



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD IN NSW

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July 2007

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Chairperson's Message

Our guest speaker at this year's graduation ceremony was Gerard Willems, well-known pianist and Head of Keyboard Studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He presented diplomas and awards to candidates, teachers and examiners at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium, University of New South Wales on Sunday 11 March. The event also saw performances from outstanding candidates in piano, violin, cello and speech and drama.

The first Music Craft examinations in New South Wales will be held in August this year. For this year only, Music Craft examinations are free provided candidates enrol in the usual manner.

We were greatly saddened by the death in April of one of our most experienced examiners, Yvonne McKinnon, who was well known to both keyboard and written candidates over a period of 39 years. She will be missed by her colleagues, AMEB (NSW) staff and teachers throughout the State.

The APEC conference will be held in Sydney on Friday 7 September and this will involve a virtual shutdown of the Sydney Metropolitan area on that day and on Saturday 8 September. As a result no AMEB (NSW) examinations will be conducted on 7 September in the central Sydney metropolitan area. Examinations will be scheduled for Penrith.



On Saturday 8 September no examinations will be scheduled at the Clarence Street studios or at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. However, some examinations may be scheduled for areas outside the CBD area. Extra care will be taken to ensure that candidates will not be required to travel through or near the city on that day. Please check with the AMEB if you feel your students' examinations may be affected.

PROFESSOR KIM WALKER
CHAIRPERSON

Winners of 2006 Australian Music Examinations Board Shield

Private Teacher Pianoforte Category

Preliminary to Sixth Grade

Neta Maughan

Private Teacher Pianoforte Category

Seventh Grade to Licentiate

Nikolay Evrov

Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category

Preliminary to Sixth Grade

Louisa Sindel-Marshall

Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category

Seventh Grade to Licentiate

Alex Todicescu

Private Teacher Written Category

First to Fourth Grade

Christine Mah

Private Teacher Written Category

Fifth Grade to Licentiate

Lesley Hogben

Private Teacher Speech Category

Preliminary to Fifth Grade (Joint winners)

Victoria Clancy/Moira Gibson

Private Teacher Speech Category

Sixth Grade to Licentiate

Victoria Clancy

Schools Category

Sydney Grammar School



Examiner news



AMEB (NSW) keyboard examiner **Grant Foster's** *Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra: War; Peace; Love* is being discovered by the world and was chosen to be performed at a Gala Concert in Moscow in May this year.

First recorded in 1986 by the ABC and EMI with the composer as soloist and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, it is now being

performed and re-recorded in Moscow with Mira Yevtich as soloist and The New Russian Orchestra, founded by Yuri Bashmet for the Belair Music label.

For worldwide release, the CD is to be called *The Music of Grant Foster* and will also include Foster's *Celebration Overture; Ballade for Piano and Violin* and *Six Voyages*. Other performances and recordings by top Russian artists are to follow in 2007 and 2008.

In May 2008, Foster's *Owl of Dubai Suite* is having its premiere in Dubai with the Russian Orchestra and then in June, it will be performed and recorded at the St Petersburg Festival.

Beth Willis has been professionally involved in music as a teacher, performer and administrator for over thirty years. Her work with the AMEB (NSW) as Voice Adviser is part of her ongoing commitment to the promotion of community involvement in music.

We heard of a recent honour bestowed upon her and asked her to tell us more :

"My PhD focuses on adolescent changing voice, both boys and girls. Most of our work so far has been on the boys, in particular, the way in which the fundamental frequency of their speaking voice lowers in pitch at this time, and the interaction between this, weight-gain, and the development of their 'breaking voice' or phonational gap (pitches in their voice-range that they can't use). The interaction between these three factors cause vocal instability at this time, and impacts on their ability to sing in tune. It is surprising how little work had been done on this. Last year, we had a major article accepted by 'Journal of Voice' .

My supervisor, Dianna Kenny, Director of the Australian Centre for Applied Research in Music Performance (ACARMP), then submitted two abstracts on this work to the 'Conference on Interdisciplinary Musicology 2007' (CIM07) to be held in Tallinn, Estonia in August, which this year is focusing on singing."

We are pleased to report that both abstracts were accepted for inclusion in the conference program and we wish Beth every success in Estonia with her presentation in August.

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Yvonne McKinnon: a tribute

BY RUTH RICHARDSON

Yvonne McKinnon was an AMEB (NSW) examiner from 1968 until her passing earlier this year. We thank fellow examiner Ruth Richardson for writing the following tribute for the newsletter.

