



AMEB NEWS

NEWSLETTER TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN TASMANIA

Players of Distinction

In 1988 two 9-year-old Tasmanian girls gained Honours for their first AMEB piano exams – Penelope Witt in Hobart and Jennifer McNamara in Ulverstone. They continued and expanded their music studies down the years, Penelope taking up the cello and Jennifer learning to sing. The dedicated work paid dividends, for in 1996 both girls gained AMEB Diplomas. Jennifer was awarded her AMusA in Pianoforte with Distinction, as well as gaining Honours for Sixth Grade Singing, while Penelope performed the double feat of gaining her AMusA in both Pianoforte and Cello – the latter with Distinction. All this in addition to final year school exams!

Both Penelope and Jennifer plan to pursue music as a career, but for Jennifer this will have to wait as she will be on a 12-month Rotary exchange in Germany this year.



Penelope Witt, above (photo courtesy of *The Mercury*, Hobart) and Jennifer McNamara, right (photo courtesy of *The Advocate*, Burnie).

Jennifer is a pupil of Rennie Herbert of Devonport, and Penelope studies piano with Annette Stilwell and cello with Sue-Ellen Paulsen, Principal Cellist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.



Message from the State Chairperson

As you may know, I became Director of the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music in January 1996 and State Chairperson of the AMEB in mid 1996. Previous to my arrival in Tasmania I worked in Sydney and abroad as a professional composer, music producer and teacher both in tertiary and secondary institutions. I would like to draw your attention to three special areas of activity planned for 1997.

Contemporary Popular Music course

As a former schools music director at both primary and secondary level, I have been particularly interested to see the development of the AMEB's new **Contemporary Popular Music (CPM)** course. CPM covers a variety of styles, including jazz, rock, and

pop and the pieces have been carefully selected and graded in terms of difficulty. As well as being a useful music education resource, CPM will provide teachers with a structured program designed not only to appeal to their students, but also to encourage the development of creativity and musicianship. I am pleased to advise that the **Keyboard** courses at Fundamental and Advancing levels will be released in the first half of this year. The first assessments in CPM will be held in the 1997 October/November session.

Community Music Access

An initiative for 1997 will be the opening of Conservatorium undergraduate courses to the general public through the Conservatorium's Community Music Access program.

This should be particularly beneficial for musicians planning to study for the AMEB's **Associate Diploma in Music Teaching (ATMusA)**. You may wish to participate in this program for your own professional development or as an introduction to further study at the Conservatorium in performance, composition or teaching.

Festival pian' e forte

I am pleased to announce that the Conservatorium will be presenting an exciting week of pianistic events from

Sunday 13 April to Saturday 19 April-
Festival pian'e forte will feature
some of Australia's finest pianists in
an extraordinary range of music, in-
cluding the **first ever performance**
of the complete piano duets by
Schubert, to mark the bicentenary of
the composer's birth (1797-1828).
Festival pian'e forte will be a rare
musical experience and I strongly rec-
ommend this Festival to you.

Best wishes for 1997.

Raffæle Marcellino

Overall Report

This new service has proved popular with teachers. It provides further advice on improving the performances of all their exam students who are in the same instrumental category, e.g. all their flute candidates. The Overall Report is additional to the individual report on each candidate and is available for a fee of \$12.00 via the exam entry form.

AMEB enquiries

For enquiries or additional copies of this Newsletter, contact Marita Crothers, State Manager, AMEB, GPO Box 252-63, Hobart 7001, Telephone [03] 62 26 7317, Facsimile: [03] 62 26 7318.

AMEB Managers

Managers from each State meet regularly to discuss and co-ordinate the administration of the AMEB. In September last year the Managers met in Hobart for the first time. Pictured (below) outside the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music are: *(seated)*

Ann Blore (National Manager), Marita Crothers (Tas), Ken Halliday (SA); *(standing)* Catherine Gerrard (National CPM Co-ordinator), Yvonne White (NSW), Ted Pople (Vic), Jan Stockigt (National Music Consultant), Baard Mæhle (WA), John Briggs (Qld).



Graduation Ceremony

Successful AMEB diploma students may now receive their awards at the University of Tasmania's Graduation Ceremonies held in Hobart and Launceston each year.

Diplomates who participated in the Hobart Ceremony on 18 May last year are pictured with *(far right)* Raffæle Marcellino AMEB State Chair and Director, Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.

(From left to right) Robert Farmer, Amanda Webster, Rosalind Franklin, Michelle Fernando, Rebecca Munnings, Caroline Airey, Jason Geeves and Melia Naughton.



Scenes from 1996 Workshops

Gwyn Roberts, Senior Lecturer in Cello and Conducting at the University of Queensland at an AMEB/AUSTA Cello Workshop for young students in Hobart on 30 June 1996 (*below*).

AMEB Examiner, Marjorie Hearn, guides some budding violinists at an AMEB/AUSTA Workshop in

Launceston on 27 April 1996 (*right*).

Professor Ronald Farren-Price, Head of Keyboard at the University of Melbourne and AMEB Federal Examiner, gives some tips to 7 year old twins, Ita and Tannie Tong at an AMEB Piano Masterclass in Hobart on 14 September 1996 (*below right*).



Workshops 1997

The Australian String Teachers' Association (AUSTA) and AMEB will present **String Workshops** featuring internationally-acclaimed British violin/viola teacher, Shelia Nelson, on **Sunday 23 March** (11am-4pm) and **Monday 24 March** (9.45am-2.45pm) at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, 5-7 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart. Shelia is known for her private string practice utilising group teaching techniques and she has a worldwide reputation for her educational string publications. For entry fees and bookings contact Erica Davidson, Telephone: [03] 62 25 1425.

