



# NEWSLETTER 2021

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*International Music  
Examinations Board*

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## CHANGE

**Dr Tim Smith**

**CHANGE** is good because new opportunities and experiences present themselves ... they can be plentiful and beneficial. Embracing 'change' enables progression and improvement. Various updates and new syllabi have ensured that the IMEB has not become mired in mediocrity nor resistant to change. Resistance to change occurs when participants seem unwilling to accept change lest they might lose something of value, or fear not being able to change successfully without upskilling, retraining, education or effective communication. Change is important for any organization if they intend to retain the competitive edge and meet the needs of a diverse local and global client base.

Change also happens when culture changes with new ideas, eg IT. As individuals adopt these new ideas they automatically participate in the creation of this change, and by doing so experience personal growth too. This is my fervent wish for the changes currently taking place within IMEB.

In evaluating 24 successful years, the time is now right for change, and IMEB has decided to make some changes to the operational structures. The first step has been to introduce a fresh, new Committee of Directors following the retirement of President Kyunghye Lee and the resignation of Dr Darrell Hines and myself as Directors. Despite ill-health Dr Darrell will certainly retain a keen interest in IMEB.

As part of the change, there is to be ***no further reference*** to either AICM (Australian International Conservatorium of Music), nor AMPA (Australian Music and Performing Arts Academy). Every effort has been made to contact teachers and most have already complied with this directive which is a legal requirement. If, for some reason, you were not contacted then please comply immediately.

To all intents and purposes IMEB will continue to operate as usual, but under the administration and guidance of a new Board of Directors, each of whom brings with them a valued and varied set of skills, knowledge and professional experiences in the fields of Arts, Performing, Teaching and Administration. The strong team will be headed by Ms Merryl Lloyd, and assisted by Ms Rachel Brennan and Dr William Clark OAM. I am most grateful that they have each accepted these invitations to serve as Directors.

Darrell and I would like to extend our appreciation to all who have given us loyal support over the years. Graduations were always an ideal platform for public display of the high standards promoted by IMEB. As part of the change and transfer of operation, I have now stepped back from the General Admin of IMEB but will continue to oversee the Music side as usual for the foreseeable future. Music enquiries should continue to be sent to me at PO Box 1363, Cronulla NSW 2230 or IMEB email. Merryl will front the Speech, Drama, Public Speaking and Theatre Performance exams and General Admin.

We live in an incontrovertible age of change, and just as Covid-19 has forced us to adapt in many ways and become resourceful, we must each be part of all aspects of change in order to survive. **I am very appreciative of the new committee's invitation to me to write these comments for your general information.** Darrell and I are very reassured and confident that IMEB will continue to flourish in dynamic and exciting ways, maintaining the philosophy, innovations and relevance of the courses and syllabi. I am sure you will warmly welcome each new committee member, and support them in any new directions they may instigate as part of this current **CHANGE**.

# Important Updates

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please note new mailing address and phone number for IMEB enquiries. They are as follows:

### MAIL:

**42/159 RIDGECORP DR  
CASTLE HILL  
NSW  
2154**

### TEL:

**02 9894 6347**

### MOB:

**0483 824 973**

The email address currently remains the same, that is: [enquiries@imeb.com.au](mailto:enquiries@imeb.com.au).

As previously mentioned, music enquiries should be sent to: **PO Box 1363, Cronulla NSW 2230.**

As we no longer hold an office at Broadway, using previous contact details will put a significant delay on the team being able to respond to you, so we appreciate your quick adaption.

## BANK DETAILS

For those who send in entry fees via EFT, please note our new bank details.

Account Name: **IMEB LTD**

BSB: **112-879**

Account Number: **495430167**

Please reference teacher/studio theory/prac in your transfer, and include a receipt number with your entry form.

## GRADUATION

We are currently looking at all our options for how we manage graduation in 2021. We will update you by end of March with our final decision, and we thank you for your patience.

