



SUPPORTING LEARNING AND RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT



Sound Insights

AMEB examiners live in performance
at the Melbourne Recital Centre

Photo: Mark Chew

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Introducing Sound Insights: AMEB examiners live at the Melbourne Recital Centre

We are delighted to present *Sound Insights*, a groundbreaking series of live events coming to the Melbourne Recital Centre in 2025. This unique program is tailored to music learners, offering a rare opportunity to experience syllabus favourites performed live by esteemed AMEB examiners.

Each session features engaging discussions about the repertoire, behind-the-scenes insights from composers, and expert advice to motivate and guide developing musicians on their journey.

Sound Insights is the first series of its kind in Australia, giving attendees the chance to interact directly with a panel of AMEB professionals, including examiners and composers.

Tickets start at just \$10 for students. Seats are limited, so book early to secure your spot. The venue for these three special concerts is the Primrose Potter Salon, at the world-class Melbourne Recital Centre.

Don't miss this exceptional chance to learn, be inspired, and connect with the musical community. Book your tickets today and take your musicianship to the next level.

To book tickets visit: melbournerecital.com.au/ameb

AMEB Sound Insights: Violin

Featuring Markiyano Melnychenko (AMEB examiner and concert performer) with composer Karen Kyriakou

Sunday, 16 February 2025, 4:00–5:00 PM



Markiyano Melnychenko

AMEB Sound Insights: Level 1 Piano

Featuring Caroline Almonte (AMEB examiner and concert pianist) with composer Jennifer Trynes

Monday, 31 March 2025, 6:00–7:00 PM



Caroline Almonte

AMEB Sound Insights: Level 2 Piano

Featuring Kristian Chong (AMEB examiner and concert pianist) with composer Elena Kats-Chernin

Thursday, 10 April 2025, 11:00AM–12:00 PM



Kristian Chong

Conferring of Diplomas Ceremony 2025

The AMEB's prestigious annual Conferring of Diplomas Ceremony is set to honour the achievements of our successful 2024 diploma candidates. This formal, university-style event celebrates the dedication and excellence of students who have completed their AMEB diplomas, providing a memorable occasion for the AMEB community to acknowledge their accomplishments.

The 2025 ceremony will take place at the magnificent Hawthorn Arts Centre on **Sunday, 23 March**. This year's Occasional Address will be delivered by Benjamin Northey, the Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor – Learning and Engagement of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. His inspiring words are sure to resonate with the young musicians.

The event will also include the presentation of special awards and prizes to recognise outstanding performances from the 2024 AMEB exams. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the program will include exceptional performances by graduating diplomates, while the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music Brass Ensemble will lend a ceremonial flair with their processional music for the Official Party and Examiners.

The Conferring of Diplomas Ceremony continues to be a highlight of the AMEB calendar, offering an unforgettable celebration of musical excellence and achievement.

Special Award Recipients

Presented at last year's ceremony. From left to right:

Anushi Fernandopulle, LMusA with Distinction (Flute), winner of the Leslie Barklamb Flute Award.

Isabella Cui and Zongchun Alice Zhang, joint winners of the Elizabeth Stainkaph Memorial Prize for the best combined result in Grade 8 Piano and Grade 5 Theory.

James Ken-Wei Lim, winner of the VMTA Theory Award for the best Grade 6 Theory result.

Merlin Williams, AMusA with Distinction (Viola). Winner of the AUSTA Viola Award for the highest result in Viola examinations in the previous year.

AMEB Victoria acknowledges the generous support of the 2024 Special Awards by the Victorian Music Teachers' Association (VMTA) and the Australian String Teachers' Association (AUSTA).



AMEB's New Teaching Syllabuses: Empowering Music Teachers to Thrive

Music teachers understand the magic that unfolds when a student steps into a teaching studio. The bond between a dedicated teacher and an eager learner is one of the most fulfilling aspects of music education. However, the profession comes with its challenges, particularly for independent studio teachers who often work in isolation.

To address these challenges, AMEB has introduced new Teaching Syllabuses designed to empower and inspire instrumental music teachers, supporting the creation of nurturing and transformative learning environments.

About the new Teaching Syllabuses

Rooted in international best practice and informed by leading research in music pedagogy, the AMEB Teaching Syllabuses offer a structured pathway for professional growth. These syllabuses feature two distinctive awards:

- Certificate Teacher of Music Australia (CTMusA)
- Associate Teacher of Music Australia (ATMusA)

The awards incorporate a blend of written and practical tasks, providing a comprehensive framework for enhancing teaching expertise. Designed by international experts in music education, these programs are flexible, affordable, and practical—suitable for studio teachers across all instruments and voice.

These syllabuses aim to deepen pedagogical knowledge, foster self-reflection, and equip music teachers with the tools to thrive, both now and in the future.

Teaching Syllabus resources

Teachers can download free copies of the **Teaching Syllabuses** and the **Guide to Assessment** from the AMEB Federal Office website. The comprehensive **Companion Text** is also available in digital and hardcopy formats for purchase.

The new AMEB Teaching Syllabuses were developed to inspire

and support teachers in shaping the future of music education. By investing in professional growth, teachers can unlock their full potential and continue guiding the next generation of accomplished musicians.

