



Rediscovering AMEB!

A few years ago I found myself back in Adelaide with a large number of beginning guitar students, ages 8-12.

After a predictable period of trial and error, a core of the studio began to form: students who enjoyed playing the guitar, enjoyed getting better, or perhaps just enjoyed getting out of class but were not averse to learning something in the guitar lesson. Many were improving, and in order to keep their interest and nourish what in some cases was starting to resemble passion, I felt they needed new challenges and experiences with music outside of the lesson with me.

Late last year I organised the first group of my students to do AMEB classical guitar exams, all relatively early grades. **Putting a dozen-odd students through for the first time was stressful, but the rewards for my students, their parents, and me as a teacher went far beyond my expectations.** Students relished the sense of achievement and returned to

lessons more motivated and with a more mature attitude. Parents were delighted with their child's achievement, giving them a valuable milestone around which they could offer their child praise and appreciation for their guitar hobby. Equally, after witnessing their child achieve a milestone which marks their commitment, the parents were now more willing to consider modest investments in instrument upgrades and sheet music purchases, often giving further impetus to progress.

Studio concerts, which have all kinds of benefits in their own right, are potentially well-supported by AMEB exams, with the exam preparation supporting the performance level at the concert, and the performance opportunity supporting the student's exam preparation.

AMEB exams cannot replace or diminish the need for ongoing reflection and work on one's teaching, and the organisation of other events for the students: master classes, group music-making, concert attendance and performance at studio concerts. However, within that mix, they offer a very meaningful pillar of support in a pupil's journey towards greater enjoyment of music and their instrument, and my journey towards a more fruitful teaching experience.

Alex Tsiboulski

Metropolitan zone meetings are coming to a suburb in your zone soon.

For further information check www.ameb.adelaide.edu.au under the heading "News and Events"

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AMEB subjects

Practical Music includes: Piano, Piano for Leisure, P Plate Piano, Accordion, Organ, Electronic Organ, Violin, Viola, Double Bass, Cello, Flute, Flute for Leisure, Oboe, Clarinet, Recorder, Bassoon, Saxophone, Saxophone for Leisure, Trumpet, Tuba, Trombone, Band, Horn, Euphonium, Percussion, Harp, Classical Guitar, Singing, Singing for Leisure and Ensembles



Speech and Drama includes: Drama & Communication, Voice & Communication and Drama and Performance



Contemporary Popular Music includes: Keyboard, Guitar, Bass, Vocal, Drum kit



Theory includes: Music Craft, Theory, Musicianship and Speech & Performance

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