



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN NSW

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July 2008

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State Manager's Message

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2008. This is my first year as AMEB (NSW) State Manager although, as many of you will be aware, I have been with the AMEB for over a decade in a variety of capacities, most recently as AMEB (NSW) Office Manager.

My appointment takes place due to Marion Sinclair's retirement in January of this year. We wish Marion every happiness in her retirement – which has already seen her take a trek to China to hold a panda, among other memorable moments.

My history with the AMEB provides me with an understanding of the goals and challenges of this organisation. I certainly welcome this opportunity as State Manager to continue to contribute to its growth.

In 2008, we will finally unveil 10 shiny new examination rooms on Level 8 of our Clarence Street headquarters. We urge you to take advantage of hiring these facilities subject to their availability. Our current Level 6 examination rooms will also be available for hire during non-examination times and even during examination periods in the mornings and late afternoons. Please see the back page of this newsletter for further information or to submit your expression of interest.



Day, which is set to provide many challenges to the Sydney CBD and surrounding areas during July.

By now many instrumental and singing teachers will be aware of the reduction to the Extra List requirements for Grades 2–7. Please see the Federal News for confirmation of this syllabus change, together with a complete listing of the new Set Works that will be examinable for Musicianship and Theory of Music Grades from May 2009.

We wish you and your students every success with your examinations in 2008.

NEAL CROCKER
AMEB (NSW) STATE MANAGER

We know many of you look forward to the Winter Teachers' Festival that we hold in conjunction with the Open Academy at the Sydney Conservatorium each July. Unfortunately, this year the event will not take place because it clashes with Sydney's hosting of World Youth

Winners of 2007 AMEB (NSW) Shields

Private Teacher Pianoforte Category <i>Preliminary to Sixth Grade</i>	Pamela Hinde
Private Teacher Pianoforte Category <i>Seventh Grade to Licentiate</i>	Neta Maughan
Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category <i>Preliminary to Sixth Grade</i>	Jocelyn Fazzone
Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category <i>Seventh Grade to Licentiate</i>	Alex Todicescu
Private Teacher Written Category <i>First to Fourth Grade</i>	AMS Randwick
Private Teacher Written Category <i>Fifth Grade to Licentiate</i>	Lesley Hogben
Private Teacher Speech Category <i>Preliminary to Fifth Grade</i>	Moira Gibson
Private Teacher Speech Category <i>Sixth Grade to Licentiate</i>	Victoria Clancy
Schools Category	Sydney Grammar
Award commemorating 25 years of examining	Frances Bell

AMEB (NSW) BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the election which closed on 21 December 2007 are:

Private Speech and Drama Teacher Representative

Victoria Clancy

Private Music Teacher Representatives

Rita Crews, Anne Harvey, William Clark

Examiner Representatives

Richard Morphew, Lyn Morgan

Congratulations to our new appointee, Lyn Morgan, along with all incumbents. We welcome Lyn Morgan as the newest addition to the AMEB (NSW) Board.

Dorothy Cook

TMusA, LMusA

1929–2007



Dorothy passed away on Tuesday 11 December 2007. A teacher of piano, singing and theory since her teenage years, Dorothy studied at the Sydney Conservatorium and went on to teach music and train choirs at many schools throughout Sydney.

One of her past students, Ann Grout-Smith, recalls a lovely memory of her teacher: 'she always took her students into the Conservatorium to sit for their exams. Before we started our walk to the Conservatorium, Dorothy would take the children to St Mary's Cathedral so they could light a candle and say a prayer to help with their exams.'

In 2001, Dorothy received a plaque to commemorate 25 years as an examiner with AMEB (NSW). She is remembered as a fabulous music educator who was a caring and enthusiastic teacher and an inspiring role model. Dorothy will be greatly missed by the office staff and her examining colleagues.

Sister Mercedes Houghton

1913–2008



The music community has been saddened to hear of the passing of Sister Mary Mercedes Houghton rsj, who died peacefully in her sleep at St Josephs Convent in North Goulburn on Sunday 4 May 2008.

