



# AMEB NEWS

NEWSLETTER TO TEACHERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN  
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN TASMANIA

## AMEB and TSO stay in tune

Plenty of practising must have taken place in at least seven Hobart homes in 1994 – with seven members of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra playing orchestral parts and their nine children preparing for AMEB exams. The hard work certainly paid off, as all nine were very successful in their exams. Interesting to note that in only one instance did the student play the same instrument as the parent!

Pictured at right are:

- Frits Harmsen, Principal Horn and 15 year old son, Nicholas, Clarinet Grade 6.
- Alan Greenlees, Oboe and 14 year old son, Felix, Bassoon Grade 5.
- Robert Clark, Principal Bass Trombone and 8 year old son, Heath, Violin Preliminary, and 15 year old daughter, Christina, Piano Grade 5.
- Cherelle MacInnes, Principal Violin and 10 year old daughter,



Photo courtesy of *The Mercury*, Hobart

- Louise, Piano Grade 2.
- Bruce Lamont, Principal Trumpet and 10 year old twins, Luke, Trumpet Grade 2, and Joanne, Piano Grade 3.
- Joseph Ortuso, Principal Oboe and 17 year old son, Anthony,

Piano Associate Diploma.

- Duncan Abercromby, Principal Clarinet and 7 year old daughter, Kirsten, Piano Preliminary.
- AMEB State Chairperson, Professor Simone de Haan.

## Message from the State Chairperson

1995 promises to be a year of further exciting changes for the AMEB. The pattern was set in 1994 when the AMEB took a new direction by including jazz-style pieces in the Piano syllabus, and revitalized the Violin syllabus by publishing a new series of Violin Grade Books researched and edited by Conservatorium Lecturer, Lyndal Edmiston.

In this my third year as State Chairperson of the AMEB, we will be introducing three brand new syllabuses, extending our range of

Grade Books, and giving students in Brass and Woodwind the opportunity of playing works in a jazz idiom. The release later in the year of Contemporary Popular Music material will mark the beginning of a new musical era for the AMEB.

One of the reasons for introducing contemporary and popular works into our syllabuses is that the AMEB believes it will assist us as teachers in one of our primary roles – that of instilling in our students a love of performance. If a student likes a

piece and is able to relate to it, he/she will be eager to play it. We, as teachers, can further aid our students' development by ensuring that they have regular opportunities to perform in front of people – not necessarily a formal audience. They will gradually learn to overcome their nerves, so that when exam time arrives they will actually be able to enjoy the experience. Students should view the exam as another opportunity to do – what all musi-

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cians love to do – perform! The difference between an exam and an everyday performance is that students have the benefit of receiving, by means of the exam report, feedback on their progress from a specialist on their particular instrument. Often students tend to overlook the exam report in their concern about the actual result awarded. However it is the *report* which provides guidance about how they might improve all aspects, both technical and musical, of their future performances.

In 1995 both the AMEB and the Conservatorium will continue to assist teachers in becoming familiar with new works and the latest teaching strategies, by offering a range of Workshops and Concerts. In this respect, I am pleased to announce the inaugural Hobart New Music Festival from 25 March to 8 April which will focus especially on contemporary music and new jazz.

With best wishes for the new performing year!

**Simone de Haan**

## Survey on timing of written exams

Thank you to the teachers who participated in last year's national survey on the timing of written exams. The majority of responses indicated that the current exam sessions of May and August are suitable.

By demand, from 1995 Associate Diploma Theoretical and Musicianship exams will be available in the May Series as well as in the August Series.



## Special Graduation Ceremony

On 22 May last year, the AMEB held a special Graduation Ceremony at the Conservatorium of Music to recognise publicly those candidates who, over the years, were awarded Associate or Licentiate Diplomas.

The occasion was arranged particularly to mark the award of such Diplomas in 1993, the AMEB's 75th Anniversary year. The 1993 Graduates were presented to the Federal Chairperson of the Board, Professor David Tunley of the University of Western Australia, by the AMEB's National Manager, Miss Ann Blore. Graduates from as far back as 1938 (including 8 current members of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra) also participated and received a special commemorative certificate.

