

NZMEB news

Conference:

It was with great excitement that NZMEB announced its acceptance into the NZQA framework at the IRMT conference in Hamilton last month. NZMEB provided the wine for the dinner when the announcement was made. Our Patron Michael Houstoun was there as was our Kaumatua Waaka Vercoe and both spoke very ably. NZMEB is delighted to have them as part of our organisation. More information will be forthcoming about the NZQA framework inclusion as the year draws on.

Announcement:

This is the announcement that NZMEB made:

The New Zealand Music Examinations Board is "*Recognised as a course owner by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority under the provisions of the Education Act 1989 and its subsequent amendments.*"

A further announcement will be made shortly....

Website:

We have a new look to our website which is about to go live any day now. Look out for it - we have added a NZ flavour to it with some lovely pictures of NZ bush and beaches etc and also added some more tabs including a forum tab for teachers and other NZMEB associates to have their say.

Contact:

Here in the NZMEB office we are happy to receive e-mails or phone calls from teachers but prefer you do not encourage parents of your students to contact us. A recent parent rang our 0800 number about 8 times and we are always conscious of careful financial management. I know teachers are always careful with expenditure and we greatly appreciate it – parents don't necessarily have that awareness so please contact us yourselves.

Pleasure syllabuses

These will shortly be available for all instruments. This means that entrants in all syllabuses can now choose a less comprehensive option of three pieces by three different composers, two of which must be on the any NZMEB lists for the instrument, for that grade. The third piece may be own choice as long as it is of a similar standard. All pieces must be by different composers.

Woodwind Syllabuses – clarinet, saxophone and flute

There have been significant changes to the scale lists for these performance syllabuses plus the addition of Pleasure Syllabuses. You may use the previous syllabuses as noted below for the Piano Syllabus.

Syllabus Change – Piano for Pleasure

There has been quite a significant change in this syllabus. This is in order that all syllabuses match. We realise that some teachers are adversely affected by this change and wish to advise that:



All students preparing for 2010 examinations should use the 2010 syllabus unless there is a material difference with the 2009 syllabus AND preparation is sufficiently far down the track so as to prevent them starting again under the 2010 syllabus.

We will under special circumstances accept the 2009 syllabus but you must tell us at the time of entry and also tell the examiner at the time of the exam. Our preference remains that all entrants prepare using the 2010 current syllabus.

Singing Syllabus:

There are changes to this syllabus and they are available on the website. The changes relate to additional grade 7 singing pieces.

Performance Piano Syllabus:

For those that have a paper copy of this, there are two changes to note since the printing:

Grade 2 Remove: List B: Biehl Sonatina Kjos R & 20thC Level 2 (it is in Grade 1)

A Mus Remove: List C: Rachmaninoff Prelude no 11 (just the number) (it is in Grade 8)

Timetable for 2010:

30th April – deadline for practical entries

1st – 31st August Practical exams

31st August – deadline for theory entries

30th October – Theory exam day

Examiner Bios:

We will be continuing our theme for 2009 of including examiner bios in 2010 newsletters:

Paul Ellery

Paul Ellery was born in Te Aroha near Hamilton. He studied piano at Auckland University with Janetta McStay and Bryan Sayer. Paul recorded many programmes for the YC Network as an accompanist, later to become Radio New Zealand Concert. On completing his diploma Paul travelled to England to study accompanying with Geoffrey Parsons and Valda Aveling. He performed in a number of concerts in England and also owned a record shop in South Kensington.

On returning to New Zealand he taught piano privately in Hamilton and at St Peters School, Cambridge. Paul also did much accompanying for competitions and concerts.

In 1989 he became a registered secondary school teacher and now is currently Head of Music at Hillcrest High School, in Hamilton. From 1993 until 2005 Paul was a contract lecturer at Waikato University lecturing in the history of western music, jazz and rock music.

Paul has always been interested in jazz and in the pianist Bill Evans in particular. The Paul Ellery Trio played a programme of Bill Evans interpretations at the 2007 Tauranga Jazz Festival.

Beverley Holder, National Administrator