Sister Mary Mercedes had been an ardent supporter of the AMEB for more than 70 years and she was also a Life Member of the Music Teachers Association. Over her long teaching career, she passed on her passion for teaching to many current teachers and AMEB examiners, all of whom became her close friends. In June 2003, her achievements were celebrated when Sister Mercedes was awarded an OAM for her contribution to music.

She will be sorely missed by all who knew her, including the many AMEB (NSW) examiners she encouraged to 'call in' when on country examining tours.

Extra! Extra!

Ensure you and your students take note of the Extra List amendment reported on pages xii and xiv of the *2008 Manual of Music Syllabuses*. From this year onwards, candidates need to prepare **two Extra List pieces only** in all singing and instrumental syllabuses from Second Grade to Seventh Grade.

Set Works for 2009

The following is a definitive listing of the works set for Theory and Musicianship Grades. This list can also be found on pages xi and xii of the *2008 Manual of Music Syllabuses*, **but please note that the list published in the Manual lacks the appropriate movement designations for Fifth and Sixth Grade Musicianship Set Works**. Please see the amended list below* for these corrections.

Theory of music and musicianship – Level 1

(Grades 1–4 Set Works are all from Brandon, *Fifty folk songs*)

GRADE 1 – Goe from my window goe; I had a little nut tree; The holly and the ivy

GRADE 2 – Where are you going?; London Bridge is broken down; Here we go round the mulberry bush

GRADE 3 – Military song; The lone birch tree; Spanish lady

GRADE 4 – The minstrel boy; Early one morning; British grenadiers

Theory of music – Level 2

GRADE 5

There are traditionally no Set Works for this grade

GRADE 6

Beethoven, *Eroica* Symphony Op. 55 – movements 1 and 2

GRADE 7

Berlioz, *Symphonie fantastique* Op. 14 – movement 1

Stravinsky, *Symphony of psalms* – movement 1

Musicianship – Level 2

GRADE 5*

- Schubert, *Erkönig* D 328 [note that candidates must be prepared to answer questions on this song assuming that the key is G minor, and may use any edition that satisfies this requirement]

■ Vaughan Williams, *The vagabond*

■ Mozart, *String quintet* K 614 – movement 1 only

GRADE 6*

■ Debussy, *Préludes* 1–6 (from the first book of *Préludes*)

■ Brahms, *Piano quartet in C minor* Op. 60 – movement 1 only

GRADE 7

■ Beethoven, *Egmont* overture Op. 84

■ Mozart, *Linz* Symphony K 425 – movements 1 and 2

GRADE 8

■ Stravinsky, *Petrushka* – first tableau/part (Shrovetide fair, The magic trick, Russian dance – may be identified differently in some scores)

■ Strauss, *Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche* TrV 171

Staff news



We welcome our new Senior Administrative Officer, **Maree Lucas**. Prior to her role with AMEB, Maree was an administrator for The Orchestras of Australia Network (TOAN), Marketing Manager for the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and had many years experience at the Sydney Opera House in various roles in Administration and Ticketing Services. Maree has also taught AMEB students and is currently completing her Masters in Arts Management.

Best wishes to our Systems Officer **Joanna Moradiellos** and her husband John, who are expecting the birth of their baby later this month. Annette Brown and Bernadette Gunning will be stepping in for Joanna while she is on maternity leave.

Inside the Annual Examiners' Meeting

Over 160 examiners attended the Annual AMEB (NSW) Examiners' Meeting on the last weekend in March. The program included tutorials relevant to their various categories of expertise, along with discussions about syllabus changes and developments, and a guest lecturer who discussed the power of body language and how that can be perceived and interpreted by both the candidate and the examiner.

We were very pleased to welcome our new intake of examiners for 2008, which included 18 successful examiner applicants ready to commence their training after being accepted following an exhaustive selection and recruitment process.

In addition, we were pleased to induct eight new practical examiners and four new written examiners who have successfully completed their training and are ready for assisting with examinations in the First Written Series and First Metropolitan Series for 2008.

