, twenty-six students and teachers attended a Singing Workshop in Devonport presented by AMEB Examiner, Helena Bury.



Pictured at the workshop from left to right are Meaghan Philp, Mark Boersma, Helena Bury and Chairperson of the NW Branch of the Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association, Rennie Herbert.

Syllabus Information

New Syllabuses

Violin

In 2002 a new Violin syllabus is being offered. A new set of Violin Grade Books (Series 7) and new Technical Work Books, one each for Levels 1 and 2, are available for use with the new syllabus.

Candidates may choose to present for examination using either the 2002 Violin syllabus or the Violin syllabus appearing in the 2001 Manual. The syllabus chosen must be presented in its entirety. It is not possible to present for examination using a combination of these syllabuses.

Grade Books: Please note that Series 7 may be used for the 2002 Violin syllabus only and that Series 5 may only be used for the Violin syllabus appearing in the 2001 Manual. Series 6 may be used for either syllabus.

Technical Work Books: The new Technical Work Books (Levels 1 and 2) are available for use with the 2002 Violin syllabus only. The 1995 edition of the Violin Technical Work Book may only be used in conjunction with the Violin syllabus appearing in the 2001 Manual.

Piano for Leisure

This is the AMEB's new Popular Piano syllabus for Preliminary to Eighth Grade. A syllabus designed for all ages, it explores popular repertoire including well-loved standards from the classics, jazz styles, and arrangements of movie themes and popular songs.

CTMusA (Certificate Teacher of Music Australia)

This is a new syllabus intended as an introduction to the ATMusA diploma.

General Reference Books

This section of the Music Manual has been updated and a revised list appears in the 2002 Manual of Syllabuses.

Alterations to Syllabuses

Level 3 Objectives

A revised version of Level 3 Objectives, Section I has replaced the existing objectives in all relevant syllabuses. This provides consistency in all performance diplomas.

Withdrawal of syllabuses

Pianoforte and Brass Band

The Pianoforte syllabus appearing in the 1999 Manual will be withdrawn at the end of 2002. From 2003, only the Piano syllabus appearing in the current Manual of Syllabuses may be used in examinations.

At the end of 2002 the Brass Band Instruments Syllabuses appearing in the 1997 Manual will be withdrawn. From 2003, only

the Band syllabus in the current Manual of Syllabuses may be used in examinations.

Teacher comment invited

During the first years of use, new syllabuses undergo an evaluation process, to ensure that any problems are resolved before finalising the syllabus. The old syllabus runs concurrently during this time. At the end of the evaluation process, any necessary adjustments are made and one year's notice is given of the withdrawal of the old syllabus. Suggestions are welcome on the following new syllabuses which are still in evaluation – Piano, Piano for Leisure, Violin, LTMusA, Band, Ensemble Performance, Speech & Performance Theory. A comment page can be found in the back of the 2002 Manual. Please return comments to: Reply Paid 1305, AMEB Federal Office, 5/175 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.

Publication News

The following publications are available or in production, for use with syllabuses in 2002:

Clarinet

Clarinet Grade Books Series 2 were issued in early 2001. This series covers First to Fourth Grades. Recordings to accompany the Series 2 Grade Books and a Clarinet Sight Reading Book have also been issued. Although not included in the 2002 Manual of Syllabuses, Series 2 Grade Books may be used for examinations in 2002 and will be listed on the AMEB website shortly.

Flute

Recordings to accompany the Series 2 Grade Books have been issued.

Violin

Violin Grade Books Series 7. This new series covers Preliminary to Seventh Grades and is for use with the new Violin Syllabus. Recordings and Handbooks will also be issued to accompany these books.

New Technical Work Books are also available and must be used in conjunction with the new syllabus.

Piano

Piano Studies and Baroque - First to Fourth Grades, one book for each grade. This is a new set of books for use with List A of the new syllabus. A new Piano Sight Reading Book has also been issued.

Piano for Leisure

A complete set of Grade Books (Preliminary to Eighth Grades) for use with the new Piano for Leisure syllabus will be available from leading music retailers from mid-February 2002. Recordings will also be issued later this year to accompany these books.

Notation Handbook

This is a new publication issued by authority of the Board. It is a manual of modern and acceptable notation practices intended to assist teachers and candidates in the presentation of music manuscript in AMEB written examinations in Theory and Musicianship. It will be available from this office later this year.

Publications withdrawn from examinations

Oboe

The 1997 Oboe Technical Work Book may no longer be used for examinations.

Guitar

The 1994 Guitar Technical Work Book may no longer be used for examinations.

Piano

The 1981 edition of Pianoforte Preliminary Grade Supplementary Book may no longer be used for Piano examinations. It has been replaced by the 2001 Piano Preliminary Grade Supplementary Book.

Publications out of print

The following publications are out of print. However, copies may still be available from retailers:

Piano

- Series 12 Grade Books: First Grade
- Series 12 Handbooks: Third Grade
- Studies First and Second Grades (1991)

Violin

Series 5 Grade Books: Second Grade, Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade.

Theory

First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade and Fourth Grade Work Book.

Musicianship

- Fourth Grade Work Book
- Fifth Grade Work Book.

Syllabuses available on the AMEB website (<http://www.ameb.edu.au>)

- Drum Kit, Vocal, Keyboard, Guitar and Bass in CPM Manual
- Accordion
- Ensemble Performance
- Percussion

Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- 2002 Manual of Syllabuses (Music) \$10.00 + postage
- 2001-2002 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech) \$7.70 + postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama Papers \$1.80 + postage (minimum order for mailing – \$5.00)
- Musicianship Cassettes (includes copy of Aural paper) \$4.50 + postage

*All prices quoted are GST inclusive