



Accompanist Prize

An exciting new incentive offered by the AMEB to enthusiastic piano exam candidates!

Aside from sharing their obvious love of music with interested students, teachers spend much time and energy helping them to achieve success in exams. We find that those candidates who reach the upper levels, often then drop off either through the pressures of school studies or beginning to ask *why – where will this piano practice take them – what will it do for them – is it worth taking further?*

Very few will have the drive/passion/strength/steel/determination to pursue a solo career.

The AMEB's **Student Accompanist Prize** encourages candidates to collaborate, to enjoy the longer-term preparation of an exam program with a peer, rather than with a professional accompanist engaged frequently quite late in the process. Studying the music together would stimulate greater awareness of musical ensemble in both players and predictably make the exam experience more of an adventure than a trial!

A word from a teacher can make all the difference, alerting students to the benefits of making music with others, encouraging them to venture into ensemble playing, paving the way for a possible career path!

In an article for the MTA's newsletter, *The Music Stand*, Stefan Ammer (former Head of Keyboard, Elder Conservatorium) wrote "Pianists are lonely animals and playing with other musicians is a necessity for balancing a musician's life style."

Frances Wood wrote "...not every pianist will go on to be a concert pianist but there's always a place in society for a sensitive and musical accompanist!"

Piano Teachers are urged to encourage their students to apply for the award. Details appear on page 18 of the current Teachers' Handbook.

After all, all instrumentalists, singers/choirs/theatre groups/dancers need a pianist – how would they manage learning/rehearsing/performing without one?!?!

Monika Laczofy, AMEB State and Federal Examiner, 2017 Information Day Presenter, President, Accompanist Guild of SA