

Hello,

Instead of emailing our usual 2-3 page PDF newsletters I thought that shorter and more regular eNewsletters might be more effective in keeping you informed of what's going on in our studio. I will keep them as succinct as possible as I know that we are all becoming increasingly busy. I understand that you might just want to skim the headings for anything that is relevant to you so I hope they are bold enough.

This update is focused on the the Redlands Eisteddfod and what's going on with AMEB (Australian Music Examination Board) exams.

REDLANDS EISTEDDFOD

The Redlands Eisteddfod is a competition with piano sections for all ages and exam grades. We encourage any students who want to get more involved, play in front of an audience or just have a goal to work towards to **give it a go!** Please note that our objective is **not** that students should win or get placed. We just think it's great for a student to get involved and have a goal to practice for. Competitions aren't really that scary and should be encouraging and friendly. The age sections usually have a wide range of standards whereas the grade sections have a range of ages but all the same standard. So, if your worried about entering a class with students that might be better than you then you could try a grade section.

The Redlands Eisteddfod for piano is held from Monday 18th May to Wed 20th May at the Redland performing Arts Centre Auditorium, Middle St Cleveland. I will be submitting all entries this Friday 27th May so le me know by the latest Thursday if you wish to participate.

2009 AMEB PIANO EXAM SESSIONS

Session 1: March 23 - March 29 (closing Feb 11)
Session 2: May 4 - May 24 (closing March 4)
Session 3: July 13 - August 2 (closing May 6)
Session 4: August 24 - September 20 (closing June 3)
Session 5: October 5 - November 1 (closing July 29)
Session 6: November 2 - December 6 (closing September 2)

2009 AMEB THEORY EXAM SESSIONS

Session 1: May 18 - May 22 (closing March 11)
Session 2: August 24 - August 28 (closing June 10)
Session 3: October 28: Grade 1-3 only (closing August 26)

NEW AMEB PIANO SYLLABUS AND BOOKS

AMEB has introduced some significant changes to the 2009 piano syllabus including the new Series 16 Exam Books. Other changes include updates to the technical requirements. The keys and number of scales have changed depending on grade so we will be creating a new set of technical charts that I will post on our website soon. The old and new syllabus will be running concurrently for at least this year.

Please check with your teacher before buying any exam books as we will be moving to the new series 16 books over 2009.

AMEB PIANO EXAM VARIETIES

We prepare most of our students for the original classical piano exams but you might want to consider the Piano For Leisure syllabus depending on your goals. Here are the main features of the different exams.

Piano (Classical)

- This is the syllabus the majority of our students choose and is the most difficult due to the higher skill level and heavier work load required.
- Is more focused on the classical repertoire with some jazz music scattered throughout.
- Places greater weight on technical requirements (scales and arpeggios)
- Requires sight reading, aural tests and general knowledge.
- Grade 2-7 requires 5-6 pieces to be prepared and upon completion of grade 8 the student is well equipped to handle most challenges in day to day music.
- This syllabus has an extra theory requirement that must be completed for grades 6-8.

Piano For Leisure

- As the name suggests the leisure syllabus is less demanding and focuses on more popular music such as famous classical pieces (Für Elise, Bach's Canon etc.), jazz, movie themes and popular songs.
- All grades require 3 pieces to be prepared.
- Requires about 50% less scales and arpeggios to prepare for.
- Students can choose either sight reading or aural tests to prepare.
- General knowledge is required.
- The leisure syllabus does not have any theory requirements.
- Is great if you don't have a lot of time and want to keep playing without the pressure of the classical syllabus or if you want to focus on the popular repertoire.
- Seems to receive a more relaxed assessment.

Nicholas and Katrina