

IMEB

International Music Examinations Board

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NEWSLETTER : February 2014

Greetings to all.... Somehow the 2nd half of 2013 disappeared in a haze of speed, examinations and administration and the hoped-for time to produce an issue of this Newsletter before last Christmas was beyond the realms of possibility. Even so, we trust everyone had a happy Christmas and that 2014 is bright and promising.

Thank you to all who, each in your own way, contributed to a very successful year for IMEB both in Australia and SE Asia. It is very evident that there is a significant amount of commitment and loyalty to IMEB. Our thanks to all those who promote IMEB among their networks. IMEB entry numbers continue to grow at a steady rate and new studios are still coming on line. Most weeks we receive at least one enquiry.

IMEB Promotions: our **Malaysian** representative, **Thomas Ling** and some other studios have been actively promoting IMEB on each of our visits. This has included a spectacular **Concert** in Sarawak, which was sponsored by **Casio** who generously donated many electronic keyboards as prizes to the performers. A high level **Vocal Competition** sponsored by their local **Rotary** organization was another successful promotional occasion. In Kuala Lumpur, **Casey** and **Marvin Koh** organized a valuable promotional event at their **Broadway Academy**, where the teaching staff undertook their IMEB teaching diplomas in the last Series.



In Miri, we met a number of music teachers at a **Promotional Lunch**, following which several studios came over to IMEB including Diana Wong's **Sonata Academy** where her teaching staff have now completed their IMEB teaching diplomas. We are now entering into our first series of IMEB exams in **Brunei** following a successful promotion in November. Also in November we attended an **Australian Graduates Alumni** dinner in KL where we met and had a very successful talk with the representative of the **Australian Trade Commission** in Malaysia and forged ties for the future. Great interest was shown in IMEB's presence and activities in Malaysia. In between all these high level activities we find time to carry out our share of the examining commitments.

Nursery Level Exam: To answer requests from a number of teachers, we introduced a Nursery Level exam in Speech and Drama for Pre-Schoolers last year and this has really 'taken off' with a large number of excited 'littlies' presenting their promising skills. Details are available on the web. Due to this success, a similar corresponding Music version is now under consideration.

Fees: to answer some recent enquiries about examination fees: there was a **small** increase last year (2013) but no change for 2014. The running costs continue to escalate. However, the hours of voluntary work by Tim and Darrell will ensure that the fees will still be lower than other exam systems. We are happy to contribute our time to IMEB (often clocking up about 30 hours each per week either here at the Office or at our homes) and we are rewarded by the outstanding success of the IMEB.

Examination Entry form: please ensure that the latest version of this form is used. It is available on the website. Several entries last year arrived in a variety of formats and highly individual spreadsheet styles which did not indicate the required information re Grades, Levels, Performance, Teaching or Performing Diplomas etc. You can either complete this official, preferred Entry form by hand or, as many of you already do, scan it into your computer and type in the entry details. We do not mind whether it is hand-written or word-processed as long as it contains the required information and detail, clearly and correctly spelt. The IMEB Office holds a data base to correspond to the Entry Form and we have had difficulty trying to reconcile the info sent in different formats. Often it has been necessary to phone studios to seek clarification.

PRACTICAL Exams for both Series 1 and 2 are by arrangement as usual with IMEB Office. Closing dates as per Entry form **Series 1: 1 May. Series 2: 1 October.** **PRACTICAL Exams:** may be arranged with the IMEB by teachers. Once again may we ask you to avoid requesting specific dates. Please give us an indication of preferred weeks or time frame as early as possible. (Most of you continue to do this superbly) and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes as usual.

THEORY Exams Series 1: 2014: Due to the change of location of IMEB HQ, the upcoming Theory Exams will be held on **Saturday 3 May** at 255 Broadway, Glebe and will commence at 9.30am. **Please arrive 15 mins before the starting time of 9.30am** and make your way to Floor 3 via the lift at 255 Broadway. Please do not arrive or try to enter the building before 9.15am. Country exams as usual are to be organized by the Supervisor. **PLEASE NOTE** that exams will now be held on **Saturday mornings** to prevent the candidates taking time out from school or work and to fit in with the schedule of the High School whose facilities we use for Theory exams. **Closing date : 1 May** (as per Entry form) we realize this is short notice but teachers usually send in their entries early in the year which is a great help.

