

IMEB

International Music Examinations Board

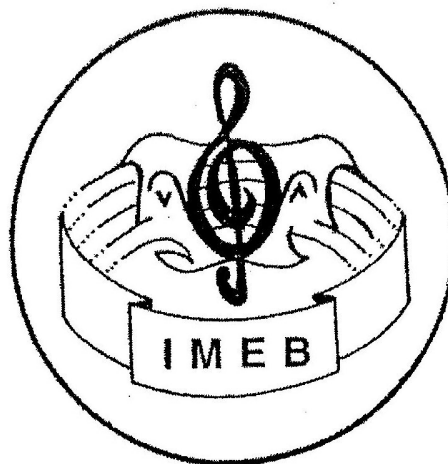
Patron: The Hon Bronwyn Bishop

c/- Australian International Conservatorium of Music
31-33 Allen Street, Harris Park, NSW 2150

Ph: 61 2 9637 0777 Fax: 61 2 9637 0222

Email: enquiries@imeb.com.au

Website: www.imeb.com.au



NEWSLETTER : December 2009

Greetings to all. The festive season is already upon us, so this is the final IMEB Newsletter for 2009. We are currently wrapping up one of the largest examination sessions to date. Thank you to the teachers who continue to support IMEB with increasing numbers of entries and a warm welcome to the **new teachers** who have joined us during the year : Joe McManus, Jacque Brown, Michael Payne, Nicole Brownlie, Aolai Chi, Joanna Sparrow, Gillian Pettengell and Delma Whyte.

The IMEB has continued to grow steadily throughout the year with an average of 3 new enquiries each fortnight. Sometimes there is no further follow-up from the initial enquiry but it is gratifying that the IMEB is becoming known and talked about in the community at large. The new IMEB website has certainly helped in this regard.

We try to keep the **website** updated each time there is any significant news to announce. We have recently posted the **Music Syllabuses** on the IMEB to be readily accessed, and hope to have the **Speech and Drama Syllabuses posted on the website** by early 2010. We came to this decision as a result of several packages of Syllabuses being lost in the mail. In some instances 3 sets of packages went missing when posted to the same destination, both locally and Internationally. The expense incurred was horrifying, so there will in future only be a mail out of hard copies of Syllabuses upon specific request to IMEB Office (02 9637 0777) on receipt of \$15 Cheques or Money Orders made payable to 'IMEB'

The **perennial problem** exists: **incorrect spellings** of names. There is a need for consistency on Entry Forms, names on Exam Schedule lists and Results Sheets. We really dislike labouring the point, but it would be appreciated if everyone writing candidates' names please double check with the individual, the teacher and parent as to the correct spelling. They are probably regarded as only small slip-ups, but the resulting inconvenience and extra work involved here in the Office is enormous, and irksome too when it involves extra postal expense and in some cases driving around to deliver the re-printed certificates. Also would teachers please confirm with parents the name they wish their child to have printed on the certificate. As recently as last week, one teacher was surprised to find that a student's name 'Maddie' was not short for 'Madeleine' after all, but 'Maddysson'.

New Syllabus: Music of Stage and Screen is currently being written and is expected to be posted on the web in the new year. With so many vocal (Music) candidates presenting a huge variety of songs from this particular genre, the proposal was flagged among a number of music teachers and the responses have been very positive and enthusiastic. We feel it has a bright future and look forward to presentations of items from **Opera, Operetta, Gilbert & Sullivan, Light Opera, Early Musicals, Broadway and West End Shows Musical Comedy, Rock and Concept Musicals, Disney and Film Musicals etc**



Expansion: We are constantly searching for new contacts in New Zealand and S.E. Asian countries as well as other Australian states, so if any teachers can help us in these endeavours through your contacts and networks in these areas, we would be pleased to hear from you with your suggestions.

IMEB Agents: Special welcome to **Mr Thomas Ling** who is actively establishing an IMEB agency in Malaysia and **Mr Alan West** for arranging a similar network in South Australia.

New Fees: Despite the fact that Tim and Darrell still give many hours of work on a voluntary basis, we have found it necessary to raise the fees slightly in 2010 ... we are reluctantly acceding yet again to advice from teachers that there needs to be a further slight increase in the fees. You will be pleased to note that the new schedule of IMEB fees are still far more reasonably priced than other public examination systems. The new exam fees schedule is printed on the reverse of the accompanying **New Examination Entry Form** which is also available on the website. Included are the **Closing Dates for both Series** which **will apply annually until further notice.**

Series 1 : Theory and Practical : **1 May** annually

Series 2 : Theory : **1 August** annually
Practical : **1 October** annually

We feel this is preferable to changing the dates each year and series, based as they have been in the past on school terms and holidays etc. Teachers should copy this **new Examination Entry Form** as often as required to submit candidates' names for exams.

