



# Diploma!

The word sounds exciting and many aspiring pianists see it as a symbol of achievement; others see it as a step on the road to higher things, one more to add to a list of qualifications.

Whatever the concept or reason, more important is the awareness that every such step requires genuine dedication and the willingness to 'plumb the depths' of musical understanding.

Preparation of a **Licentiate** program must include the mastering of any technical challenges, accurate reading of the notation, a firm sense of pulse and a clear view of stylistic differences.

**General Knowledge** should show the results of interested study and be more than just a delivery of facts.

**Associate** candidates may not have reached quite that level of authority but the approach is the same, with less difficult works.

Modern compositions often offer surprises and complexities that need more intellectual, rather than emotional, 'unravelling'.

With music written before the twentieth century, preliminary study is relatively straightforward.

Once we have the notes, rhythms, phrasing and tonal colours correct, we should begin to see 'shapes' in the music – how melodic lines and harmonies flow and connect to make a logical journey to the end or to climaxes. Understanding the structure of a work enables us to balance and pace the music. We must then look more deeply to find the meaning behind the notes, to try to grasp the expressive or descriptive intent from the 'messages' left to us by the composer.

One person's interpretation may be considerably different from that of another since, while still observing the printed indications, every musician will have an individual perspective.

Such individuality is welcomed if the playing is positive and has personal conviction.

**Monika Laczofy**  
**AMEB Federal Examiner**

“ Music is a most precious gift in a life – its rewards much greater than the effort! ”

Diploma candidates are encouraged to use the AMEB's performance evaluation service to support their preparation for diplomas.