## THEORY EXAMS

Theory exams are intended to proceed in September. There WILL NOT be a series 1 theory examination. The entry deadline for series 2 Theory is **1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST.**

Location for exams will be confirmed at a later date and will be subject to any restrictions that may be in place at that time. Please be prepared to host and supervise your own exams as required in 2020.

## PRACTICAL EXAMS

Practical exams will go ahead conditional to any government restrictions. It is each teacher's responsibility to follow their COVID-SAFE plan for exam day.

The closing date for series 1 will be **1<sup>ST</sup> MAY.**  
The closing date for series will be **1<sup>ST</sup> Oct.**

While we do our best to accommodate timing requests, please understand that it is ultimately determined by the directors and examiners availability. No exams dates for series 2 will be allocated until after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

# Tribute to the Founders

In the Summer of 1996 a number of meetings were held at the AICM Enfield premises in order to discuss the possible formation of a new music and speech and drama examination board. Eventually the International Music Examinations Board was launched in 1998 by Darrell Hines and Tim Smith with the assistance of Professor Lee.

Tim and Darrell brought a vast performing arts experience to the new examinations board. Both had begun their careers as Primary School teachers and moved to Secondary Education. Tim had trained at London University and Darrell at Sydney University. Eventually they each moved to Tertiary Education. Darrell moved to Sydney Teachers College which was then merged with Sydney University. Darrell became Head of the Music Department and was responsible for Dip Ed students while Tim lectured at the Australian Catholic University at Strathfield Campus. Darrell's Masters Degree from Sydney University was in the teaching of speech and drama. Throughout his career Tim believed in the integrated teaching of music and drama in the classroom, something he practiced in every lesson.

Tim and Darrell met at Inservice Workshops and Education Conferences. Their friendship strengthened when Darrell was the Music Director for a Hornsby Musical Society production and Tim had a leading role. It was a meeting of two very talented performing arts minds. In addition they both were in demand as Eistedfodd Adjudicators and were both examiners for the Australian Guild's music, speech and drama examinations.

In forming the IMEB they were keen to create a more flexible examination system where students were encouraged to demonstrate their talent and skills in all areas without conforming to a rigid set of rules.

The Speech and Drama Syllabi were embraced by many outstanding teachers and students. A few teachers recommended some additional things be added and there are many hundreds of teachers and

students who have fully embraced the IMEB system through to the popular Diploma Examinations which are excepted for student credit in many universities.

Darrell and Tim undertook diploma training in the Dalcroze Eurythmics System at the Sydney Conservatorium. Their expertise has not only led to innovative syllabi being introduced in the music and drama areas but also in the introduction on new theatre and singing courses. Students in music exams can undertake traditional technical examinations, exams in Modern Singing and Piano etc and also in performance examinations. The inclusion of a programme with research notes was also a welcome innovation for some students. We will always be grateful for the collaboration of these two outstanding arts educators and practitioners. They have left us an enduring legacy in the performing arts and the syllabi of the IMEB.

For many years the burden of administration was constantly growing yet Tim happily undertook this work with great skill and without cost to the IMEB. He was assisted by Darrell for many years until sickness prevented him from continuing. For their vision and their gifts we thank them and salute them.

William Clark OAM.



# 2020 Highlights

## GRADUATION COVID STYLE

Our graduation ceremony looked very different last year due to it falling in the peak of the pandemic. Many teachers and studios rallied and adapted to the situation by having virtual or socially distanced private ceremonies, which allowed for graduates to still be celebrated for their great achievements.

### *CYDS 2020 Graduates*



## OVERSEAS IMEB NEWS

Not surprisingly there is no news of overseas operations for 2020 due to the Covid-19. Studios in Malaysia, Nepal, and Egypt closed down and were severely impacted to various degrees by various waves of the pandemic, especially Nepal where the situation remains serious. News reaches us that some studios are gradually and tentatively re-opening bit by bit, and teaching activity is resuming on a very reduced scale. Naturally we shall all be pleased when life turns to a new normal and we are able to travel and observe all local social distancing conditions safely. Until then, IMEB is not prepared to place any examiner, teacher or candidate at any health risk.

## MUSIC

A small number of Vocal and Piano exams occurred at the end of 2020 in Sydney under strict Covid-19

conditions which fortunately did not necessitate Zoom which can cause frustrations with rhythmic elements in filming performance. Some of these Music exams were of very high quality indeed.

## ZOOM EXAMS

While many of our overseas studios were unable to participate in exams, the students of Morning Star International in Sri Lanka made an adjustment and held their exams over ZOOM. Exams were held over 4 days, persevering through time differences and technical difficulties.

Studio Director Hashni Perera said, “We in Sri Lanka had a very successful session of examinations this time. We had much trepidation because technology had a very large part to play. A big thank you to our examiner Ms. Merryl Lloyd, who helped our students get over their initial fears of facing a computer instead of a real live person. There is also the issue of pronunciation and accent, which both the examiner and student had to overcome. This was done with much patience, thanks to the years of expertise Ms. Lloyd must have in her years of experience. The examination was a success. The students did their best. The parents were satisfied and we at Morning Star International are very pleased and grateful for a new innovative method of examination, which was made possible by IMEB Australia. Thank you IMEB.”

We thank Examiner Merryl Lloyd for facilitating this, and look forward to a time when we can congratulate Hashni on her superb effort in person.





## EISTEDDFODS ONLINE

Whilst 2020 proved to be a challenge for all due to the COVID pandemic, teachers and studio owners had to come up with ways to showcase their students and also think of performance opportunities we could give during this very difficult and challenging time.

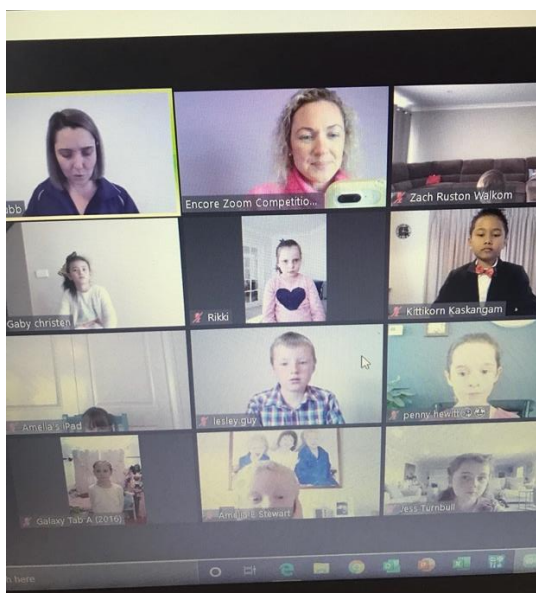
Principal, Kristie Thorne from Encore Speech & Drama Studio in Bathurst held 2 in house zoom online competitions in 2020 when the physical Eisteddfods were cancelled.

The first was held in April 2020 with Kristie and Mrs Merryl Lloyd working together to adjudicate each other's students in an online in house festival. This allowed students the opportunity to perform the pieces they had been working on and also allowed them to 'see' their friends and watch their peers perform.

The second was held in June with adjudicator Ms Erin Bubb offering her services to adjudicate Encore services. Kristie then was able to offer her adjudicating services to assist other studios implement their own online festivals. It ran just like an Eisteddfod with all performers receiving a report sheet on their performances, and prizes and certificates were also awarded.

The events were popular, and parents were very grateful that these opportunities were given to the students. It created a sense of fun and enjoyment in a very challenging time.

This was a great initiative that was very successful. The students thrived during this time, having goals to work towards when Eisteddfods were cancelled.