Visit the AMEB website today to explore these resources and take the next step in professional development. Together, let's transform the future of music education. ameb.edu.au/shop/music/music-teaching

Alongside the syllabuses, AMEB offers a series of six on-demand **professional development (PD) videos**. These resources, featuring contributions from international experts, complement the AMEB Teaching Syllabuses Companion Text. The first four video topics are:

- Music teaching foundations - Dr Jennifer Blackwell
- A comprehensive approach to music teaching - Aaron D. Himes
- Assessing performance in the music lesson - Victoria Lynn Smith
- Teaching students to practise - Dr Jennifer Blackwell

These resources are invaluable for teachers working towards the CTMusA or ATMusA qualifications, or they may be used as stand-alone professional development resources for teachers seeking innovative approaches to the challenges of studio teaching.

Expression of Interest: Teaching Syllabus workshops in 2025

AMEB Victoria is pleased to announce plans for a series of face-to-face and/or online workshops to be held in 2025. The scope and content of these workshops will be centred around the new Teaching Syllabuses but will be informed by the needs of teachers in our community. We invite studio teachers to register their interest to assist us in the planning process. Your input will help ensure that the workshops are both relevant and valuable to your professional practice. Go to: ameb.vic.edu.au/new-teaching-syllabus



Leadership changes and new appointments at AMEB Victoria

Alwyn Mott retires after two decades of service

The Board of Directors of AMEB Victoria acknowledges the sustained contribution of Alwyn Mott, who has retired after more than two decades of distinguished service. From 2003, Alwyn has steered AMEB Victoria through some challenging times and has made a substantial contribution to the area of company management as well as the continued evolution of AMEB examinations in Victoria. His service was especially notable during the exceptionally difficult period of the pandemic.

Welcoming Andrew Snell as General Manager

The Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Andrew Snell as the new General Manager of AMEB Victoria. Andrew brings a wealth of experience in senior artistic business management, having worked in the tertiary music sector and leading performance organisations such as Opera Australia and Victorian Opera, where he served as Managing Director. Appointed as Deputy General Manager in late 2023, Andrew's background

also includes expertise in arts management and education alongside a distinguished career as a performer, conductor, and musical director of brass ensembles.

Changes to administrative personnel

Urho Redcliffe and Karen Ngo join the team as Examinations Administrators. Urho brings valuable experience from her background in education, having taught VCE English and IB Literature and will focus on regional examining. Karen, with her dual expertise in music teaching and corporate administration, will play a key role in scheduling metropolitan exams. They join the existing team of Jeremy Fletcher (Client Relations Manager), Matthew Bennett (Senior Administrator – Examinations), Sarah Hillier (Customer Service Officer) and Heidi Johnson (Accounts / Payroll Officer).

This team delivers on our commitment to offer exceptional service and support for music education and exams across the State. The Board extends its gratitude to all team members, past and present, for their dedication to the mission of AMEB Victoria.

New in 2025

New Viola Grade 5 and Grade 6 books

Viola Grade 5 and 6 candidates now have additional repertoire choices, published in two additions to Viola Series 2.

- New compositions for viola by Australian, female and Indigenous composers
- Arrangements of celebrated works, including popular pieces originally written for clarinet, bassoon and organ
- Traditional favourites from the classical and baroque periods
- Additional works for Lists A and D

Viola teachers' workshop

Viola Level 2 consultant Raquel Bastos will introduce teachers to new Grade 5 and 6 repertoire at an online workshop.

When: Sunday 2 February 2025
2:00pm – 3:30pm via Zoom

See ameb.vic.edu.au/new-viola-syllabus for more information



New Theory of Music Grade 6 course and workbook

With the publication of the new *Theory of Music Grade 6 – integrated course and workbook* AMEB's set of Theory of Music workbooks is complete from Grades 1 to 6.

For more information go to: ameb.vic.edu.au/theory-grade-6-workbook

Now available for purchase on AMEB Connect.

- Clear and logical structure: 16 dedicated lessons for easy understanding.
- Self-paced learning: Supports independent study for students.
- Comprehensive exam preparation: Includes a practice exam for confidence building.
- Official AMEB resource: Published by AMEB.
- In-depth content: Covers essential topics like harmony, two-part writing, and preparation of set works.
- Expert authorship: Developed by Australian experts in music theory education, including AMEB Theory Specialist, Andrew Raiskums.



50% off Grade 1 Theory of music online course

For Grade 5 Practical Music candidates

In 2025, we are offering all Grade 5 Music candidates the opportunity to enrol in a Theory of Music Grade 1 online course with 50% off the purchase price.

While it's not compulsory for Grade 5 candidates to complete a Theory Grade 1 exam, we want to encourage candidates to start Theory early, so they are ready

for Theory of Music Grade 2, which is an additional requirement to complete a Grade 6 practical exam.

In 2025, after enrolling for a Grade 5 Practical Music exam, enrollers will receive an email with a discount code which can be applied when enrolling for the Grade 1 Theory course on the AMEB Federal Office's SCORE website.

For all Practical exams at Grade 6 and above (except Piano for Leisure, Saxophone for Leisure and Singing for Leisure) there is an additional requirement to pass a specific grade in either Theory of Music, Musicianship or Music Craft. The practical certificate will only be awarded after the additional theory requirement is complete.



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- Purchase AMEB and Rockscool teaching and learning resources at discounted prices for AMEB Victoria clients