



## Upbeat Angus!

For Angus Tarnawsky of Launceston, sitting his AMEB exam was just another opportunity to do what he loves best – play drums. At only 14 years of age, Angus is already a veteran performer: he has his own cover band 'Friction' which regularly plays gigs around town: he is a member of the Prospect High School Stage Band, a school rock band, the Newstead College Drum Ensemble, and the University Concert Band. In 2001 he won third place in Australia's Best Up and Coming Junior Drummers' Competition held in Victoria.

For his assessment at Advancing Step 3 level, Angus was required to play two set works and three free choice pieces in a variety of modern styles from Rock, Jazz, Latin, etc. He played two of his pieces with three 'live' musicians, and the remaining three works with the backing CD provided with the CPM course book. In addition, Angus was tested on technical, aural and reading skills, as well as improvisation. Drum Kit Examiner, Eric Johnstone of Hobart, was most impressed with Angus' polished and mature performance, and predicts that he will develop into a first class musician. Currently a student of Steve Sowerby of Trevallyn, Angus is planning to continue his music studies at tertiary level.



Angus Tarnawsky (Photo courtesy of *The Examiner*)

## Message from the State Chairperson

Many of you will be aware that the Board is currently reviewing our Theory of Music and Musicianship syllabuses. As Chairperson of the Syllabus Committee responsible for this review, I would like to inform you of our progress to date. Almost 600 teachers, parents, examiners, academics and students have registered as

'stakeholders' to participate in the review and have been given the opportunity to respond to draft documents. Arising out of consultations via the web and mail, several points have become evident, namely:

- The Theory and Musicianship syllabuses should be combined to form one written syllabus.

- Aural testing is essential to musical learning and should commence from the earliest grades.
- The 'memorisation tunes' should be removed from the combined syllabus.
- An approachable introduction to basic contrapuntal concepts should be introduced in the earlier grades.

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## Message from the State

### Chairperson *(Continued from page 1)*

A draft syllabus incorporating these principles has been mailed to all registered stakeholders for input and comment. The resulting data will be framed into the final syllabus document and presented to the Board for approval. Consideration is also being given to practical matters, such as modes of delivery, length of exams, etc.

Prior to its introduction, the new syllabus will be field-tested, and comprehensive information sessions and workshops will be held for teachers. In line with usual practice, the current Theory of Music and Musicianship syllabuses will run concurrently with the new syllabus for a period of at least three years. On behalf of the Syllabus Committee, I would like to thank all those teachers who have provided valuable feedback to our proposals. I will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

We are also seeking to reach out to a broader student base this year and our State Marketing Committee has developed some wonderful projects to lift the presence and profile of the AMEB throughout the State.

Following on from last year's successful Examiners' Seminar with the very engaging Donald Thornton, we

will continue to present useful, informative and fun workshops for examiners led by national authorities in the field.

We look forward to an exciting year at the AMEB and hope you will be in touch with us over any issue that concerns or interests you. Best Wishes for the new teaching year!

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

## Graduation Ceremony

We first featured Kate Zappner of Burnie in our Newsletter in 1994 when as an eight year old she gained a High Distinction for Second Grade Piano exam and won seven prizes in the Burnie Eisteddfod. Since gaining Honours for Preliminary Piano in 1991 when she was only six, Kate has progressed through each grade (including Grade 8) achieving nothing less than Honours or a High Distinction. In addition, she won the AMEB Seventh Grade Piano Award (sponsored by the TMTA) in 1996, and gained Honours for Fourth Grade Cello in 1998. Kate is pictured (below) at the University of Tasmania's Graduation

Ceremony held in Hobart on 10 August last year after receiving her AMusA Diploma in Piano. With Kate are proud parents — Eva Zappner, well known Burnie piano teacher, and Viktor Zappner, one of Australia's leading jazz pianists.