YVONNE MARIE MCKINNON DSCM, FTCL, LTCL, AMuA

It is with deep regret that we note the sudden passing of Yvonne McKinnon on 9 April 2007. Yvonne studied at the Sydney Conservatorium with Winifred Burston and Alexander Sverjensky, where she graduated in 1951. She studied with Frederic Jackson (a teacher at the Royal Academy, London), also attending classes in Aural training and teaching methods at Trinity College, London.

On her return to Australia she taught at various schools, including Kambala, PLC Croydon (with Mary Greville), Ravenswood and ten years at Loretto Kirribilli as Musical Director.

Yvonne gave lecture recitals in piano for AMEB and Conservatorium workshops in musicianship. Following her appointment as an AMEB examiner in 1968, her astuteness in report writing was soon to be commended by the Advisory Board.

Yvonne McKinnon joined the Music Teachers' Association of NSW in 1951, serving on its council from 1985 to 1991. In this capacity she gave many AMEB workshops in both Metropolitan and Country areas of NSW.

At the time of her passing, she had a large private practice and her friendly, cheerful disposition and her contribution to music will surely be missed.

(Ruth Richardson offers her gratitude to Olga Thompson for her assistance).

AMEB Staff news



Annette Brown

Betty Walker

Annette Brown has joined the team as our new Administrative Officer for Written Examinations. Annette brings to the role experience drawn from both the arts and the business world. She has run her own commercial business, and – passionate about the arts – has also spent many years stage managing ballet concerts and organising eisteddfodau. She is looking forward to the challenge of a job that now includes managing the inaugural examinations for the AMEB's third written syllabus, Music Craft.

We are also pleased to welcome **Betty Walker** who is now a part of the AMEB team in a full-time capacity as a Practical examination scheduler. Prior to this position, Betty processed enrolments for the AMEB for several years, along with supervising our written examinations. She has also worked in the Examinations Branch of the Office of the Board of Studies, making her well equipped to handle the many variables associated with the scheduling of practical examinations.

Presentation Ceremony

On 11 March, the AMEB (NSW) held its annual presentation of Diplomas and higher certificates. This year, 43 candidates received awards in our Speech and Drama categories and 190 candidates received an AMusA or LMusA award for their achievements in Music during 2006.

These awards were presented by acclaimed pianist and the Chair of the Keyboard Unit of Sydney Conservatorium, Gerard Willems, in front of an audience of over 850 in the Clancy Auditorium at the University of New South Wales. Shields were also presented to teachers of excellence in nine different categories.

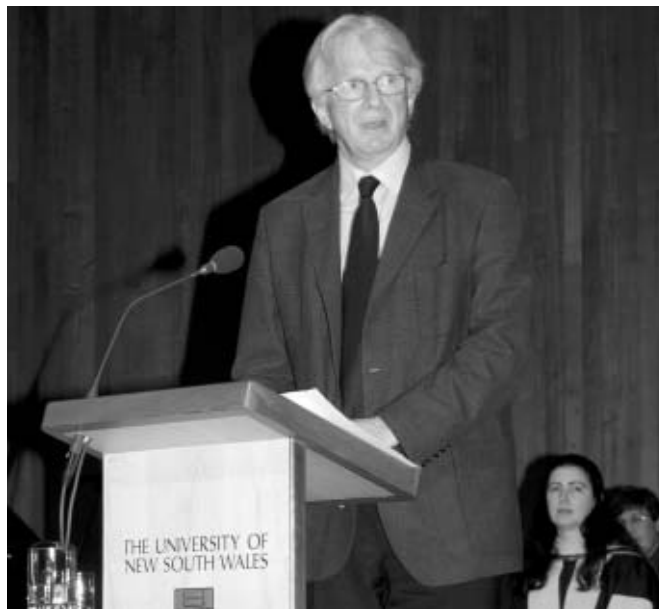
Gerard's speech included a wonderful message for teachers and students alike :

"No rehearsal or practice session that you have should ever be regarded as routine – it should always be a unique moment in time. Then you will appreciate the beauty of the relationship between one note and the next... That is the fundamental path for ongoing growth as a musician.

It is not about repetition. It is not about the number of hours you sit behind your instrument, or with your instrument in your hand, or singing, it is about making every note relevant and terribly unique.

We all hear the perfect rendition in our inner ear and what we actually perform is an approximation. It is about getting close to that ideal in our inner ear."

Musical and Speech and Drama items from outstanding 2006 awardees were performed throughout the ceremony. Visit our website (www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/) to enjoy footage of some of these great performances.



Nominations open for Membership of the Board of the AMEB (NSW)

The AMEB (NSW) is now calling for nominations for six elected positions on its Board, to take effect for two years from 1 May, 2008. The Constitution provides for three private Music Teacher representatives, one Speech and Drama Teacher representative and two Examiner representatives to be elected as Board members.