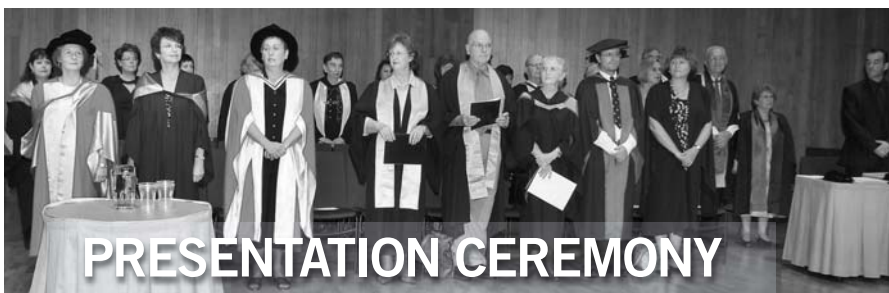
A theme for the 2008 meeting was fostering understanding and integration between our examiners and the AMEB (NSW) office 'engine room'.

To this end, the new State Manager, Mr Neal Crocker, included this explanation in his welcoming address to the examiners: 'Of over 42,000 examinations each year, nearly 35,000 of these are examined by the people in this room in practical examinations. The AMEB (NSW) office has two staff members who have the task of scheduling these 35,000 practical examinations.'

'When creating practical timetables, the schedulers have a report that shows the availability each examiner has provided. Then, within a very tight time frame, these two staff members have to match this with thousands of special requests we receive – such as examining siblings together, requests for morning exams etc, as well as factors such as venue availability and whether an examiner examined the student in the previous session.'

Melinda Rollason, Client Services Officer, then gave a report about the nature of syllabus and examination enquiries fielded by office staff each day.

The examiner meeting was followed by an afternoon tea provided and hosted by the AMEB (NSW) office staff as a gesture of appreciation to our examiners.



Presentation ceremony speaker, examiner Wendy Lorenz

In front of an audience of over 800, 167 candidates received awards this year for their achievements in Speech and Drama or Music during 2007. Shields were also presented to teachers of excellence in nine different categories and to AMEB examiner, Frances Bell, to commemorate 25 years of examining.

Federal examiner and acclaimed pianist, Wendy Lorenz, gave a speech offering great insight into her experiences as a Federal examiner:

'Your success represents a considerable achievement, especially in today's world, where so many young and not so young people expect instant results for a

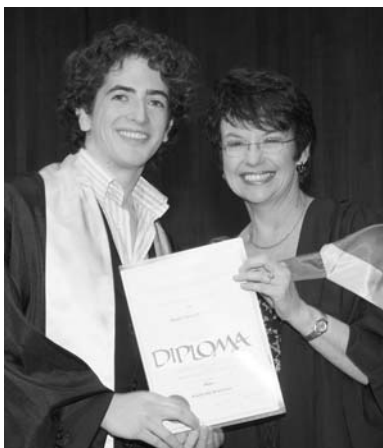
minimum of effort. Thanks to our ever more sophisticated technology, these expectations are often realisable. Such pursuits, however, seldom bring the sense of real achievement and associated personal growth that come from the dedicated effort and striving which has resulted in your achievements which we celebrate today.

'As a federal examiner in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA over the last few years, my fellow examiners and I have been treated to some wonderful music making. Standards were actually fairly consistent across the four states, and whilst the majority of candidates were successful, there were still many, who despite obvious preparation and dedication, did not achieve the award standard.

'This is always disappointing for all involved. One of the crucial factors in achieving success at this level, but an area which is often not grasped, is the fact that **faster is not necessarily better**. Here I am not only referring to "fast" in the literal sense of speed, but also in regard to the advancement from one grade to another. It is always preferable to take more, rather than less time to fully embrace the additional challenges of each successive grade level. This is even more important at the diploma levels, where a sense of musical maturity and understanding is needed to fulfil the requirements of both the repertoire and the syllabus.

'Another major factor which often tips the balance at this level is the failure to realise the essential musical communication behind the notes, which are only symbols, just as words are merely symbols for the ideas they collectively express. In tandem with this is the need to maintain a sense of musical logic, just as one does in the language of words, and never lapse into unrelated sounds – no matter how beautiful or impressively virtuosic they may be. It all boils down to the fact that **music is a language**, no less precise – in fact some would argue infinitely more so – than our spoken language.'