Important Date for 2010: The Graduation will take place at **2pm on Saturday, 8 May 2010** in the Main Hall at the AICM Campus, at 114 Victoria Road, Rozelle.

Series 1 Theory Exams : 9am, Friday, 21 May 2010

The venue for Sydney candidates will be at AICM, 31-33 Allen Street, Harris Park. Country candidates will need to sit the Theory Exam at a suitable venue, with a supervisor, arranged by the teacher. Please advise IMEB as early as possible, supervisor's name and address for mailing of the exam papers.

Series 1 Practical Exams : may be arranged with the IMEB by teachers. Once again may we ask you to avoid requesting specific dates for the Practical Exams. Instead, please give us an indication of preferred weeks or time frame, as early as possible, and we will do our best to accommodate you as usual.

NB. Requests for both Theory and Practical exams to be taken outside the designated time/date can not be considered in future. The possible and very serious ramifications of Theory exam information/questions being widely disseminated can not be discounted, and the problems in arranging extra venues and supervisors makes these requests very difficult.

Attention all teachers

1. Memorisation: Items which are set for 'memory' are expected to be memorised and not 'read'.

2. Palmcards: Please try to encourage students to use palmcards properly. ie: as cues only, rather than writing and reading the whole item as, apart from incorrect use, the reading practice detracts from an effective communication delivery. A number of candidates are still reading their talks and speeches. The opportunity to show skill in effective '**prose reading**' is provided in various sections through the Syllabus grades and levels.

Theatre Performance for the Individual: You will be interested to know that **several teachers are now entering candidates for this innovative Syllabus.** They report how suitable, exciting and motivating it is for those students who are multitalented in S/D, Music, Movement, Visual Arts and who love all aspects of 'Theatre'. It is good to hear that the teachers realize they do not have to be multi-talented themselves to teach this syllabus. The students virtually design their own workload to prepare for the exams and thoroughly enjoy the challenge and ownership of their program content.

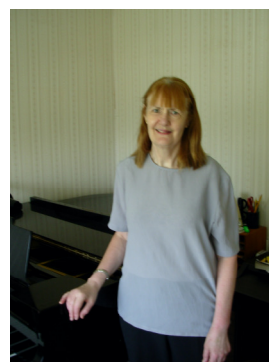


*Talented singer, dancer and all-round performer
Sheridan Mouawad P.DiplIMEB, from Dr Darrell's Studio*

We are sure that if you take a moment to analyse the Syllabus closely, you will find that it contains wonderfully sequential opportunities through Grades up to Diploma level for students who are developing in these related arts and who enjoy all aspects of performance studies.

Please consider implementing this enjoyable and varied syllabus in your studio for your talented students.

Music Theory Syllabus: Ms **Christinne Patton**, DipTeach, AMusA(P), AMusA(M), ATCL(T), LTCL(T), LTCL(CMT), AAGM(Th), DipPP, AGM, FTCL, MMTA(NSW). We are pleased to announce that Christinne has accepted our invitation to the appointment of **Director of Music Theory** and is currently preparing a new innovative IMEB Music Theory Syllabus. Christinne is a highly qualified musician with great knowledge and experience in Music Theory. When completed, this syllabus will be posted on the IMEB website. We are delighted to welcome Christinne to this important position.



SPECIAL FEATURE: 'Out and About with ...'

Is incorporated into each Newsletter to introduce our teachers to each other and to the wider IMEB community:

**Out and About with ... Jan Creer LAGS(TD),
ExCertIMEB and AGS**



Jan has operated the *Carlingford Youth Drama School* since 1980 and has taught hundreds of students to develop confidence through speaking and performing, to be exposed to a wide range of quality literature and to develop their personalities and vibrant living skills. Jan was encouraged from an early age to experience the performing arts and on leaving school began her career in Sydney radio writing and producing children's programmes, plus running the Radio Club Christmas Show with several well known radio personalities. Jan still has a keen passion for theatre and writes plays, poems and pantomimes for young and the not-so-young to enjoy. Jan also had poems published in the *School Magazine* by the NSW Dept of Education. *Double-Trouble*, (poems for two performers,) and *Out of the Hat*, (12 plays,) are two of Jan's recent popular publications.

And Out and About with ... Joe McManus P.Dip(IMEB)



Joe teaches Voice, Guitar and Songwriting at *Musitopia* in Cessnock where he has lived with his wife and daughter Roisin for the past five years. His teaching ethos is to 'have fun with sound' and ensures that his students have lots of encouragement and creativity. Joe is also a professional musician who has performed before thousands of people in fifteen countries as the *Irish Busker*, but he says it's too hot to busk in Australia! He currently performs his popular and highly entertaining show in a wide range of venues, clubs and theatres across Australia. Joe hails from Roscommon in central Ireland, the land of saints and scholars. He sings, plays guitar, banjo, harmonica and the *bodhran* (Irish drum) and celebrates the special sounds and tales of Ireland. He wrote his first song at 16 and has produced four albums of original material and one with covers.

