



Building a strong music community

'It takes a village to raise a child' is an African proverb that has become well known over the past few years. It could well be modified to: *'It takes a whole music community to raise a musician.'*

Government and private educators, associations and organizations, teachers and assessors, all contribute to support emerging and established musicians and the broader musical community. In a society where the Arts are not always valued as highly as they deserve to be, **it is imperative that our music community works together to nurture our music students.** A well-rounded music education needs tuition, experience and role models. Teachers and policy makers are at the forefront of influence. At assessment level, examiners and adjudicators can give feedback in such a way that students are encouraged to higher levels. Our concert and festival organizations need to provide engaging concerts which can showcase music role models and develop a musically literate society. Critics too have a responsibility to reflect our community's appreciation of composers and music that has stood the test of time. International musicians, guests to our state, should be inspired to return.

South Australia has been a pioneering state in the Arts. However, we can't only rely on history; we need to continue to develop the highest possible cultural level and diversity.

One pioneer has been the AMEB. The South Australian branch celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, placing it at the earliest years of an Australian Music Examinations system. It supports music education in a myriad of ways and strives to maintain relevance through various syllabi, publications and on-line exams. The AMEB has an Advisory Board that includes representation from many other music education associations and drawing on the experiences of the broader music community.

Congratulations AMEB on your 125th anniversary and on your valuable contribution to our musical community.

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