AMEB's National CPM Coordinator, Catherine Gerrard, together with local musicians, will provide information and demonstrations on the **Contemporary Popular Music (CPM) Courses in Hobart** on **Saturday 17 May** (2pm-4pm) in the Conservatorium Recital Hall and in **Launceston** on **Sunday 18 May** (2pm-4pm) in Room A008/9 at the

University of Tasmania, Plumer Street, Newnham. Entry free. More details later.

Contemporary Popular Music

The AMEB is proud to announce exciting new courses in **Contemporary Popular Music (CPM)**. Courses have been developed in Bass, Drum Kit, Guitar, Keyboard and Vocal – and plans are in place for other instrument areas to be developed over the next few years.

Steps 1 and 2 of the Bass, Drum Kit, Guitar and Vocal courses were released in August 1996 and are available in music retail stores. Steps 3 and 4 of these courses will be released in the first half of 1997 and all **Keyboard steps (Fundamental and Advancing)** will be released by **mid 1997**.

The courses cover technical proficiency, performance of contemporary popular repertoire (including stu-

dents' own choices) and improvisation. The course comes in the form of a kit containing both a book and a backing recording – in either tape, CD or MIDI format. Assessment is undertaken at the completion of each step by specialist assessors who are performers and educators in the field of contemporary popular music.

Bass, Drum Kit, Guitar and Vocal courses have four steps (termed Advancing steps), the first step being geared to approximately lower secondary school level and the final step to tertiary entrance standard. Keyboard will have eight steps – the four additional steps (termed Fundamental steps) being geared to beginners who may be at primary school age; to instrumentalists wishing to gain keyboard and musicianship skills or to students of any age wishing to commence music study at the earliest level.

CPM entry forms for assessment in October/November this year will be mailed to teachers in June. For a brochure and sample kit please contact the AMEB State Office on [03] 62 26 7317.

Syllabus information

Alterations to Syllabuses in the 1997 Manual:

Clarinet, Saxophone and Recorder

During 1996 the Board completed a minor review of these syllabuses, resulting in some revision of repertoire and technical work requirements. The 1997 Manual includes these changes, and revised editions of the Clarinet and Saxophone Technical Work books will be released this year.

There is a one year changeover period for candidates who have prepared for exams using the syllabus from the 1996 edition of the Manual.

The old and new editions of Technical Work books for Clarinet and Saxophone will be available for use in exams until further notice.

Singing, Guitar, Violoncello and Double Bass

Following evaluation of these new syllabuses during 1996, minor adjustments have been made to lists of repertoire. In the 1997 edition of the Manual these syllabuses appear in their adjusted form. However, there is a one year changeover period for candidates who have prepared for exams using the syllabuses from the 1996 edition of the Manual. The old versions of these syllabuses (Singing – 1992 Manual; Guitar, Violoncello and Double Bass – 1993 Manual) will be withdrawn at the end of 1997. **From 1998 only the syllabuses in the current Manual may be used for exams.**

Trombone and Tuba

At the end of 1996 the old syllabuses in Trombone and Tuba were withdrawn. **From 1997 only the syllabuses in the current Manual are available for exams.**

Brass Band

This syllabus is under major review. It is anticipated that the new syllabus will be available from mid 1997 – to be published in a separate booklet. We will advise of the release of this booklet once all details have been finalised.

Publication News

The following new AMEB publications will be available from leading music retailers during 1997.

- **Clarinet Orchestral and Chamber Music Excerpts** – developed as a result of the minor review, this new publication will contain all the requirements for List D for Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grades of the Clarinet syllabus.
- **Saxophone Grade Books** – a new set of books is in production for First to Fourth grades of the Saxophone syllabus.
- **Contemporary Popular Music (CPM)** – Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 in each of the Fundamental and Advancing Levels of **CPM Keyboard** and Steps 3 and 4 of the Advancing Level of **CPM Bass, Drum Kit, Guitar and Vocal** will be released by mid 1997.

Details of other AMEB publications are printed on the back cover of the 1997 Manual.

Revised editions of Clarinet and Saxophone Technical Work Books – The review of these syllabuses has resulted in a revised edition

Teacher comment invited

During the first years of use, new syllabuses are under evaluation, prior to withdrawal of the old syllabus. At the completion of evaluation, any necessary adjustments are made and one year's notice is given advising of the withdrawal of the old syllabus. Suggestions are welcome on the following new syllabuses which will continue to operate as alternatives to the old syllabuses until evaluation has been completed: **Organ, Euphonium, ATMusA and Percussion**. A comment page can be found in the back of the 1997 Manual. Please return comments to: Reply Paid 1305, AMEB Federal Office, 3/175 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.

of the technical work books to be released early in 1997. Until further notice, candidates may present for exams using either the new or the old edition of these books.

The new edition of the Saxophone Technical Work Book will also require the Oboe technical work to be presented in a separate book from 1997, however Oboe technical work is unchanged.

Violin Technical Work Books – Teachers are advised that both the 1989 and the 1995 editions of this book may be used for exams until further notice.

Cello Technical Work Book – Following evaluation of the Cello syllabus, the technical work will be presented in a new format at the time of reprinting of the technical work book, due later this year. Either edition may be used for exams.

Withdrawal of Series 11 Piano-forte – These publications may be used for list pieces in exams in 1997. At the end of 1997 this series will be withdrawn. From 1998 they may be used only for Extra List study.

Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- 1997 Manual of Syllabuses (Music) \$8.00 + \$5.00 postage
- 1997 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech) \$3.50 + \$1.00 postage
- 1995-1998 Percussion Manual \$5.00 + \$1.25 postage
- Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama Papers \$1.00 + postage (minimum order for mailing – \$4.00)
- Musicianship Cassettes (includes copy of Aural paper) \$3.50 + postage

