

Recent exams

We hope you have enjoyed your exams, that your entrants did credit to themselves and have been encouraged in their learning. We hope that those of you who hosted your exams (and those of nearby teachers) had a good time doing this, having contact with your examiner(s), watching your entrants learn the all-important skills of sitting an exam and taking these things in their stride! We sincerely hope that, despite inevitable ups and downs, all has gone well and it has been a genuinely positive experience.

The results are being collated and certificates will be sent out as soon as they are printed.



October session theory exams

Your entries should be in by now – however, if you have forgotten, or not quite made it, please contact the national administrator.

December session practical exams

Entries are open now for the next practical session in December (1st-18th). These will take place in all main centres, irrespective of numbers of entries. Closing date for entries is Sunday 30th September. Any teachers who will (or think they will) be entering students for a diploma, please let the national administrator know - as we are booking in our diploma examiners now.

Spreading the word

We rely on you, our teachers and examiners, to spread the word about us and our exam system. Please let me know if you'd like any back-up from us. We have marketing material available – let me know if you would like it!

Portability

Our examination system is accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (Mana Tohu Matauranga o Aotearoa). We are the only music examinations board operating in New Zealand with this accreditation. Our examination system fits into the levels (1-7) of our education system. You may be interested to know that we are required to have an annual check of all our systems to ensure that they continue to meet NZQA requirements.

Currently the University of Waikato accredits our successful diploma entrants with levels 5, 6, and 7. The Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) also accredits our successful grade entrants where students wish to enter some of their media arts courses.

Teacher and entrant feedback

Thanks for all your feedback from the recent exams – it helps us to keep working on our systems and make sure we are responsive to your needs.

Proof of purchase of music from the internet

When music has been purchased as an electronic copy from the internet, a copy of the invoice (and receipt) must be brought into the examination room. Further, music downloaded directly from legal or free download websites, must have the particular internet site visible on the pages of music. This is so that our examiners can be sure the music is not downloaded from a pirate site.

High achievers' trophies

The board provides trophies to IRMT branches for our high achievers. This year one was presented to the Palmerston North branch by our area representative Liz Locke.

Liz says: 'It's just beautiful... The koru is so appropriate - both a New Zealand symbol and a symbol of life and growth.'



Jonathan Kriechbaum
with his trophy, June 12

Bank account

Please note that we changed our account in April. The new number is:

02-0466-0228517-000

Please update your records. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Facebook page

We have one up and running. Please have a look. We'd like as many 'likes' as you can muster!!



Sibelius

A Sibelius 7 upgrade is available at a discount. If you have Sibelius 6 (or an earlier version) and would be interested in this offer, please contact the national administrator.

Music Snippets

“For me composition is about painting with sound and I like to explore all the possibilities this presents.”

- Mike Nock -

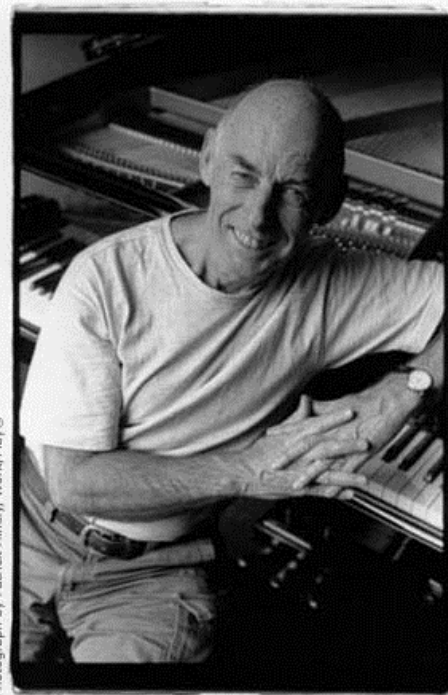
Born in Christchurch in 1940, jazz pianist, composer, band leader Mike Nock is ‘very much in support’ of our aims and is happy we are including his music in our repertoire. Mike began studying piano at the age of 11. By the age of 18, he was playing gigs in Australia, and then heading off to the UK and the US to study and perform with many of the world’s top jazz musicians over the next 25 years.

Mike Nock is a jazz great himself - he has the NZ order of merit ONZM and is widely recognised as one of the ‘masters of jazz’ in Australasia.

Mike very generously re-wrote four of his piano compositions especially for smaller hands for inclusion in our repertoire - ‘Serenity’, ‘Green Cycle’, ‘Red Descending’ and ‘In the Time of Sakura’. Wendy Richards (our local representative in Auckland) is teaching ‘Red Descending’ at the moment and she and her student are finding it a rewarding experience. ‘It is a super addition to her programme,’ Wendy says. ‘I’ve never really been a big fan of 20th century music... but the Mike Nock pieces have been a delight. The harmonies are wonderful and the pieces offer rich possibilities for interpretation by our students... I think the contemporary feel of these pieces enables our students to relate to them easily.’

The four pieces are available in a single book, *Four Pieces for NZMEB*, from the national administrator. They range from grades seven to diploma level. Recordings of at least two (‘Serenity’ and ‘In the Time of Sakura’, the latter discussed and performed by Michael Houstoun) are available on YouTube.

See www.mikenock.com for more about Mike Nock.



Photograph by Patrick Hinely, Work/Play®

Mike’s music has been commissioned and performed by the Cleveland chamber orchestra, the NZ piano quartet, the Australian chamber orchestra, & the UMO jazz orchestra of Finland, amongst others.

Mike is increasingly recognised as a serious composer, with musicians such as Michael Houstoun, Michael Kieran-Harvey, and Sydney’s Apollo Trio playing his music on their recent recordings.

Newly launched trust for woodwind instruments

Where are all the young brass and woodwind players? Set up in 2011, Music Services Young Musicians Charitable Trust aims to encourage young people in 'developing to their potential in the musical arts', especially through learning woodwind and brass instruments; to provide 'easy access to quality wind instruments'; for music education to become 'as accessible as playing sport'. Trustees Elaine Ward and Anne French were interviewed by Eva Radich ('Upbeat', NZ Concert) in May this year.

www.msymct.org.nz



World premiere opportunity to play 'Cross Winds', Massed Woodwind Ensemble - composed by David Hamilton

The New Zealand Woodwind Competition 2012 took place at Westlake Girls High School, Auckland, at the weekend (15th-16th September). We sponsored Debbie Rawson, Head of Woodwind Studies at the New Zealand School of Music, to adjudicate the secondary class. Competitors had the opportunity to play in the world premiere of 'Cross Winds', a new piece by David Hamilton commissioned especially for this event. Entry to the ensemble was initially for competitors only, but, says competition organiser Mary O'Brien, 'We are opening it up to all woodwind and French horn players who may wish to join in! We are aiming to have over 100 people of all ages and abilities across the range of instruments.' In the event 'the performance was incredible... We even had French horns involved as they will be allowed to compete next year.' To see the performance itself please click through to www.flutefocus.com

Release: The Mozart Fellowship – La Belle Alliance

(Tessa Petersen, violin; John van Buskirk, piano; Ode Records)

This is a selection of previously unrecorded works for violin and piano written by former Mozart fellows at the University of Otago - Christopher Adams, John Elmsly, Christopher Marshall, Anthony Watson, Ian McDonald, Edwin Carr, Anthony Ritchie, John Rimmer and Larry Pruden. Tessa Petersen and John van Buskirk have been able to confer with most of the composers in encapsulating these pieces – and presenting these many 'sound worlds' of New Zealand contemporary music over the last fifty years.



All the best,

Serena Jones, National Administrator

Accredited by:



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Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato