

IMEB

International Music Examinations Board

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NEWSLETTER : February 2012

Greetings to all: Already it is February 2012 and the year is already starting to get into gear and we look forward to a busy and satisfying year for the IMEB. Growth and expansion has been very encouraging over the past 12 months both here and overseas, and we appreciate the increasing number of teachers/studios who are embracing IMEB enthusiastically.

Special mention must be made here of our Malaysian representative **Mr Thomas Ling** who works tirelessly and continues to expand our Malaysian presence and who has introduced us to: Jane Law, Carol Lia, Doreen Teo, Wong Shiao Rong, Dorcas Liu, Ling hay Hi, Jennifer Peron, Winna Wong, Jessy Wong, Eva Chee, Lau Ning Hie, Lau Hie Ming, Petra Hii Pih Yeng, Liliana Voon, Chiong Ung Ping, Law Kiew Ching, Ha How Cu, Law Ai Ling, Wong Ming Ching and Lisa Cheng.

Both Dr Darrell and Dr Tim spent a busy two weeks in Malaysia at the end of 2011 examining and were very pleased with the **high standard of work presented**. A number of students successfully completed both Associate and Licentiate exams. Congratulations to them and to their teachers. **Two students have been offered scholarships to complete a BMus degree at AICM.**

In addition, Thomas organized two very successful seminars in Melaka and Kuala Lumpur where we met a number of teachers interested to learn about IMEB.

We thank the teachers and studios both here and overseas for their continued support and for promoting IMEB in their communities and among their teaching colleagues. Our appreciation also to those teachers who arranged media interviews and releases to publicise IMEB in their region. **Thank you too for the generous hospitality extended to examiners during the examination sessions. It is very much appreciated.**

Despite this positive tone and outlook, IMEB suffered a serious set-back mid-January when Dr Tim endured a second retinal detachment, necessitating two operations. He is currently in recovery mode but has lost much vision in his left eye. **Hence the delay in communications and this IMEB Newsletter.**

Due to the reasons for the late issue of this Newsletter, the format will be different from usual and the content length may well be shorter. **There are some issues which need to be read and appreciated and acted upon by everyone. This is vitally important.**

NAMES/CERTIFICATES

Despite regular pleas from us to you to check on names for certificates, there are still many discrepancies between names on Entry Forms and spellings given to us (in an effort to check accuracy) by the candidates themselves on entering the exam room, we are still having a significant number of certificates returned for correction. At this point Tim acknowledges he made 4 errors in certificate printing ... probably resulting from the rush to get the overwhelming number (over 1000) produced before the Christmas mail/rush. For this he apologises. So we are instituting **NEW PROCEDURES.**

In future, candidates' names for printing on certificates will be taken from the ENTRY FORM submitted to IMEB Office by teachers. Please send only the **one final Entry Form/list of names** and **not** a series of amended names and lists. Please note **IF A MISTAKE HAS OCCURRED IN THE ENTRY AND THE ERROR IS NOT OUR FAULT A CHARGE OF \$15 WILL BE LEVIED FOR EACH NEW CERTIFICATE PRODUCED.**

During 2011 for example we received no less than 4 lists of names on Entry Forms for one particular set of exams from one studio and there were a number of **inconsistencies in spellings** between each list. This type of problem is compounded when the examiner receives **yet another entirely new set of names and grades** on entering the examination room. You can imagine the **confusion** when some candidates advise the examiner that their name has been incorrectly spelled when they are asked by the examiner to check their name on the list presented by the teacher.

The problem does not stop with accurate name spellings, but with accuracy in stating the **Grades and Levels too**. Some grades were incorrectly entered on the form and unfortunate and stressful situations developed for several candidates when the examiners began to examine them for the incorrect grade/level. **This is not acceptable.**

As the number of entries continues to grow, we will have to employ some clerical help to produce the certificates and these assistants will need to take the names from the Entry Form. **They will not be expected to phone teachers etc to clarify spellings or similar anomalies.** The task has simply become too great and, to put it bluntly, it has become an unnecessary, total nightmare.

.....And some teachers say: "But I only added one extra letter in the name" and "But I presumed that was how the name was spelt.".....