A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the AMEB's new award, the Honorary Fellowship in Music Australia (Hon.F.Mus.A.) to Jan Sedivka for his outstanding contribution to the working of the Board over many years. During his long term as Director of the Conservatorium, Jan Sedivka was Chairperson of the Tasmanian State Committee and Federal Chairperson of the AMEB for a number of years.

Pictured (above) at the Ceremony are: Sir Guy Green, Chancellor, University of Tasmania; Professor Simone de Haan, AMEB Tasmanian State Chairperson and Head, Conservatorium of Music; Professor David Tunley, AMEB Federal Chairperson; Dr Jan Sedivka, recipient of Honorary Fellowship in Music, Australia; Mr John Beswick, Tasmanian Minister for Education & the Arts.



## AMEB enquiries

For enquiries, contact Marita Crothers, State Manager, AMEB, GPO Box 252C, Hobart 7001, Telephone: (002) 21 7317, Facsimile: (002) 21 7318.

## Workshops 1995

Piano Teachers! Don't miss this! An AMEB Workshop by *Christopher Norton*, composer of many of the new List E Jazz-style piano pieces. This exciting workshop will be held in the Recital Hall, Conservatorium of Music, 5-7 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart, on Thursday 30 March 1995, 7.00 pm-10.00 pm. Christopher will concentrate on two or three List E pieces from each grade and give a practical demonstration on all aspects of teaching the pieces. You will also have the opportunity to buy music from the Microjazz series at a discount and to see the latest in digital keyboards. Entry fee \$5.00. Door sales only.

For Violinists, *Lyndal Edmiston*, Lecturer at the Conservatorium, will present a Workshop on Sunday 9 April from 1.30 pm-4.00 pm in the Conservatorium Recital Hall. Lyndal will focus on the new Series 6 Violin Grade Books for which she was Editorial Consultant. In particular, she will demonstrate and discuss teaching strategies in relation to less well-known pieces in the upper grades. Participation by young violinists will be most welcome. Further details will be provided nearer the date.



Jazz musician and lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts, Paul Grabowsky, gives Conservatorium Masters student, Gabriella Smart, hints on playing AMEB List E pieces at last year's Workshop organised by Pipeline.

## Associates of Musical Note

There were two particularly noteworthy candidates of the eleven who gained their A.Mus.A. diplomas in 1994 – Phoebe Tenniswood of Hobart and Anne Lee-Archer of Launceston.



Phoebe Tenniswood

For Phoebe 1994 was an extremely successful year – not only did she gain honours in both her 8th Grade Violin and 5th Grade Musicianship exams, but at only 14 years of age she became one of the youngest students to be awarded her Associate Diploma. As well as performing in the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra and local eisteddfods, Phoebe played in an orchestra formed for the "Composing Women's Festival" in Mel-



Anne Lee-Archer (photo courtesy of *The Examiner*, Launceston)

bourne (1994). Two of Phoebe's four sisters, plus her mother, also have their A.Mus.A. Phoebe's teacher is Imogen Lidgett of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

Anne Lee-Archer made musical history in 1994 by becoming the first Tasmanian candidate to gain her Associate Diploma in Electronic Organ. In her exam, Anne played 7 pieces including one of her own compositions "Impact". In addition, Anne was required to improvise a melody and accompaniment of 16 bars from a 2-bar melodic motif with melodic rhythm given throughout. Anne has been learning the organ since she was five years old and also plays piano and violin.

A second year Commerce student at the University of Tasmania, Anne is a pupil of Mrs L. Luttrell of Launceston.

## Diploma Prerequisites

From 1995, candidates with a degree or diploma in music from recognized tertiary institutions may use these qualifications as

alternative prerequisites/additional requirements for Associate and Licentiate music exams. See Reg. 19 page 9 of 1995 Manual.

