

IMEB



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BODY

THE IMEB NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of The International Music Education Body

**INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC
EDUCATION
BODY**

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*We are currently staffed
by volunteers.*

*Our office hours are:
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday.*

9am - 3pm.

*Please use office
contacts for all business.*

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Year in Review
- 2026 Updates
- 2026 Graduation Information
- Professional Development
- Recognising Excellence
- Meet the Examiner
- Studio Feature

2025 IN REVIEW

2025 has been another significant year of growth and achievement across the IMEB community. It continues to be inspiring to witness the dedication of our teachers and the commitment of studios in preparing candidates so thoroughly. The quality of work presented throughout the year reflects not only careful preparation, but a genuine passion for excellence in Speech, Drama and Music.

Our annual Graduation Ceremony, held in May, once again provided a meaningful opportunity to celebrate those students who completed their Associate and Licentiate qualifications. We were treated to outstanding performances from Loureine Mesa (Piano), Ronan Whitton (Drama), and Sasha Imada (Voice), showcasing both technical accomplishment and expressive maturity.

The presentation of our memorial awards continue to uphold the legacy of two significant contributors to the IMEB community. The Shirley Jackson Memorial Award, recognising excellence in Speech & Drama was awarded to Shereenaa Devarinjith of Merryl Lloyd Speech & Drama, and the Darrell Hines Memorial Award for excellence in music was awarded to Laeticia Tay Li Yin, an international candidate from the studio of Thomas Ling, Malaysia.

Congratulations to all award winners and graduates on their well-deserved success.

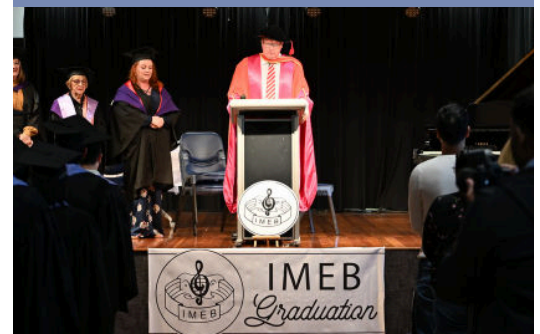
In 2025, the IMEB was privileged to support a variety of Eisteddfods, including Sydney Eisteddfod, Parramatta Eisteddfod of Speech & Drama, and Gold Coast Eisteddfod. Through sponsorship, we are able to contribute to the continuation of these events, partnering with the committees to provide valuable experience and opportunities to generations of candidates, such as the following competitor from the Sydney Eisteddfod. *“To the International Music Examination Board, I’d like to give my biggest gratitude and thanks for your kind donations toward the Sydney Eisteddfod. Your support in the 15/u Plucked & Bowed Lower Strings event has given me, & all the other competitors, a really great stage & a really great competition to perform in & to showcase our musical abilities. I play the Chinese traditional instrument called the guzheng & it’s really hard for me to compete in the same competition as say, the viola or the harp & all those other western instruments. Your fundings given me to opportunity to do so and I’m really, really grateful because it’s a chance for me to showcase my culture and my instrument, but also to develop my confidence and my performance skills. Your generous donations are a really great encouragement to me and the rest of my musical journey, and I’ll continue to work hard and have passion for my instrument.”*

We are looking forward to continued growth in 2026.

2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- New Studios
- Graduation
- Memorial Award Recipients
- International candidates
- Eisteddfod Sponsorships



KEY INFORMATION FOR 2026

We are continually trying to improve the experience for teachers and candidates. These are some points to note for the upcoming year.

Exam Fees

The exam fees for 2026 are unchanged from last year. Please find the fee schedule on the website.

Syllabus Changes

We are continuing to make updates and improvement in each syllabus, to assist in creating the most cohesive experience for teachers, candidates and examiners. All registered IMEB members will be notified as needed when a syllabus has been updated. Please ensure you have the most current syllabus when teaching to ensure accurate exam preparation. If you are unsure please contact the office.

Series 1 Theory

After a successful 2025 trial, we are pleased to offer a series 1 theory option for Pre-requisite theory grades only. These will be held on the 2nd Saturday of May. These will need to be supervised by the enrolling studios, with a preference for pen and paper exams, online being available for extenuating circumstances. The entry deadline is April 1st.

Exam Entry Dates

Exams are able to be scheduled in 2 series. Series 1 practical exams are available from March 1st - June 30th, with entry prior to May 1st. Series 2 practical exams are available from August 1st - November 30th, with entry prior to September 1st. Entries must be processed before dates can be confirmed. Series 1 written entries are due by April 1st, and Series 2 written entries are due by August 1st. The cut-off dates for entries are final, so please have your entries in for your preferred series.