All we ask is for great care in submission of entries. We have, in past issues of IMEB Newsletters, given examples of **unusual name spellings and styles, including use of upper and lower case, apostrophes, hyphens and spaces within names etc.**

As a **reminder of some variations** of common names we offer the following:

*Fitzgerald, Fitz-Gerald, Fitz-gerald
McLean, MacLean, Mac Lean, Maclean
Di Stefano, Distefano, DiStefano, De Stefano, D'Stefano,
de Stefano, d'Stefano, De-Stefano, De-stefano etc etc*

... and don't get me started on *Mathyew, Madysonn, Stevan, Damien, John-nathan, Annie-lise, Taiylour* and other creative spelling variants.....

Some parents have also requested changes to names on certificates eg shortened names on entry forms (eg *Alex*). Teachers please ensure that you confer with all parents as to how they wish their child's name to be spelt and amend your records accordingly.

NB : **multiple names** plus family /surname will not be accepted. A maximum of TWO GIVEN/CHRISTIAN names will be permitted on the certificate to reflect the candidate's 'regular' name (eg *Mary Ann* or *Mary-Ann*, but not *Mary Ann Bernadette Nicola*) We have had examples of candidates with up to 5 given names **plus** surname submitted for certificates. Please confer with parents which names are to be recorded.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding and co-operation in this serious matter outlined above. We really dislike having to draw your attention to it in this way.

NATIONAL NEWS

GRADUATION 2012 : Date for your diary. This important ceremony marking the culmination of candidates' work with the conferring of Diplomas will take place at **2pm Saturday, 12 May 2012** in the **Main Hall at AICM, 114 Victoria Road, Rozelle.** Details for diplomates will be mailed out in due course.

COUNTRY/INTERSTATE EXAMINATIONS

Regional examinations must have enough entries (minimum 3-4 hours) to cover the cost of examiners' travel and accommodation. To date we have frequently run at a loss financially in order to help teachers/studios get established with IMEB. For small numbers there is always the alternative DVD exams method. Details available from IMEB Office.

WEBSITE

The IMEB **website** continues to attract steady attention and flow of enquiries. We try to keep the **website** updated each time there is any significant news to **announce and trust teachers check up on latest**

Announcements and Updates. These recently include: Reminding country/interstate teachers that a levy may be imposed by them to cover the costs of examiner travel, meals and accommodation.

- a) The updated 'Keyboard' syllabus is now available for download.
- b) The **Classical Piano Syllabus** early grades previously styled **STANDARD 1, 2, 3** are now styled **PRE-GRADE 1, 2, 3**
- c) **All IMEB exams**, in all subjects, which have a time-limit of **10 or 15 minutes**, should each be extended by 5 minutes when teachers plan exam timetables. This is to allow examiners sufficient time to settle the candidates into the exam session and to encourage them to feel comfortable rather than risk feeling stressed and rushed through these short early grade exams. Examiners also feel that the extra five minutes will assist in writing reports, checking name spellings with candidates, recording marks, and completing master sheet details etc within the allocated timeslot. **Additional work/items are NOT required to take up the extra time.**
- d) Despite best efforts in proofreading, an error has occurred in the Sight Reading requirements for Grade 2 Piano. Instead of 'To sing on a monotone four bars of a rhythmic pattern ...' It should read 'To play four bars in 4/4 with crotchets and minims.'
- e) **Vocal Technical Work: (clarification)**
 - * **Grade 3:** Marchesi #3 OR Melba method #7 **PLUS** Concone #3 **AND** a Chromatic Scale.
 - * **Grade 4:** Marchesi #4 OR Melba method #12 **PLUS** Concone #4 **AND** Marchesi #6 Scala Diatonica in a suitable key.**Other Grades Technical Work as published.**

Expansion: We are still pleased to receive enquiries from new contacts in New Zealand and S.E. Asian countries as well as other Australian states. If teachers can continue to help us in our expansion process through your contacts and networks in these areas, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The exam **fees schedule** remains the same for 2012 and is printed on the reverse of the **New Examination Entry Form** which is available for download from the website. Teachers who do not use a computer should continue to photocopy the New Examination Entry Form which was mailed last year and is also attached with this Newsletter. **Please do NOT use the old/out-of-date Entry form.**

EXAMINATION CLOSING DATES

Included on the form 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 attached Examination Entry Form as often as required to submit candidates' names for exams.**

Teachers. please observe these **Closing Dates** carefully.

No last minute exam entries will be accepted after the Closing Date for each Series.

No exams will be conducted after 30 Nov annually.

