



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN NSW

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CONTENTS:

- The year ahead
- CPM to Rock Presentation Ceremony 2008
- Don't Forget to Vote!
- New Series Books Launched
- 2008 News from Federal Office
- Thank You from Marie
- Other Staff News
- Useful Website Links

The year ahead

In response to teacher feedback and enhanced technology the AMEB (NSW) has been able to extend closing dates for most examination series in 2008. The Second Metropolitan Series will have two closing dates, 13 June for Period 1 and Period 2 examinations and 1 August for Period 3, Period 4 and Period 5 examinations. However enrolments for any transfers from one postcode period to another, either earlier or later than the advertised periods, must be received by 13 June. The *2008 Teachers' Handbook* contains full details.

Examination studio space is now at a premium in Sydney and the AMEB (NSW) has been experiencing increasing difficulty in finding sufficient suitable venues. We are therefore embarking on an exciting new venture and will build a number of new purpose built examination studios on Level 8 of 117 Clarence Street for weekday and Saturday examinations. All studios will have new pianos and the space will also include a communal warm-up room that will be available to candidates only. Teachers, accompanists, parents, siblings, friends, etc will not be permitted to use this room. The new studios will be built during 2008 and should be available for examinations by the First Metropolitan Series in 2009. These studios will be in addition to the three already in use on Level 6.

The studios will be fully utilised each Saturday throughout the First and Second Metropolitan Series but some studios will be available for hire during the week. Further details will be included in the July 2008 Newsletter.

We are always keen to receive feedback from teachers and have therefore included a Client Survey in your information package. Please take time to complete this Survey to let us know what you think about the AMEB (NSW) service and to provide us with suggestions on how you would like to see it improved.

Ballot papers for the election of Private Music representative to the AMEB (NSW) Board are enclosed in this package. All teachers who have entered at least one candidate in 2006 and/or 2007, other than yourself, are eligible to vote and we encourage you to participate in the election progress.

Please note that the AMEB (NSW) will be closed from Monday 24 December to Tuesday 1 January inclusive. We look forward to the events in store for AMEB (NSW) in 2008 and hope that it proves to be a prosperous and rewarding year for you and your students.

CPM to Rock Presentation Ceremony 2008

The annual Presentation Ceremony for successful diploma candidates will be held at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium on Sunday, 9 March, 2008.

For the first time, our outstanding CPM candidates will also contribute to the events of the day with performances in the foyer before the ceremony to add to the celebratory atmosphere.

The AMEB (NSW) CPM Adviser, Michael Barkl, had this to say: 'This is a great recognition for CPM in its 10th Anniversary year of being an integral and innovative part of the AMEB system. It is also a great opportunity for diplomates and guests to see more of the range of the AMEB syllabuses and for our Contemporary Popular Music candidates to show what they can do. Perhaps more importantly, it'll make graduation more fun!'

The Ceremony itself will feature performances by outstanding diplomates from both Music and Speech and Drama exams held in 2007. Our guest presenter will be Wendy Lorenz, an acclaimed pianist who has performed extensively overseas and as soloist with many of Australia's leading orchestras. Wendy was the Federal examiner for the 2007 LMusA and FMusA examinations in NSW and also presided over these examinations in Keyboard and Voice in 2006. As an AMEB examiner since 1999, Wendy has also examined extensively in Queensland and for federal examinations in other States.



SYLLABUSES

New Syllabuses

Singing for Leisure and Saxophone for Leisure

Following the successful pilot in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, these syllabuses have been revised and the AMEB is pleased to announce their national release. The revised syllabuses replace the pilot syllabuses. Grade Books, Level 1 (Preliminary to Grade 4) are also being released with these new syllabuses (see Forthcoming Publication Releases in this Newsletter).

Please note that from 2008 only the revised syllabuses as set out in the *2008 Manual of Syllabuses* will be examinable.

Reviews

Cello and Singing

These two syllabuses are being reviewed during 2007 and 2008. Regular updates will be posted on the AMEB Federal Office website as Federal Office progresses through the review process. Please check www.ameb.edu.au for the latest news on these reviews.

Harp

A literature review of the Harp syllabus will be undertaken during 2007 and 2008.

Music Craft

Following the successful release of Music Craft Level 1, the Federal Board has undertaken to extend the Music Craft syllabus into Level 2 by developing Grades 5 and 6 of this syllabus. Please check www.ameb.edu.au for further information, and to contribute to the development of this syllabus.

Bassoon

A review of this syllabus will commence in the second half of 2008. Regular updates will be posted on the AMEB Federal Office website during 2008 and 2009. Please check www.ameb.edu.au after July 2008 for the latest news on this review.

