



**By Heather Gummer**



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My involvement with music began at school with lessons in recorder, cello, and piano. I went on to study composition at Auckland and Waikato Universities, and since then have taken up several less common instruments including the bagpipes, Caribbean steel drum, ukulele and guitar, and tenor viola.

I have now been with ABRSM for six years and am honoured to represent such a worthwhile organisation. As a registered charity in the United Kingdom, everything we do is for the benefit of music education, whether at a local, national, or international level.

We are pleased to support a variety of music organisations, events, and schools around New Zealand, and are proud to be the principal sponsor of the Chamber Music New Zealand coaching programme.

ABRSM examiners genuinely believe in the power of music and want to help candidates by providing constructive and encouraging feedback. Examiners are highly trained and frequently moderated – in fact, the moderation process is so rigorous that they must be within one mark of the agreed mark in order to ‘pass’ their moderation exercises.

These days the issue of “global versus local” is an important one, and while ABRSM is a world leader in music exams, we also keep a very strong New Zealand focus in the way we operate. ABRSM recognises that times are tough for many families at this time, and we’re pleased to be able to keep the exam fees the same for the third year in a row.

We are proud to include a selection of New Zealand compositions in our syllabus through the alternative list for Piano. And perhaps most importantly, we have a great team of Auckland staff and local representatives, who are all working to make the whole exam process as easy and stress-free as possible.

For further information please call  
Freephone: 0800 687 392,  
Email: [office@abrsms.org.nz](mailto:office@abrsms.org.nz) or  
visit [www.abrsms.org/nz](http://www.abrsms.org/nz)

**Heather Gummer** is the National Co-ordinator for ABRSM in New Zealand, based in the Auckland office and overseeing a team of 25 local representatives around the country. This is Heather’s seventh year in the role.

## **TRINITY GUILDHALL**

**By Catherine Martin**



**Catherine Martin**

Trinity Guildhall's 2012 Piano Syllabus, 2012 graded repertoire books, and a new Piano Sound at Sight series, will be published in June/July 2012. Teachers can learn about these exciting new publications when our Chief Examiner in Music Subjects, Nicholas Keyworth, visits in September. Further information regarding the New Zealand launch of the syllabus will be circulated shortly.

Our Certificate examinations remain an attractive alternative to graded examinations, offering an opportunity to perform a short recital. Candidates are assessed on their performance (90%) and presentation skills (10%).

Repertoire choice is flexible – candidates may offer their own choice of works for up to one third of the programme, so why not include New Zealand repertoire or even their own composition? These examinations are offered at Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced levels.

Please visit [www.trinitycollege.co.uk](http://www.trinitycollege.co.uk) for further information.

Sadly, Christchurch lost many performance venues in the earthquake of 22 February 2011, and the Music Centre of Christchurch remains out of bounds. Trinity Representative Catherine France has worked overtime to source alternative venues including a private examination room, warm-up area, and waiting room. We are operating as normally as possible, and appreciate the support of IRMT teachers during this difficult time.

Teachers are welcome to contact me about any aspects of our examinations and syllabuses.

For further information, please call Catherine Martin (04) 384-1811 or visit [cathy.martin@trinityguildhall](mailto:cathy.martin@trinityguildhall).

**Catherine Martin** has taught piano and theory for over 30 years and became an Associate member of the IRMT in the mid-1980s. In 2000, she became Trinity College London's National Consultant for NZ, a role that has enabled her to connect personally with many IRMT members throughout the country.



## **New Zealand Music Examinations Board**

**By Beverley Read**



**Beverley Read**

The New Zealand Music Examinations Board (NZMEB) is dedicated to furthering music education in New Zealand. We are very pleased to have New Zealand's leading pianist, Michael Houstoun, as our Patron.

NZMEB is NZQA approved and the University of Waikato, our accrediting body, displays its logo on all our printed material. Created in New Zealand for New Zealanders, we believe in using our own resident musicians and most of our examiners are New Zealand based.

Without exception, the examiners are extremely talented and successful in their own fields. We use specialist examiners and always two for diplomas.

NZMEB offers two strands in more than 10 syllabuses, Performance and Pleasure, utilising many New Zealand compositions. We believe our technical work moves logically and assists the systematic development of the necessary skills for budding musicians.

Performance syllabuses provide a comprehensive programme choice for the motivated learner. Pleasure syllabuses, with their less intensive workload, are great in the private studio and fit well with the itinerant programme within the school system.

Our flexible system allows a student who has entered a Performance exam to change to the Pleasure exam at any time right up to the day of the exam.

Our syllabuses and information are on our website. Free resources for technical work and musicianship are also available. Take a look at the new Canons especially written for NZMEB by Michael Williams. We offer two practical examination sessions, August and December. We also offer Theory in May and October. You can choose to have your students examined in your own studio. This year all Level One (Preliminary to Grade Three) practical exams have a flat fee structure of \$99.00.

For further information, please call the National Administrator, Beverley Holder: 0800 388 748 or visit [www.nzmeb.org](http://www.nzmeb.org)

***Beverley Read*** is chair of the NZMEB Trust Board and senior director of the Bay of Plenty Music Studio based in Tauranga.



## St Cecilia Music Examinations

**By Elizabeth Bouman**



**Elizabeth Bouman**

St Cecilia School of Music was established in Launceston, Australia in 1974. It has become a major Tasmanian educational and cultural organisation with an innovative progressive examination and assessment system, and spread throughout Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Asia.

The St Cecilia examination system was designed and is administered by professional teachers, who are regularly invited to contribute to the content and efficiency of the syllabuses, which include Pianoforte, Piano Duet, Digital Piano, Modern Piano & Jazz, Strings, Woodwind, Singing, Classical Guitar, Modern Bass, Contemporary Guitar, Drum Kit, Recorder, Music Theory and Composition, and Drama and Communication.

Examinations are offered from Beginner, Junior and Preliminary levels through eight grades to three levels of Diploma in performing, teaching, research or composition. A recent addition is a Certificate in Music Teaching, available for teachers who principally teach students at the elementary levels only.

Recital-based Concert Certificates are offered at all grade levels, with appropriate stage and performance etiquette assessed throughout, and the option of an invited audience.

There are no aural or sight-reading tests in St Cecilia examinations. Teachers teach these skills, but do not necessarily believe they should be tested as part of practical performance examinations. A musicianship course including these skills will be introduced during 2012 as a separate examination.

A wide selection of repertoire, including Australian and New Zealand compositions, ensure examinations are as individual and enjoyable as possible for each candidate.

Examiners are carefully chosen and trained to make every examination a happy and valuable experience for the candidate and teacher. Results are presented to teachers at the end of each day, or often earlier.

Entry fees are competitive and there are sessions in May/June, September, November and December. There are 17 New Zealand centres.

For further information, please call 0800 151661 or visit [www.st-cecilia.com.nz](http://www.st-cecilia.com.nz)

**Elizabeth Bouman** is a member of the IRMT Otago Branch, who teaches singing, piano and theory and is an examiner with St Cecilia Examinations. She regularly reviews for the 'Otago Daily Times' and 'Opera News'.