Exam location details

If you are hosting examiners, please ensure you provide as much detail as possible for your location, parking options and public transport availability. If your location requires WWCC or any details please request them as early as possible.

Timetables

If you are hosting an examiner having met the 3 hour minimum, please follow the following guidelines when timetabling. A full examining day should be no more than 8hrs, with a minimum of 2 breaks of 15-30 min. Please follow the timings in the syllabus. Please be mindful of examiners time, with minimal gaps due to withdrawal or reschedule. Please include the IMEB office in all timetables and amendments for our record keeping.

Exam Date Requests (Important)

While we understand that studios may be somewhat restricted to circumstances outside of their control, Examiners will be **scheduled at their best availability**. For 2025, more than 65% of our series 2 entries (Sep-Nov) requested the last 2 weeks of November. This is not possible to facilitate. If you have students who you feel are not ready by the entry date, consider a later series. We have exam dates available for most of the year. If you need to make schedule requests, please contact the office as early as possible, noting that **days will not be confirmed without processed entry**, and will be done in a **first entered, first served basis**. While every effort will be made to accommodate you, we cannot guarantee specific dates, and by entering you acknowledge that your exams may occur at any point in that series. You will be given a minimum of 3 weeks notice. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Syllabus Clarifications

The IMEB syllabus is comprehensive and flexible. Please ensure you have read the requirements carefully, so that with substitutions you still remain in line with the syllabus requirements. Our examiners are extremely fair and there to encourage, but must remain fair and equitable, so please assist them in ensuring that you have met each criteria of the selected level of your elected syllabus. A reminder that we have a wide range of syllabi to accommodate varying skill sets and abilities. If you are in need of guidance, please contact the office with any questions, so we can partner with you to provide the best possible experience for your students.

Rules for Entry

We have noticed a trend of late to enter candidates into multiple levels of exams in the same series. We as the board believe this is a disservice to the learning experience and integrity of the syllabi available. So we wish to clarify that from this year on, the rule of **1 candidate may sit 1 level/per syllabus/per series** will apply. This still enables students to sit up to 2 levels of any syllabus per year, but with sufficient skill development specific to the level, and also encourages a broadening of experience. You may for example, sit a candidate for an exam in both Speech and Drama, and theatre performance in the same series. There is also to be no crossover content for exams held within 12 months of each other.

Certificate Corrections

Any certificate amendments need to be emailed within 2 weeks of receiving. Any reissuance requests after this time period, or as a result of error on entry will incur a \$15 fee per certificate. Please remember to check your entries prior to submission, as you are asked on the entry form to confirm accuracy. Your assistance and care is greatly appreciated.

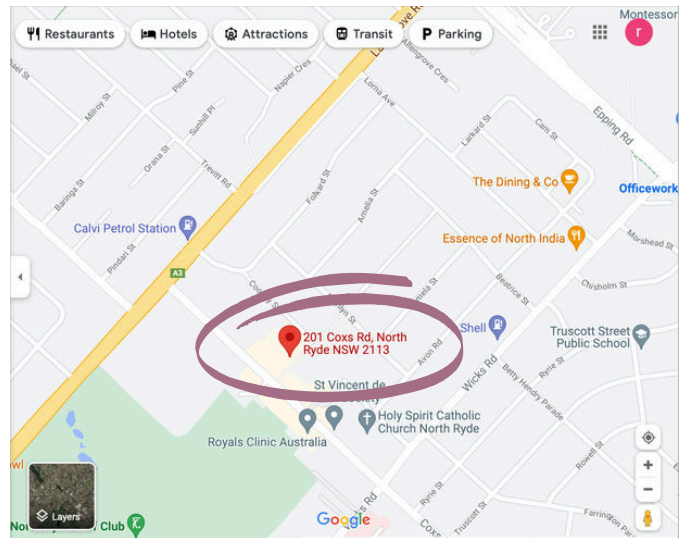
2026 GRADUATION

WHEN

Saturday 2nd May, 2026
Ceremony to begin 2:00pm
Graduands to arrive 1:15pm
for Gowning

WHERE

North Ryde School of the
Arts Main Hall
201 Coxs Rd
North Ryde
NSW 2113



The compulsory ceremonial dress requirements (robe/cap/stole) will be provided by the IMEB for a hire fee of \$80, payable upon attendance rsvp.

TEACHER TRAINING

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION

Join us online for a teacher training session designed to deepen your understanding of the IMEB suite of syllabi. We'll take a closer look at syllabus requirements; unpacking expectations, assessment focus, and practical approaches for the studio.

This session is ideal for teachers already delivering these syllabuses who would like greater clarity, fresh insights, and the opportunity to refine their approach, as well as those curious to learn more about what's involved. The details for registration can be found below.

