

October, 2009

NZMEB news

NEW SYLLABUSES

Following the success of the Piano for Pleasure syllabus, the NZMEB Board is now introducing syllabuses for Pleasure for all instruments. These will follow the format of the Piano for Pleasure syllabus. Entrants will need to learn approximately half the number of scales and choose 3 pieces by 3 different composers from the performance syllabus for their instrument. The musicianship and musical knowledge sections will remain the same as for the performance syllabuses. The listings for these will be available on line from 2010.

Examiner Profiles:

This newsletter again contains information about one of our examiners to introduce them to you and to tell you why this person has been appointed an examiner for our prestigious music organisation in New Zealand.

Rae de Lisle is currently Senior Lecturer in Piano at the University of Auckland where she is also enrolled as a PhD student. Her teaching has produced many outstanding young pianists, most notably John Chen (winner of the 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition and the 2003 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition) who was taught by Rae for eleven years.

As a pianist she studied and performed in London for seven years before returning to New Zealand and leading an active performing life as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician, playing throughout New Zealand, as well as in North America. She recorded regularly for radio and television in New Zealand, receiving the Mobil Award for the best classical recording in 1990. She played concertos on many occasions with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and most of New Zealand's regional orchestras.

In 2000 she set up the University of Auckland's Academy of Music to nurture and inspire students from the ages of five to 18. She was Director of the Academy until 2005, when she resigned in order to concentrate on teaching and research at the university.

Over thirty years of teaching Rae has developed a pianism retraining method which has helped many pianists to overcome overuse injuries. During the past five years she has been researching focal dystonia, a devastating neurological disorder which usually forces musicians to end their performing careers. Her retraining method with pianists with this condition has been successful in a number of cases, significantly improving their ability to perform. She has presented her research in London, Manchester, Portugal, Colorado, Adelaide, Turkey and was key note speaker at the Australasian Pedagogy Conference in July this year. She is also researching international trends in technical training in preparation for a book on piano technique and injury prevention.

News from the Office

Theory exams are underway at the end of this month and marking will commence immediately. Practical Certificates have been ordered and we expect delivery from the printer within a week.



sound values

Practical Exams 2009:

These went very well with a large number of students presenting in many centres around the country from Whangarei to Invercargill. Most of them had prepared sufficiently well to be successful. Congratulations to students and their teachers for their fine effort this year.

Syllabus Additions

NZMEB is frequently approached by composers wishing to have their works included in our syllabus. We take all such approaches seriously and will consider the works. Our big syllabus review is not due for another two years but it is still possible for small syllabus additions to be made at the end of each year.

Our exam board is all about New Zealand teachers and New Zealand students. If you wish to have a particular composition included in the syllabus, please do make an approach to us about it (e-mail is best) with a recommendation of the appropriate grade.

The new year:

Several teachers are looking ahead to the new year already. Remember to get your copy of the syllabus off the website so you have the latest up to date version.

Website Tips:

Remember that all old theory papers are available to anyone from our website as a download. That includes the 2009 papers which will be made available soon after the exam. Go to the website and look under the resources tab for them.

Teaching Tips:

With student activities winding up to a frenzied peak towards Christmas, this term is a good opportunity to get them together in levels and go over technical work. Armchair exercises are especially useful when students are anticipating long lazy days at the beach. The social aspect of being together helps to keep them motivated so they will look forward to returning in February. It can be helpful for those who have "fallen off the practise schedule" to realise that many of their peers are already well through their scale charts. If you need scale charts download them from our website.

Contribute your tips to us at NZMEB@xtra.co.nz with "tips" in the subject line.

Beverley Holder

National Administrator