**Out and About also with ... Anne Whale LIMEB,
P.P.DipAGM, AMusA, CMusA**



Anne has enjoyed a musical career as pianist, singer, teacher and composer spanning almost 50 years. Raised in Mudgee she completed her education in Wellington and was influenced greatly by the Sisters of Mercy in Bathurst, in particular her music teacher and mentor, Sister Gabrielle Pritchard who is now in her 90s. After teaching classroom music in Kogarah and Beverley Hills, Anne moved to Bathurst to run a thriving Music Studio and teach at the Conservatorium of Music. Retiring to the Hunter Valley she has opened her music studio where she teaches Piano and Voice to a large number of students. She has recently returned to composing, has published a book of verse, produced a CD and presented a Concert at the Civic Centre of her original compositions: *Music is the Voice of the Heart*. Anne has also formed the local *Tone Shadows Choir*.

**Out and About too with ... Kristie Thorne BComm,
AIMEB, LIMEB(SandD)**



Kristie was guided through her IMEB Teaching Diploma by Wilma Pitkin in Bathurst and has run her own private *Encore Speech and Drama Studio* for the past 10 years. She teaches more than 90 students and prepares them for eisteddfods in the Central West of NSW in addition to their IMEB exams. Her love of teaching is evident with the dedication she shows for her students to help them to improve themselves as performers and natural speakers. Kristie has a Bachelor of Marketing from Charles Sturt University and a degree from St Louis University, USA as she received a tennis scholarship to USA after completing her High School years. Kristie is married to Graham and has two small children Ruby and Harry who will no doubt perform for their IMEB exams very soon!

We will introduce more teachers in subsequent issues

Diplomates: There is an ever increasing number of high quality Diploma candidates in both Music, Performance and Speech and Drama and we hope for a good attendance at Graduation on 8 May 2010. One successful candidate who is unable to return for this ceremony is **Jack Tyndale-Biscoe** from Spain. Jack was the first 'Visiting Scholar' at AICM and attended for a semester of intensive music immersion and study in Technique and Theory in Pianoforte and Violin. He distinguished himself in his **IMEB Performance Diploma** in which he displayed his skills as a pianist, violinist, accompanist and composer. In addition, Jack also attained his **IMEB Pianoforte Teaching Diploma**. An informal 'Graduation' ceremony was held at the AICM at Rozelle recently prior to his return to Spain.



Jack with AICM Principal
Dr Greg Whateley



Dr Tim, Jack and Dr Darrell

ADVANCE ADVICE: We would draw your attention to advice printed in previous Newsletters about annual Graduation requirements and the responsibilities for graduates to acquire their own mortar board and gown. There seems to be a perception that IMEB will simply have everything 'on tap' for graduates at the venue. Further information will be mailed to graduates before the 8 May ceremony. With nearly 5 months' notice there should be plenty of time for Graduates to locate and organize the hire of their own mortar board and gown for the graduation ceremony. **(ie: Teachers please remind your graduating Diplomates not to leave these arrangements to the last minute!)**

Reminder: To all **music teachers** that the graded works of composer Rosalind Carlson are highly recommended for use in IMEB examinations. They are graded in lists for instruments.

Speech and Drama Association: Speech and Drama teachers are reminded that your Diploma students are recommended to join this Association where they are assured of a warm welcome. Contact Robyn Fraser on 9810 2449 for details.



A **new Examination Entry Form** is attached to this Newsletter. Please copy it as many times as you require. This new form must be used in future and replaces the 'old' form. UPPER CASE LETTERS is recommended for candidates' names, as per the example, for clarity.

Also attached is a sample copy of a dramatic character monologue. There are some candidates/teachers who admit to having difficulty condensing a page of dialogue to form a solo piece. Close analysis of the monologue on the right side of the page will reveal that the other character's utterances have been absorbed into it. Teachers will realize that punctuation marks, and pauses between statements in the monologue would allow the candidate/actor to show reaction and interaction, facially and physically, to the 'presence' of the other character. This excerpt is from the musical vaudeville 'Chicago' (text Fred Ebb) and is the interchange between Roxie the murderess and Billy Flynn her lawyer, prior to her trial.

Special Thanks are extended to our Bursar **Meeja Yoo** and our Office staff for their assistance during the year.

And finally: Congratulations to all teachers on the excellent work being presented for examination. You are truly maintaining the integrity and high standards expected by IMEB. Thank you also for the ever-increasing number of entries.

Seasons Greetings

from our Chairman, Dr Kyunghee Lee, who joins with us in sending you best wishes for the festive season and a successful, safe and prosperous 2010.

Dr K Lee
Chairman

Dr Darrell Hines
Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
Syllabus Consultant