General Syllabus News

Theory of Music and Musicianship

The Federal Board has authorised a number of changes to the Theory of Music and Musicianship syllabuses, which will take effect from 2009. *During 2008, only the current syllabus structure will be examined.* From 2009, only the new syllabus structure (including new Set Works) will be examined. One year's notice is hereby given of the changes to these syllabuses.

The works set for study in each grade (Set Works or Folk Tunes) are to be changed from 2009. During 2008, only the works currently set for study will be examined. From 2009, only the new Set Works or Folk Tunes will be examined. One year's notice is hereby given of the withdrawal of the pre-existing Set Works and Folk Tunes. The new Set Works for 2009 and beyond, together with other changes relating to Theory of Music and Musicianship are contained in the *2008 Manual of Syllabuses*.

Theory of Music

The Federal Board has authorised the deletion of pianoforte-style harmonisation from Grade 3 and Grade 4 Theory of Music Harmony to take effect from 2009. From 2009, candidates in Grade 3 and Grade 4 Theory will only be required to harmonise in four-part vocal style. During 2008, candidates in Grade 3 and Grade 4 Theory of Music examinations may be asked to harmonise in either pianoforte or four-part vocal style.

Saxophone

The Saxophone syllabus prescribes the playing of orchestral excerpts for List D in Grades 6–8 from *The Orchestral Saxophonist* (ed. Ronkin and Frascotti). Candidates who are unable to obtain access to this publication, or who do not wish to perform orchestral excerpts, may select a further work from any of Lists A, B or C to present at examination in place in List D.

Certificate of Performance

Level 2 of some syllabuses has been capped with an award called 'Certificate of Completion'. From 2008, this award will be called 'Certificate of Performance'.

General Knowledge Tests

The Board has amended General Knowledge Tests – Level 2 to include Certificate of Performance.

Note that the wording of the Guidelines has been modified in order to exclude Extra Lists from the General Knowledge requirements. General Knowledge questions cannot be asked about Extra List works. Only works in Lists A, B, C and D (where applicable) may be used as the basis for General Knowledge questions.

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Useful website links

Not all of us get the opportunity to 'surf the net' for hours on end, so we have compiled a list of some useful website links that may assist you in preparing your students for AMEB examinations.

From the AMEB (NSW) website

AMEB CONNECT

This website feature allows examiners and teachers (and candidates if you wish) to access their own enrolment details and timetable information. If you are a teacher you will be able to check that your enrolment forms have been processed and the money banked, see when your candidates have been scheduled for their examinations, check for any errors, download copies of the Letter of Confirmation and Notice of Enrolment, and view candidates' results.

<http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/connect/index.html>

AMEB (NSW) POLICIES

This link provides details of the Special Needs Policy, grades for certification and much more

<http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/exams/policyindex.html>

AMEB (NSW) PUBLICATIONS FOR PURCHASE

Download this form and send it to us to order the 2008 Manual of Music Syllabuses, past written papers or many other useful AMEB resources.

<http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/publications/index.html>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Print and keep this handy link – it may save you a phone call!

<http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/about/faqs.html>

PREPARATION FOR DIPLOMA EXAMS

This is a concise 'checklist' for teachers and diploma candidates to help them most effectively prepare for Diploma examinations

http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/support/diploma_prep.html

WRITTEN EXAMINATION REPORTS

These are the reports as submitted by Written examiners who have marked each August Written paper for Musicianship, Theory of Music and Music Craft. Consulting these reports will prove a useful tool when preparing for an upcoming written examination, or for working through past papers whilst studying in order to avoid the common pitfalls where marks are lost.

http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/support/ass_reports.html

From other websites

AMCOS FORM 3

Download and print copies of Form No. 3 on Page 21 of this link if you intend to use photocopied music in an examination (for example, to avoid page-turning)

http://www.amcos.com.au/music-users/downloads/printmusic_2006.pdf

CHECKLIST FOR VIOLIN TECHNICAL WORK SHEETS

A handy grade-by-grade guide put together by one of WA's String Examiners

[http://www.ameb.uwa.edu.au/ameb\(wa\)_violin_checklists](http://www.ameb.uwa.edu.au/ameb(wa)_violin_checklists)

CPM (Contemporary Popular Music) SYLLABUS

Free downloadable versions of all of the CPM syllabuses can be found from this link :

<http://www.ameb.edu.au/cpm/cpm.html>

FEEDBACK FOR SINGING AND CELLO SYLLABUSES

Feel free to visit the Federal AMEB survey page and provide any helpful input regarding how to better the above syllabuses.


<http://www.ameb.edu.au/surveys/surveys.html>

MUSIC CRAFT

Free downloadable sample test papers for Preliminary to Fourth Grade, as well as many other helpful Music Craft resources can be found here :

<http://www.ameb.edu.au/musiccraft/index.html>

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