# Syllabus changes and developments

## New Syllabuses:

**Piano Accompaniment** The 1995 Manual contains the new Associate and Licentiate diploma syllabuses in Pianoforte Accompaniment. Candidates present a recital programme with an associate artist using works from the current vocal or instrumental syllabuses as well as fast learning and *vive voce* sections. Good accompanists are highly sought after by the musical community, and working towards these new diplomas will provide the candidate with a background of invaluable experience.

**Percussion** Level 1 of this exciting new syllabus will be available in booklet form from the AMEB State Office later this year.

**A.T.Mus.A.** Candidates intent on a music teaching career will look forward to the release of the new Associate Diploma in Music Teaching later in 1995. This syllabus will be available initially in booklet form from the AMEB State Office.

**Organ** A new syllabus in Organ will be available for examination in 1996. The current syllabus in the 1995 Manual may be used until notice of withdrawal is given.

**Speech in Action** Speech in Action, a syllabus designed to develop communication skills, will be adjusted in the 1996 Manual to include a higher level – the Certificate of Speech in Action. The pre-requisite for this award is Level 7 Speech in Action at credit or B grading.

## Alterations to Syllabuses in the 1995 Manual:

**Horn and Trumpet** The Horn and Trumpet syllabuses in the 1995 Manual include alterations made as a result of the evaluation of these new syllabuses. Advice from teachers and candidates throughout Australia has assisted the AMEB in ensuring that the syllabuses meet the needs of us-

ers. Out of print works have been deleted and some list works have been changed in response to advice from teachers on suitability and grading. *In Trumpet at Fifth and Sixth Grades List D has been altered so that candidates have the opportunity to present either an orchestral excerpt or a work in jazz style.*

In view of these changes, teachers should check the syllabuses carefully when preparing candidates for examination. *The old syllabuses from the 1991 Manual will be withdrawn at the end of 1995.*

**Pianoforte** Minor corrections have been made to the Pianoforte syllabus as a result of the introduction in 1994 of List E works. Some pieces have been regraded as a result of input from teachers. Teachers should note that from 1995 only the works listed in the Manual may be presented for examination.

**Violin** The Violin syllabus has been adjusted as a result of the minor review during 1993/94. Several changes have been made to list works – regrading of some items, removal of out of print works and some additions.

Some changes have also been made to the technical work requirements. These are included in a new edition of the Violin Technical Work Book. However, in 1995, candidates may use either the current technical work book or the new edition.

## Teacher comment invited

Suggestions and comments are welcome on the following new syllabuses which will continue to operate as alternatives to the old syllabus until evaluation has been completed: **Guitar, Cello, Double Bass, Trombone, Tuba, and Singing.** Please write to the Music Consultant, AMEB Federal Office, 3/175 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.

# Publication News

The following new AMEB publications will be available from leading music retailers during 1995 –

- **Violin Technical Work Book** – this new edition will include minor revisions to the requirements. A new colour cover will distinguish it from the earlier edition. During 1995 candidates may use either the old or the new edition for examination purposes. At the end of 1995 the old edition will be withdrawn.
- **Grade Books for Level 1 of the Guitar, Singing & Cello Syllabuses.**
- **Contemporary Popular Music publications for courses in Drum Kit, Guitar, Bass and Vocal** – for examination from 1996.

Details of other AMEB publications are printed on the back cover of the 1995 Manual. Piano Teachers will be pleased that a revised edition of *Scales and Arpeggios for the Pianoforte* was released in mid-1994. It contains the adjusted triad requirement included in the revised Piano syllabus from 1994.

## Publication Errata

For details of errors and adjustments in the *Cello Technical Work Book* and Third Grade *Trumpet Syllabus*, please refer to the **Information Sheet for Teachers and Candidates** which accompanies the 1995 Entry Form.

## Publications available from the AMEB State Office:

- 1995 Manual of Syllabuses (Music) \$7.00 + \$2.50 postage.
- 1995 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech) – all Speech and Drama syllabuses are now published in a separate Manual \$3.50 + \$0.85 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.