SYLLABUS IN FOCUS 2026

EFFECTIVE
PUBLIC
SPEAKING

SPEECH
&
DRAMA

SPEECH &
DRAMA
PERFORMANCE

Saturday, 28th March

10 AM - 12 PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

REGISTER HERE

Contact the office for more details



RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE



DR WILLIAM CLARK HONOURED BY THE MTA NSW

The Music Teachers' Association of NSW is a professional organisation that supports and advocates for music educators across New South Wales through professional development, networking, and leadership within the sector. It plays an important role in promoting high standards of music education and fostering a connected, vibrant teaching community. Find more information here: <https://mtansw.org.au>

At the recent Music Teachers' Association of NSW conference, held in October 2025, IMEB Director Dr William Clark was warmly welcomed as an Honorary Life Member — a fitting tribute to a lifetime dedicated to music education and to the people who make our profession so vibrant. Many of us know Dr Clark not only for his remarkable achievements as an educator, examiner, and leader, but for his generosity of experience, thoughtful mentorship, and genuine belief in the transformative power of the arts. His ability to inspire and encourage both teachers and students, and to champion high standards while remaining deeply supportive, has left a lasting mark not just on our IMEB community, but on the many communities he has served, as evident by this achievement with the MTA, to add to his many other recognitions.

We are delighted to see his contribution recognised in this way and extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Clark on this special honour. We also thank the Music Teacher's Association of NSW, under the leadership of Chair Max Holzner, for continuing to celebrate and support the work of dedicated music educators across the state.

We look forward to continuing to build our strong relationship with Associations of both Music and Speech as we work together to support our shared community, and our deepest congratulations to Dr Clark for this significant achievement.

MEET THE EXAMINER: NAOMI COULTEN

Naomi has been teaching music (piano & voice) for almost 2 decades, running Sentry Music, a successful Sydney studio of over 250 students for 7 years. She has been a valued examiner of the IMEB since 2021.

Ultimately, I want my critiques to support growth without diminishing individuality, and to encourage continued development while honouring who they already are as artists. Beyond the standard performance indicators, I look for passion. Passion can present itself in many ways: attention to detail, excellent technique, high notational accuracy, and, importantly, musicality. Students who have practised diligently and developed a solid understanding of these aspects often achieve higher results because their performance is well-rounded; a clear picture is painted and a story told. I encourage all students to decide on the story they wish to tell through their music.

A compelling performance reflects thoughtful preparation and a genuine emotional connection. Technical skills serve as the foundation, but expressive intent gives the performance life and authenticity. I am seeking a meaningful connection with the repertoire, aligning closely with their genre and inherent characteristics.

When I offer critique, I consider the student's developmental stage. Expectations should be appropriate to their level of growth. Constructive feedback should be practical and encourage refinement of technical elements while also nurturing their confidence. For all candidates, it is vital that they feel progress is within their control. A few encouraging words can respark enthusiasm and renew the student-teacher relationship, so alongside critique, I offer practical tools and suggestions for improvement.

Ultimately, I hope the student feels valued for the uniqueness of their 'voice'. Every candidate carries something individual, and I want them to feel recognised for the strengths they already possess, while also feeling empowered to refine the elements that need attention. My hope is that students can receive my feedback objectively — not as something absolute, but as something offered with care and intention.



My number one priority for students examined by me is that they leave feeling encouraged. Regardless of the journey that brought them to exam day — the support of teachers, the commitment of parents, and the organisation behind the scenes — I hope each student feels recognised and motivated.

STUDIO FEATURE: ACTING UP DRAMA ACADEMY

Acting Up Drama Academy (AUDA) in Wollongong, NSW, established by Erin Bubb, is a vibrant and growing studio of over 100 students. She is supported by a dedicated team of teachers - Keegan Hayne, Cassandra Kerr and Tyseley Lewis - who share her commitment to excellence and student growth.

At the heart of AUDA philosophy is a simple but powerful goal: to develop clear, confident communicators - the leaders of tomorrow. Erin and her staff believe that Speech and Drama is about far more than performance; it is about equipping young people with the skills and self-belief to express themselves with clarity and confidence in all areas of life.

AUDA works hard to create a learning environment that is safe, respectful and inclusive. The students are encouraged to take opportunities, challenge themselves and support one another. As a result,

AUDA students enthusiastically embrace eisteddfods, examinations, showcases, writing competitions and productions, consistently demonstrating both skill and professionalism.

Beyond the studio, Erin is also current President of the Speech and Drama Association of NSW. She greatly values the opportunity to support fellow educators by leading quality professional development and fostering meaningful networking opportunities across the state.

Through her dedication as a teacher, adjudicator and leader, Erin works with her team to make a lasting impact on all students who attend Acting Up Drama Academy.