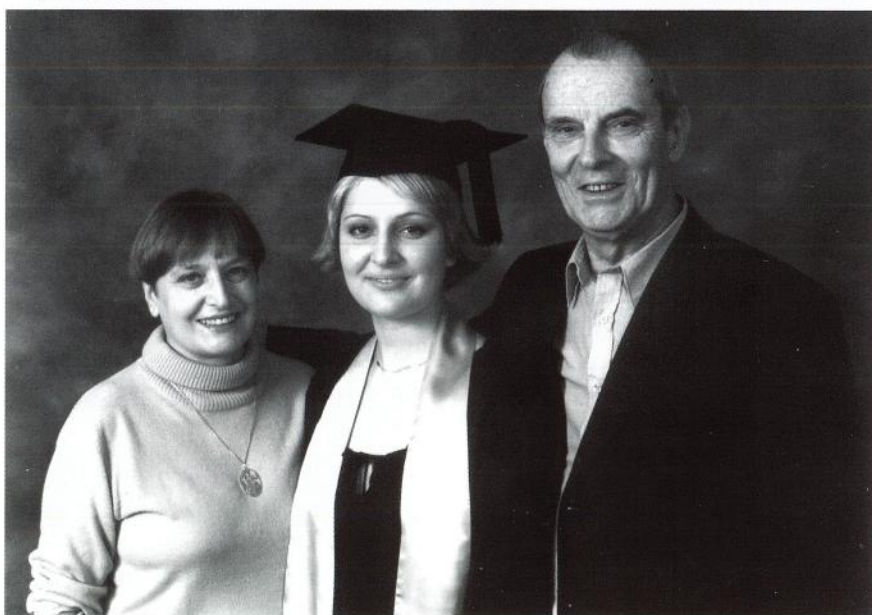
## Piano for Leisure



**Sonya Wellby of Lindisfarne (photo courtesy of *The Mercury*).**

AMEB's new popular piano syllabus Piano for Leisure is proving a winner with all age groups. This exciting syllabus gives candidates the opportunity to play own choice works, well-loved classical and jazz standards, as well as arrangements of movie themes and popular songs.

In her first AMEB exam, twelve-year-old Sonya Wellby of Lindisfarne gained a High Distinction for Second Grade Piano for Leisure. Sonya received a first-rate report from Examiner, Petr Divis, who described her playing as 'always engaging and stylish' and commended her on her musical understanding, technical skill and memory work. She is a pupil of Enid Wellington. As well as learning piano, Sonya plays saxophone in the school band at Lindisfarne North Primary, and also writes her own compositions!



**Kate Zappner with her parents, Eva and Viktor Zappner at her graduation ceremony.**

## AMEB/AUSTA Violin Workshop 2002

On 14 April 2002, Examiner, Marina Phillips presented a Workshop for Teachers on our new Violin Syllabus. Pictured (below) performing at the Workshop is five-year-old Stephanie Roberts-Thomson of Hobart.



Stephanie Roberts-Thomson.

## Drum Kit Workshop 2003

A Workshop for Drum Kit students will be presented by Examiner, Eric Johnstone, at Newstead College Studio from 12 noon-1.30 pm on Saturday 5 April. Eric will talk about preparing for AMEB exams and the standard of performance expected. In addition, students will have the opportunity to perform and gain valuable feedback. Teachers, parents and students are all welcome.

## Awards sponsored by TMTA

The \$100 AMEB Seventh Grade Pianoforte Award was shared between: Shantelle Rodman, pupil of Lyn Loudon of Burnie, and Ronald Chan, pupil of Margaret Cover of Norwood.

The winner of the \$100 *Jennifer Filby Memorial Award* for the best candidate in AMEB Fifth Grade Theory or Musicianship was Rachel Every, pupil of Jody Heald of Hobart.



AMEB Seventh Grade Pianoforte Award joint winners, Shantelle Rodman (above – photo courtesy of K. Williams and *The Advocate*) and Ronald Chan (below).



Rachel Every, winner of the *Jennifer Filby Memorial Award*.

## Exam Preparation

Your responsibilities as a teacher:

- Have a copy of the current Manual of Syllabuses. Note: a Grade Book is not a syllabus.
- Familiarize yourself with the General Requirements and Regulations in the front section of the Manual as these may change from year to year.
- Select the grade and works that are suited to your student.
- Double-check that the works selected are included in the syllabus and in the correct List.
- Stress importance of all sections of the exam – Technical Work (fluently and up to tempo), Studies and Pieces, Aural Tests, Sight Reading and General Knowledge as per syllabus.
- Remember to enter the student for the exam by the due date.
- Make sure that your student has listed the works on the back of the exam notice.
- Ensure that the exam notice and original copies of AMEB works are brought to the exam.
- Tell your student to erase from the music all pencil marks relating to general knowledge.
- Provide an accompanist, where applicable.
- Encourage your student to present neatly, speak clearly and maintain good performance posture.
- Accustom your student to performing in front of an audience.

### AMEB enquiries

For enquiries or additional copies of this Newsletter, contact:

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## Syllabus information

### Violin

The Violin syllabus published in the 2003 Manual (first appearing in the 2002 Manual, and hereafter referred to as 'new syllabus') is offered as an alternative to the Violin syllabus published in the 2001 Manual (first appearing in the 1995 Manual, and hereafter referred to as 'old syllabus').