Your representatives play a key role in music and speech and drama education in NSW, enhancing the consultative processes which assist the Board's operations, and providing wider opportunities for the music, speech and drama communities to participate in the development of policies and practices for the AMEB (NSW).

The Board members elected in 2006 and currently occupying these positions are:

Private Music Teacher representatives – William Clark, Rita Crews, Anne Harvey

Private Speech and Drama representative – Victoria Clancy
Examiner representatives – Richard Morphew, Meriel Owen.

To be eligible to nominate or be nominated for election to the Board as a private Music Teacher representative or private Speech and Drama Teacher representative, you must have enrolled at least one candidate other than yourself in an AMEB (NSW) examination in 2006 and/or 2007. To be eligible to stand as an Examiner representative, you must be a current fully accredited AMEB (NSW) examiner. You may only nominate for one of these three categories.

If eligible, you are encouraged to give consideration to the contribution you could make as a Board member. Nominations for election, using only the form enclosed with this Newsletter, together with no more than a half page, typed biography outlining the qualities that you would bring to the Board, must be forwarded to the AMEB (NSW) by close of business on October 19, 2007.

An information package and ballot papers will be forwarded to eligible voters in the November mail out, with the 2008 Teachers' Handbook.

Music Craft Update

Music Craft examinations were held in other Australian States on 14 May 2007. Consequently, past exam study materials for students preparing for the 27 August 2007 examinations are now available from the AMEB (NSW) office.

Both the May Written and May Aural papers are available for \$2.50 each for Preliminary Grade through to Fourth Grade. A Music Craft *Grade Study Pack* can be ordered for \$12.50 (plus \$1.60 postage), which includes both papers, along with a CD* of the Aural Test content.

The AMEB (NSW) staff are receiving wonderful feedback from the many schools and private teachers studying Music Craft who have enrolled for the August exams. Students seem to love the incorporation of the Aural element that is a part of Music Craft in every grade and teachers are giving us positive comments about the seamless transition that the terminology and content offers for students who may later embark upon HSC Music and Tertiary music studies.

Just send in your completed order form from our website : <http://www.ameb.nsw.edu.au/publications/index.html>

Following a successful series of Music Craft workshops throughout NSW in 2006 and early 2007, Dr Rita Crews, the AMEB (NSW) Written syllabus adviser, has this to say :

"We know that music – real music – has two factors, namely aural and written. From the first lesson, Music Craft now gives us the opportunity to provide students with a logical and integrated syllabus that utilises both of those important musical elements. Music Craft is exciting and contemporary. Try it; you and your students will love it!"

For more information and to download sample test papers (not actual past examination papers), please go to the AMEB Federal website :

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

* Please note that due to copyright restrictions, the Aural CD may contain the majority of the Aural Test content but not all.

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CONSERVATORIUM OPEN ACADEMY

Winter Workshops and Festivals at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Winter Piano Teachers Festival:	Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 July
Flute Workout Day:	Wednesday 11 July
Flute Eisteddfod:	Wednesday 11 July, Saturday 14 July & Sunday 15 July (in collaboration with the NSW Flute Society)
HSC Revision workshops:	Thursday 12 and Friday 13 July

Inquiries to Gillian Markham: ph. 9351 1207; email gmarkham@usyd.edu.au

The MTA of NSW invites you to the 2007 Conference

EMPOWER YOUR TEACHING


Friday 12th & Saturday 13th October, 2007

at The King's School
Pennant Hills Road, North Parramatta

This will be an exciting conference presenting a range of topics of interest to all private music teachers. Presenters include Jay McPherson, Ruth Bonetti, Ray Partridge, Susan Deas, Rita Crews, Patrick Thomas and others.

Also included is a concert recital by international artist Sally Mays preceded by a cocktail party.

Contact the MTA office for further information.
Ph: 9570 1436 Toll Free: 1800 021 436
Email info@musicnsw.com.au



Becoming a Music Keyboard Teacher (Part - time / Full - time)

Violin Incl. Piano (VIP Music) est. 1984 provides group music keyboard lessons in primary schools in Sydney. Our objective is to encourage children to love music, learning in a fun environment. Applicant criteria:

- Vibrant & fun
- Own car
- Punctual
- Honest
- Love children
- Min. grade 5 (AMEB)
- Presentable
- Responsible

Experience not essential. Training provided.
Great incentive rewards plus earnings (up to \$900 p/w).

Please call: (02) 9411 3122
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri during school term

