



Syllabus news

We have updated the singing syllabus with help from our specialist examiners: David Griffiths has kindly written new musicianship examples; Judy Bellingham and Flora Edwards have very generously gone through the technical work with a fine toothcomb. Our grateful thanks to each of them for their invaluable input. This new syllabus will run in conjunction with the former (current) one for this year.

The new cello syllabus is up and running on our website. Trumpet and saxophone have been updated. Trombone, recorder, bassoon, oboe, viola and chamber music will all be available following final checks over the next few weeks.

Theory syllabus: Grades 4 and 5 harmony sections have been clarified. The updated version is now available on the website.



sound values

December exams

Congratulations to all our successful entrants. Particular congratulations to our successful diploma entrants: Rachel van Wichen, Lisa Boessenkool, Tuzla Lathiff, James Buckland, Anna Smith and Siobhan Carey-Clark. They will be able to access university-level credits through Waikato University. Congratulations also to our special needs entrants, Renee Patete, Richard Liu and Satine Finer-Neuhauser. Certificates will be on their way very soon.

Thanks to all those entrants and teachers who filled in the feedback forms – we are working through these with interest!

Please be aware that any exam may have a second examiner conducting the exam. This is for moderation purposes. Also, any exam may be videoed - for training and to comply with NZQA requirements.



Liz Locke's diploma students: James Buckland, Anna Smith and Tuzla Lathiff with Liz (in blue). Photo: Liz Locke.

Chamber music examinations

These were successfully trialled in the December exam session with three groups from Avondale College. These exams are now available to all. The syllabus is being worked on and will be online shortly. It is set so that it is compatible with the NZCT School Chamber Music Contest.



Janette Zhong, William Zhu, Justice Zemke-White and Leon Piedade. Photo: Avondale College

Scholarship

Congratulations to Cheyney Biddlecombe, who was awarded the Charles Wilkinson Trust scholarship in voice in Gisborne following the August examinations.

Exam fees

We are holding these at the same level as last year:

Practical examinations

Pre-Preliminary Test	\$89
Preliminary Test	\$99
Grade One	\$99
Grade Two	\$99
Grade Three	\$99
Grade Four	\$129
Assessment Levels 1 - 2*	\$145
Grade Five	\$159
Grade Six	\$189
Assessment Levels 3 - 6*	\$205
Grade Seven	\$215
Grade Eight	\$235
Performance Certificate	\$265
Diploma AMusNZ	\$595
Diploma AMusNZ (special time)	\$744
Diploma LMusNZ	\$685
Diploma LMusNZ (special time)	\$856

Theory examinations

Grade One	\$69
Grade Two	\$79
Grade Three	\$93
Grade Four	\$105
Grade Five	\$118
Grade Six	\$128

Chamber music examinations

(fees per entrant)

Level One	\$50
Level Two	\$60
Level Three	\$70
Level Four	\$80

*The board offers two assessment levels to allow students who do not wish to take an examination to have their work evaluated.

Levels 1 - 2 : 20 mins - \$145 **Levels 3 - 6** : 40 minutes - \$205

Diplomas

Teachers may request that diplomas be held February to May by special arrangement at a mutually convenient time in main centres only. There will be a 25 percent surcharge. Please contact the national administrator.

Workshops coming up

We are holding a teacher workshop in Palmerston North on Saturday 25th February, 3 - 5pm at Liz Locke's studio, 7 Turitea Road, phone 06-3553814. If you'd like to discuss all those questions you may have about performance and pleasure syllabuses, study and repertoire lists, sightreading and aural, how NZMEB fits in with the itinerant music scheme, and more, please give Liz a call.

Workshops are also coming up in the Bay of Plenty, Hamilton and Christchurch. Watch this space!



Leon Piedade
Photo: Avondale College

Profile: Oliver Giles

Growing up in Tauranga, Oliver began learning to play the piano at six and by the age of sixteen achieved his Licentiate Diploma with AMEB. In 2009 he completed a Bachelor of Electronic Engineering with Honours at the University of Canterbury. With a passion and aptitude for both music and technology, Oliver has been involved in the technical side of NZMEB since its inception in 2006, creating and maintaining the website and typesetting syllabuses. Already having a strong grasp of German and French (and a modicum of other languages), Oliver is travelling to Beijing this year to study Mandarin Chinese.



Oliver Giles

Photographs on our website

Our grateful thanks to Kerry Willoughby whose photos appear across the top of our website (as well as within it). They look wonderful.

2012 calendars and bookmarks

Printed calendars (A6 size) and bookmarks are now available to our teachers. Please contact my office if you'd like some sent to you.



When you also factor in the pleasure music brings to one's life, the case for learning to play music is even more compelling...

According to researchers at the University of California, 'Music students are outperforming non-music students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). College-bound seniors with coursework or experience in music performance scored significantly higher on the verbal portion and the maths portion of the SAT than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.' A McGill University study has found that students given piano instruction over a three-year period improved their pattern recognition and mental representation scores significantly. The same study found that their self-esteem and musical skills measures improved too.

Wishing you all the very best for 2012!

Serena Jones, National Administrator

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