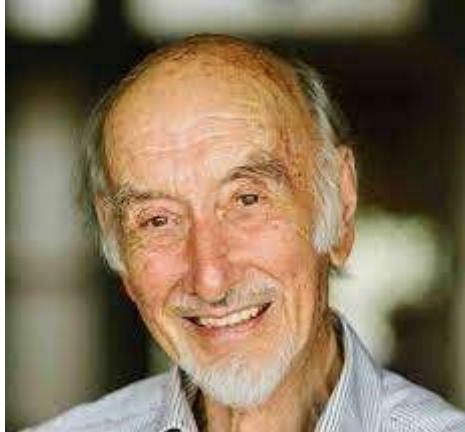


Vale Max Olding AM



Max Olding AM grew up in Launceston, Tasmania and he was a contemporary of fellow Tasmanian, Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe. Max once told ABC Radio, "Peter and I grew up together in Launceston. We competed in the same local music competitions, where Peter always won the slow pieces and I always won the fast pieces!"

His involvement with the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) spans more than seventy years, beginning when he was appointed Examiner at the age of 21. His AMEB career included major roles such as Deputy Chair and Principal Examiner in Queensland, as well as Federal Examiner. This work extended beyond Australia's borders through examining and other activity in Southeast Asia and New Zealand for the AMEB.

Max gained national recognition as the 1952 winner of the ABC's Concerto Competition, launching an international career as a pianist. He was also a conductor of symphonic, choral, operatic and theatre works, and had experience as an organist and choirmaster. His Churchill Fellowship, awarded in 1970, took him around the world, expanding his pedagogical insights, as well as his musical palette.

For more than half a century he performed all over Australia, in the UK, USA, and Asia, both as a solo or duo-pianist, and giving masterclasses and seminars nationally and internationally. Max's performance legacy includes recordings of Australian music, chamber music, and examination repertoire for the AMEB.

Max's contribution to the musical life of Australia was recognised in 1991 when he became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to music and music education. He is also Honorary Fellow of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, received an Honorary Doctorate from University of Queensland in 2011 and was awarded AMEB's highest honour of Honorary Fellowship of Music, Australia in 2008. In 2005, the Max Olding Auditorium at AMEB Qld was named in his honour.

He was one of the longest ever serving AMEB Federal Examiners, offering the benefits of his expertise nation-wide over many years. Through such a distinguished career, remarkably Max never lost his passion and generosity in helping musicians, young and old, achieve their full potential.

AMEB Federal and Diploma examiners and AMEB (NSW) Chief Examiners, Jocelyn Fazzone and Dr Christine Logan, remember Max fondly.

Jocelyn Fazzino: “I had the great privilege of examining with Max Olding during his years as Federal examiner. What an inspiration he was. His insight, appreciation of young talent and positive outlook were the hallmarks of this outstanding musician. He will be greatly missed.”

Dr Christine Logan: “Max was always held in the highest esteem and it was my privilege to meet him in my childhood and to have had the honour of working with him as a colleague when he was a Federal examiner. I also heard him play on many occasions and was always impressed by his fine musicianship and natural ease as a performer. Max Olding has touched so many Australian musicians with his kindness, generosity, warmth and humanity. Revered by many, he will always be remembered with affection for his enormous and lasting contribution to Australian music through a lifetime of AMEB examining, teaching, performing and adjudicating.”