THEORY Exam Series 2: 2014: Saturday 6 September 9.30am, at 255 Broadway, Glebe. Details as above. **Closing date: 1 August** (as per Entry form)

Please advise IMEB asap of country supervisor's name and address for mailing of Theory exam papers.

Closing Dates: for all examinations must be strictly observed. There appears to be the perception that because we aim to be flexible and considerate to individual needs, we will accede to any requests and rules need not necessarily be complied with. Due to the huge increase in entries, we are unable to arrange alternative dates. Despite this notification being posted in last year's Newsletter, there were still a number of entries which arrived at the Office in November with teachers expecting us to simply slot in their exam requests at a few days' notice. Please understand our position.

NB: requests for both Theory and Practical exam to be taken outside the designate time/date cannot be considered for reasons stated in previous Newsletters.

No exams will be conducted in Australia after 30 Nov

ABSENCES FROM EXAMINATIONS

Where there is good reason for an absence from an examination (eg: Sickness or misadventure of some kind), on production of evidence of this fact, a candidate may be allowed to re-enter without payment of a 2nd fee in the next Series. If there is a personal reason (eg: death in the family etc) the same rule will apply. If a candidate simply does not present for examination without good reason, the fee is forfeited. **This advice replaces previous regulations about Exam absentees.**

PALMCARDS : The incorrect use of palmcards is a cause of concern among Examiners as there are some studios/teachers who still consider it suitable for the candidate to write the text of a speech/talk on the cards and to simply read the palmcards. Opportunities exist in the syllabuses to show the particular skill required to present a 'reading'. Some examiners report that teachers are requesting that examiners ignore the fact that the cards are 'read' due to the content not having been memorized as required. On the other hand, there are teachers who insist that their students use palmcards correctly. It is blatantly unfair therefore that penalties are not applied for incorrect use of palmcards. Examiners have asked that this issue be addressed for commonality of marking and assessment. In future, from this date, palmcards should contain only the following information: headline notes, titles, names, dates, foreign words, quotations etc and are to be submitted to the examiner prior to the talk/speech. Palmcards which contain the text of the content will incur a zero mark for that component of the examination.

Grade 6 Music: Please note that Ear Tests requiring the naming of consecutive notes after the tonic is played will be confined to the key of C major.

2014 GRADUATION CEREMONY is scheduled for 2pm on Saturday, 17 May at our new IMEB Headquarters: 3rd Floor, 255 Broadway, Glebe. Advice notification will be mailed out to teachers/studios with eligible candidates **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR GRADUANDS TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION. IF SOME OF THE GRADUANDS CAN GO TO THE TROUBLE AND EXPENSE OF FLYING IN FROM OVERSEAS THEN SURELY LOCALS CAN ATTEND.** However, all are welcome to attend, of course. We are congratulated each year on the dignity and high quality of the presentations contributing to a very meaningful event.



New Syllabus: 'ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE': Already we have entrants this year for this exciting new syllabus which contains a whole different approach to the study of Drama world-wide. Congratulations to those teachers who have taken the first step towards embracing this new syllabus and encouraging their student to enter these exams. They report that they are enjoying researching into new areas of drama together with their students.

This syllabus covers **World Theatre and Drama** and is a separate syllabus option from the other syllabi offered by IMEB (Speech and Drama, Public Speaking, Theatre Performance for the Individual, Speech and Drama Performance). This syllabus has been specifically designed following requests from some S and D teachers recently for a syllabus that focusses on **World Drama** and a **History of Theatre** in varied depth and breadth. It caters for Grade 1 – Associate Diploma level. This is an exciting and imaginative syllabus which should satisfy all students and teachers who have a passion for 'Theatre' in the broad context. This syllabus is due to be posted on the IMEB website. It is more suited to the more mature candidate eg High School age range and older. It comes into effect immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: As previously advised, the Speech and Drama syllabus has been adapted slightly in content and marking range and takes effect immediately. The new questions are of a general nature regarding History of Theatre and both teachers and student should enjoy researching these topics. This revision of the syllabus resulted from a number of requests from S and D teachers last year.

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.



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.