## MERIDEN FEATURE

The following is an excerpt from a feature printed in the newsletter for Meriden school for Girls. Rachel Brennan, as the resident teacher, is proud to represent the IMEB and raise it's profile.

"A record sixty-two Meriden students have recently undertaken Speech and Drama and Effective Public Speaking exams through the International Music Examinations Board. Eight girls were awarded A+ in the rigorous assessments. which encourage personal development in music, speech, drama, theatre arts and performance.

IMEB exams are challenging, involving both prepared repertoire and improvisational content. In 2020, Meriden students from Year 1 to Year 11 have chosen to undertake Speech and Drama as a cocurricular activity, attending weekly lessons with a specialist tutor (Rachel Brennan).

Isabella Morkos, Year 7, said Speech and Drama provides significant benefits to both her performance at school and her confidence in a broader context.

"I take away from Speech and Drama strong public speaking skills, which help me whether I'm doing an assessment in class or just making conversation with another person; I know how to present in a friendly way, with the right pitch and the right pace, and so on," she said.

Students Cheng Cheng, Year 10, and Liliane Spratt, Year 11, agree. Cheng said the IMEB course is fun, allowing her to engage with a broad variety of texts and laying the groundwork for the development of skills in subjects like English, in which she recently used her polished speaking skills to produce a podcast for an assessment. Liliane Spratt said the course is proving valuable because it has further developed her ability to understand character, control her voice and breath and produce high-quality theatre performances. Speech and Drama has provided Liliane regular opportunities for the deliberate practice of these skills which she says will serve her well in HSC English and Drama next year.

...

Mrs Rachel Brennan currently tutors all Meriden girls in Speech and Drama through the Music Academy, supporting their growth through the IMEB syllabi.

...

The Meriden community congratulates all girls who undertook IMEB examinations in this session."

# Trisha Noble 1944 - 2021

Born into a Tivoli showbusiness family to father Buster Noble, the comedian and entertainer, and mother Helen de Paul the well-known choreographer/producer, Trisha was originally known as Patsy Ann Noble. As a child she performed on stage in her parents' vaudeville circuit shows, appeared regularly on Sydney Radio, and in TV music and such popular shows as Brian Henderson's *Bandstand* and Keith Walshe's *Youth Show* in the '60s, and acting at The Independent Theatre, thus honing her skills in all arts: singing, drama and dance. By 14 she was Australia's youngest qualified ballet teacher.



During the '70s she relocated to UK, changed her stage name to Trisha Noble and enjoyed success as a popular singer, actress and recording artist with contracts at Colombia and EMI performing with, among other artists, the Beatles and Engelbert Humperdink. She performed in London Palladium Variety Shows and appeared in *Carry On* movies. Later moving to USA, Trisha appeared in cabaret at Las Vegas and progressed to a wide range of well-

known and popular TV mini-series and feature films in California.

Cutting short her American showbusiness career, she returned to Sydney to care for her aging parents and graced the Australian stages with roles in *Sweet Charity*, *Shout!*, *Dusty the Musical*, *Dr Zhivago*, *Pippin* and *Ladies in Black*. She was a recipient of Mo Award and Logie Award for Best Female Singer.

On her return to Sydney, Trisha drew on her career as a performer and diversified her Theatre skills further by upgrading her Speech and Drama experiences to become a qualified Teacher and Examiner for IMEB. She established a successful Studio in South Sydney before retiring to the Central Coast.

It is with much sadness and regret that we announce Trisha's recent passing following a long battle with her health. She was vivacious, warm, talented and professional who supported IMEB wholeheartedly. We send our sincere condolences to Trisha's family.

**Interesting note:** In his youth Darrell used to be regularly invited by Trisha's father, Buster Noble, to play piano as backing for his Club Variety Shows as he used to proclaim far and wide that Darrell was the best accompanist around in the entertainment business, and could immediately adapt his piano playing to suit any musical number, audience or cabaret style.