In 2003, candidates may choose to present for examination using either of these syllabuses. Although it is normally not permissible to present for examination using a combination of old and new syllabuses, **until further notice the technical work set out for the old syllabus will be available as an option to be used in conjunction with the new syllabus.** For all other Sections of the syllabuses (including Section II Studies and Pieces) it is still NOT possible to present for examination using a combination of the old and new syllabuses.

### Violin Technical Work Books

All technical work requirements are set out in the AMEB publication Violin Technical Work Book Level 1 and Violin Technical Work Book Level 2 (Allans, 2001). These books can be used with the new syllabus only.

The Violin Technical Work Book (1995) is for use with the old syllabus and, until further notice, it may also be used with the new syllabus.

### Violin Grade Books:

- Series 7 may be used for the 2002 (new) syllabus only.
- Series 6 may be used for both the 2001 (old) and 2002 (new) syllabuses.
- Series 5 may be used for the 2001 (old) syllabus only.

## Withdrawal of syllabuses

### Pianoforte and Brass Band

At the end of 2002, the Pianoforte syllabus appearing in the 1999 Manual of Syllabuses was withdrawn from examination. From 2003, only the Piano syllabus appearing in the current Manual of Syllabuses may be used for examinations.

At the end of 2002 the Brass Band Instruments Syllabuses appearing in the 1997 Manual was withdrawn from examination. From 2003, only the Band syllabus in the current Manual of Syllabuses may be used in examinations.

## Publication News

### New Releases

#### Piano

Piano Series 15 grade books (Preliminary to Seventh Grades) were released in November 2002 and have been prepared for the current Piano syllabus. Piano Series 15 CD recordings and handbooks to accompany this new series will also be issued during 2003.

Australian Piano Anthology (Level 1) was released in January this year. It complements the Level 2 Anthology which was released in 2001 and focuses on works by Australian composers for Preliminary to Fourth Grade in the Piano syllabus.

#### Piano for Leisure

CD recordings to accompany the Piano for Leisure grade books were released in 2002 and covered Fifth to Eighth Grades.

CD recordings to complement the Level 1 grade books (Preliminary to Fourth Grades) will be issued during 2003.

#### Violin

CD recordings and handbooks to accompany the Violin Series 7 grade books were released in 2002.

#### Aural Tests/CD recordings

An Aural Tests and 6-CD recording package was released in 2002 to assist candidates in the preparation of Section III requirements of the practical examination.

#### Notation Handbook

This publication was issued by authority of the Board in 2002. 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 is available from this office for \$8.00 plus postage.

#### Induction Tests

This year, Induction Tests will be available for Keyboard (Piano) as well as Violin. Suitable for students aged four and over, the tests comprise basic technical work, aural tests and general knowledge, plus any two pieces in Simple Triple Time and Simple Quadruple Time. Candidates will receive a report, a participation certificate and a special incentive!

## Publication Withdrawals

### Confirmation of withdrawal

#### Piano

At the end of 2002 the following publications were withdrawn from examination

- Pianoforte Baroque First and Second Grades (1991)
- Pianoforte Baroque Third and Fourth Grades (1991)
- Pianoforte Studies First and Second Grades (1991)
- Pianoforte Studies Third and Fourth Grades (1991)

### Notice of withdrawal

The Federal Board of the AMEB has approved the extended use of the Series 12 publications for examination with the Piano syllabus as follows:

#### Piano Series 12

At the end of 2003, works listed in the 2003 Manual of Syllabuses from Piano Series 12 Grade Books will be withdrawn from examination.

### Advanced Notice of withdrawal

The Federal Board of the AMEB has approved the extended use of the Series 13 publications for examination with the Piano syllabus as follows:

#### Piano Series 13

At the end of 2004, works listed in the 2003 Manual of Syllabuses from Piano Series 13 Grade Books will be withdrawn from examination.

### Syllabuses available as free downloads 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:

- 2003 Manual of Syllabuses (Music) \$10.00 + postage
- 2003-2004 Manual of Syllabuses (Speech) \$8.00 + postage
- Induction Tests: Strings and Keyboard No charge
- Theory of Music, Musicianship and Speech & Drama Papers \$2.00 + postage (minimum order for mailing - \$5.00)
- Musicianship Cassettes Postage only
- Notation Handbook – An Essential Guide to Music Notation Practice \$8.00 + postage

\*All prices quoted are GST inclusive