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. For further information: 9653 1066 or 0417 307 313. Email orders to info@rosalindcarlson.co

For your consideration and attention:

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

2. American accents: Directions for use of an American accent should be observed. There have been some fine 'American' performances presented with very strong characterization work and well-maintained American dialect by several but not all candidates. However, the success of presenting the scene, and the conviction of the characterization, is severely jeopardized when presented in Australian or Southern Standard English mode. (Imagine watching a production of 'Oklahoma' with no American accent.....)

IMPORTANT NEWSFLASH : IT WEBSITE GREMLINS

As some of you have discovered, several uninvited gremlins crept into the IMEB website resulting in irregular page formats and incorrect content. We are at a loss to know how it eventuated, but our IT personnel assures us it is now all solved. Of particular importance to S and D and Music teachers are the newly rectified syllabuses for **Violin (including Technical Work)** and **Effective Public Speaking**.

PLEASE NOTE: that Examiner's decisions are final regarding reports and assessments of candidates in exams. No appeals will be considered except in the case of an obvious error, eg miscalculation in adding the marks, or a spelling error of the candidate's name etc.

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



Out and About with ... PETAR GRULOVIC *BBus(CQU) BBus (Hons), GDLT(CQU), PerfCert(TCL), TC, Tap(CSTD)* and **JESSICA KRAUSE** *BMusTheatre, GDLT(CQU)*
 Petar and his wife Jessica Krause run the newly established **Triple Threat Theatre Academy** for Performing Arts in Mackay, Queensland, and have just enrolled their first group of candidates for IMEB Exams and IMEB Workshops.



PETAR started tapdancing at the age of 10 years and progressed successfully through many eisteddfods receiving numerous Championships and Awards. He has also choreographed successful Tap groups, Song 'n' Dance groups and championship winning Solos. Petar has a background in Irish, Jazz, Contemporary and Classical dancing, Acting, Music and Singing. He has performed many lead roles in local musicals, including *42nd Street*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fame*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Secret Garden* and *The Boy from Oz*, and will appear in *Miss Saigon* this year. Petar is a fulltime Senior School teacher at Whitsunday Anglican School and runs the **TTTAcademy** in his spare time and at weekends with Jessica.

JESSICA teaches English and Drama at Whitsunday Anglican School in addition to teaching Singing and Musical Theatre privately. Her passion is performing and promoting the performing arts in the Mackay region. Jessica has appeared in leading roles in such musicals as *The Sound of Music* (Maria), *Les Miserables* (Cosette) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle). Last year Jessica directed the Australian Premiere of the new play *A Year in the Death of Eddie Jester* as well as appearing in Theatre Restaurants. Having successfully competed in eisteddfods throughout Queensland, Jessica feels fortunate to be able to teach young performers how to enhance, refine and share their skills and talents within the community.



Out and About also with ... RONSOME HO *MMus(USA)*

This British trained luthier is a violin and guitar tutor who runs a highly successful studio in Melaka, Malaysia. He also designs and manufactures his own violins and guitars for Malaysian and the overseas markets. He has redesigned string instruments to provide an exceptional balance of treble and bass frequencies and a stronger clearer tonal production in all ranges. Having taught strings for 20 years he is well known for specialising in express teaching programs and has been entering candidates for IMEB exams for a number of years.

Every good wish to all teachers and students for a happy and successful 2014

Professor K Lee
 Chairman

Dr Darrell Hines
 Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
 Syllabus Consultant



Dr Tim, Prof Lee, Patron Hon. Bronwyn Bishop,
 Dr Darrell at the IMEB Graduation in May 2013

JAMES LAU runs the successful Symphony Music School in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia specialising in strings, guitar and harp. Pictured below are **Ma Teck Ieck** who achieved High Distinction for his Violin Licentiate exam. **Wee Kim Yang** also attained High Distinction for his Guitar Associate Diploma exam. Both performances were of an exceptionally high standard. Congratulations to them and their excellent teacher. In addition to his music teaching commitments, James is the resident conductor of Miri Orchestra and Choir.



Harpist Jexandra Iryna Jau completed Pre-Grade 1



In Bathurst, NSW, **KRISTIE THORNE'S** student **Zachary Haynes** presented an entertaining account of Toad's driving escapades from *Wind in the Willows* as one component of his Speech and Drama: Grade 4 exam for which he achieved High Distinction.



Kristie provided delicious, novelty cakes for Morning Tea for the examiners, suitably inscribed for IMEB!!!



Thanks Kristie!

With Thomas Ling in Malaysia: Examinations, Competitions, Prom