Performances by some of the year's most outstanding Music and Speech and Drama awardees were enjoyed throughout the ceremony. Please visit our website to view some of this wonderful footage: www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/presentation



Daniel Ward accepting his diploma and medal for LMusA with distinction



Georgina Oakes (Clarinet) accompanied by Sorina Zamfir

what's on sydney conservatorium open academy

SYDNEY
CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC



ENCORE 2008

The Annual Encore concert is held in March each year at the Sydney Opera House, showcasing outstanding performances and compositions from the previous year's HSC music students.

The AMEB (NSW) staff who attended were delighted to see so many familiar names in the program! In fact, 18 of the 21 showcased performers who graced the stage have credentials from AMEB (NSW) Grade or Diploma examinations prior to or during their HSC year. This includes young performers and composers who have AMEB certification in piano, strings, brass, woodwind, singing and/or Contemporary Popular Music (CPM) syllabuses.

Congratulations to all of our AMEB alumni – at the tender age of 18 or 19, you can now add well-received performances in the Concert Hall of the Opera House to your impressive resumes.

tertiary jazz pre-audition workshop tues 8 july OR sat 11 oct

Be well informed about the Conservatorium Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) audition requirements and process so you can achieve your personal best result in this highly competitive field.

flute workout day wed 9 july | 9.30 – 5.00 pm

Led by the Sydney Conservatorium's internationally acclaimed flautists Alexa Still (Chair, Woodwind Unit) and James Kortum (Lecturer), this intensive, fun, high-velocity workout will boost your confidence and skills to achieve optimum performance.

nsw flute eisteddfod sun 13 july | 9.00 – 6.00 pm

The NSW Flute Society and the Conservatorium Open Academy invite all flute students to enter the 2008 Flute Eisteddfod to be held at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

hsc revision workshops thurs 17 & fri 18 july | 9.00 – 4.30 pm

Presented by experienced music teachers and HSC examiners, these school holiday workshops are designed to give music students valuable revision and a thorough understanding of the requirements for the HSC music syllabus and examination.

www.music.usyd.edu.au/community

Advertisements:



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The King's School, North Parramatta
13th – 17th July, 2009

Features include international & national presenters, Concerts, Master Classes, Workshops & Presentation of Papers with the latest findings.
Further information is available on the website.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE
Malcolm Bilson (New York)
Rae de Lisle (New Zealand)
William Fong (London)

*To be added to the update list, please contact
the Conference Convenor, Janelle Johnson:*
Email: janellejohnson2@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.appca.com.au
Phone: (02) 9785 2547

THE MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF NSW



How can Membership of our Association benefit you?
As a Member, you have access to:

- Building your studio by our successful referral service
- Accreditation for all instruments and voice
- *The Studio* magazine published quarterly keeping you informed about your profession
- Professional development workshops & conferences
- Junior Music Festivals
- Scholarships and various other benefits.

The Royal Australian Navy Band is holding a concert in aid of the MTA's Benevolent Fund on Sunday 10th August at The King's School, Parramatta.
For further details on the above, please contact the MTA on 02 9570 1436
Email: info@musicnsw.com.au
Website: www.musicnsw.com.au

Clarence Street studios

It is with great excitement that the AMEB (NSW) is expecting completion of 10 new music studios in September 2008. All rooms are solidly sound-proofed and beautifully appointed, equipped with either a new fully tuned upright or grand piano. While they will be used mostly for examinations, some rooms will be available for hire. Prior to completion, we invite those who would like to book (or would like to find out more) to send in their expressions of interest.

Please return this section to the AMEB or email the following details to office@ameb.nsw.edu.au and further information will be sent to you.

Name: _____ Teacher number (opt): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Time of day I would most likely hire a studio:

8.00 – 8.45 am 9.00 am – 1.00 pm 1.00 – 5.30 pm

I am interested in: Occasional hourly hire Regular long-term hire

I would prefer a room with: Upright piano Grand piano

For regular long-term hire, I would be interested in:

Weekly Fortnightly Hourly Half day Full day