Series 1 Theory Exams : 9am, Friday, 18 May 2012

Series 2 Theory Exams : 9am, Friday, 7 Sept 2012

The venue for candidates taking Theory Exams in Sydney will be announced closer to the dates due to **the projected closure of IMEB Office premises at Harris Park, and our relocation to an inner city venue in the near future. You will be advised the new IMEB contact details in due course.** 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, preferably **at least 3 weeks before** the Theory exam dates.

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. Thank you to the teachers who have already organised their 2012 dates.

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.

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.



Reminder: To all music teachers that the graded works of composer **Rosalind Carlson** are highly recommended for use in IMEB exams. Further information : 9653 1066 0417 307 313. Email orders to info@rosalindcarlson.com

DAVID URQUART-JONES : Composer

In addition to the Examination Entry Form, please find included some information about **David Urquart-Jones** whose works are endorsed by IMEB. Teachers/studios with candidates studying a **Modern Music Syllabus** will benefit from studying David's compositions and the opportunities for Improvisation development.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Associate Diploma in Studio Teaching AIMEB(ST)

It has been brought to our attention that there are a number of experienced teachers, who for various reasons, have been unable to complete a Teaching Diploma and who now feel they are not sufficiently 'in practice' to perform their pieces at a high standard. IMEB is therefore offering an **Associate Diploma in Studio Teaching AIMEB(ST)** in all Music, Speech and Drama subjects. This exam will consist of a presentation of two (2) lessons (*one Junior level up to Gr 4, and one Senior level from Gr 5 to Gr 8*) accompanied by a written teaching lesson plan for each lesson. Aims/Objectives and detailed sequential content should be clearly stated. Maximum total time of the exam for the two lessons, is 40-45 minutes and the entry fee is \$175. Entries may be submitted at any time.

Explanation for the use of **colour highlights, bold and italic fonts** etc: A number of IMEB teachers cheerfully admit that they either never read this Newsletter, or just look at any photos included, or just read the shortest paragraph or have misplaced it etc. We cannot compel anyone to read this IMEB Newsletter, but it is our current method of disseminating relevant information and is also posted on our website (useful to remember when you misplace your copy!). You can imagine it becomes rather tiresome and time-consuming when we are sometimes asked for answers to a litany of questions relating to topics or issues which have been included or explained in recent Newsletters. Consequently, the various colours and highlights will hopefully be useful **reference points** as you work your way through this issue.

FINALLY:

Special thanks to our Bursar, **Meeja Lee**, and our Office staff for their on-going assistance in transferring your messages to us when we are absent from the IMEB office. We really appreciate their willingness to help ease the load of our schedule which can be hectic at times.



Our Chairman and President, Professor Kyunghye Lee, joins with us in wishing you a successful Series 3 : 2012

Professor K Lee : Chairman and President

Dr Darrell Hines : Director and Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
Director and Course Consultant

David Urquhart-Jones

David Urquhart-Jones is widely experienced as a pianist, orchestral player, conductor and teacher. His work as a performer has occurred almost entirely in the classical field but he is also a talented jazz pianist.

Now, as a full-time composer, his work reflects familiarity with both classical and jazz-related styles. Engagement, as a conductor, with amateur community choral and orchestral groups have brought a keen awareness some lack of connection between the classical music industry, the music education enterprise and what is actually going on in the musical life of the community. The result, he believes, has been a tragic ignorance of 20th century master works and a refusal, by many music educators, to incorporate jazz-related styles, with their requirements for improvisation, in curricula designed for young musicians.

Inspired by, among others, Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Milhaud, Matyas Seiber, Don Banks and Claude Bolling, Urquhart-Jones set about writing music that combined jazz and 'classical' styles. In these pieces 'improvisational' episodes are precisely scored but chord symbols are given which present an option for the real thing. Many of the ensemble pieces in this genre were written for colleagues; professional classical performers with a desire to play jazz. An example of the latter is *Three and Easy* for flute, piano and acoustic or electric bass. Many, mainly pieces for the piano, are written for young musicians.

In a more serious vein Urquhart-Jones has written music which, for want of a better term, might be described as 'straight.' Among these are works for piano, small ensemble and full orchestra. Most recently completed works in this category include *Three Pieces* for flute and piano, *Four Pieces for Clarinet in Bb and Piano*, and a clarinet quintet.

Academic and practical preparations for a career in music were accomplished in London and at the University of Michigan. In 1977, Urquhart-Jones was admitted to the American National Music Honors Society in "recognition of superior musicianship and scholarship."

More at: web.me.com/durquhartjones/Site



Now



Then

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