

# Year in Review



Australian  
Music  
Examinations  
Board

—  
2019-2020

## A message from our Chair and CEO

We are extremely proud of what AMEB achieved in 2019-2020.

Most importantly, in a year that presented extraordinary challenges for many, we are thankful to have played a part in supporting our community through these difficult times.

We invite you to explore this report and learn more.

We are also fortunate to have a wonderful community supporting us and particularly wish to acknowledge and thank the following:

- The learners, teachers, parents and schools for being part of this chapter of the AMEB story. Our work is for you and we are grateful for your engagement and interest.

- The AMEB Ltd team for your exceptional and tireless work throughout the year, and in particular the adaptability and compassion you showed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our examiners, consultants, partners and ambassadors who are integral to the creation of our exemplary syllabuses and resources and their delivery across many regions. Thank you for your expertise, passion and commitment.
- The Members of AMEB Ltd for your ongoing support and collaboration.

No matter your ability, age or connection with music, speech, drama and dance, AMEB has much to offer.

And we would love to hear from you.



**Mike Tyler**  
Chair, AMEB Ltd



**Bernard Depasquale**  
CEO, AMEB Ltd

We exist to awaken  
a love of music,  
speech, drama and  
dance in everyone.  
Come play with us!

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# We are for everyone

We believe music, speech, drama and dance are for everyone – for learners of all ages and stages.

That's why we were proud to offer an ever-expanding range of quality learning resources, events and exams in 2019–2020, across genres, levels, instruments and areas of study.

From our well-known classical music exams to rock, jazz, musical theatre, drama, communication and street dance, 2019–2020 saw the broadest ever range of syllabuses in AMEB's long history.

Likewise our offering of tools and resources, which grew significantly and became even more accessible and inclusive.

Learners in their 80s took our online theory courses in 2019–2020, while we supported students who learn differently to take their theory exams. People from around the world participated in our webinars. Students in Vietnam embraced their second year of AMEB music exams. And musicians and singers of all levels and ages across Australia joined the AMEB Online Orchestra 2019, becoming members of the country's largest virtual orchestra.



**The beauty of the AMEB Online Orchestra is that it is all inclusive regardless of musical ability and brings people together. It demonstrates all that is best about the AMEB community.**

**Bernard Depasquale, CEO, AMEB**

## LEARNING AGES

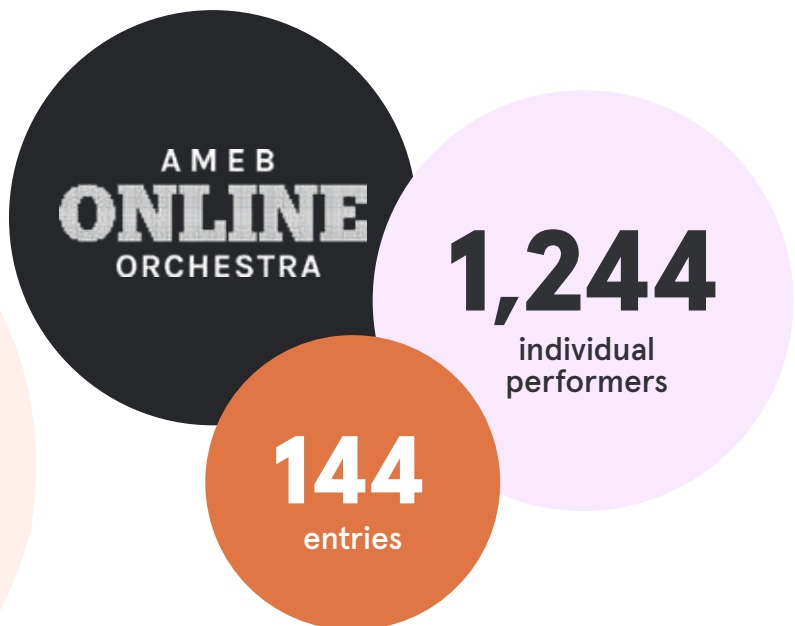
- **Preschool to elderly**

## LEARNING GOALS

- **For the fun of it**
- **Achieve a certification**
- **Continue professional development**
- **Join an ensemble or band**
- **Assist learning and personal development**

## TEACHING CONTEXTS

- **School music programs**
- **Self-taught**
- **Private lessons**

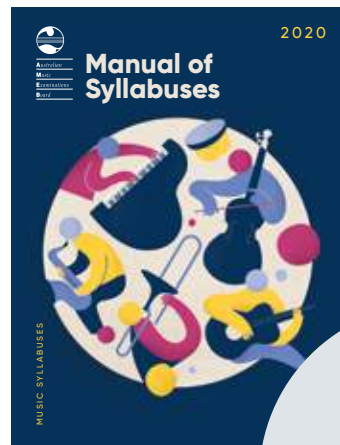


We created new how-to videos to help people navigate AMEB Online Learning and Exams, and launched our first Amazon Alexa skill to help learners practise their scales. People of all levels and interests sought the extensive selection of books, technical guides, games and music in our online stores, AMEB and Print Music Works. And our customer service team provided support to thousands of students, teachers and parents throughout the year.

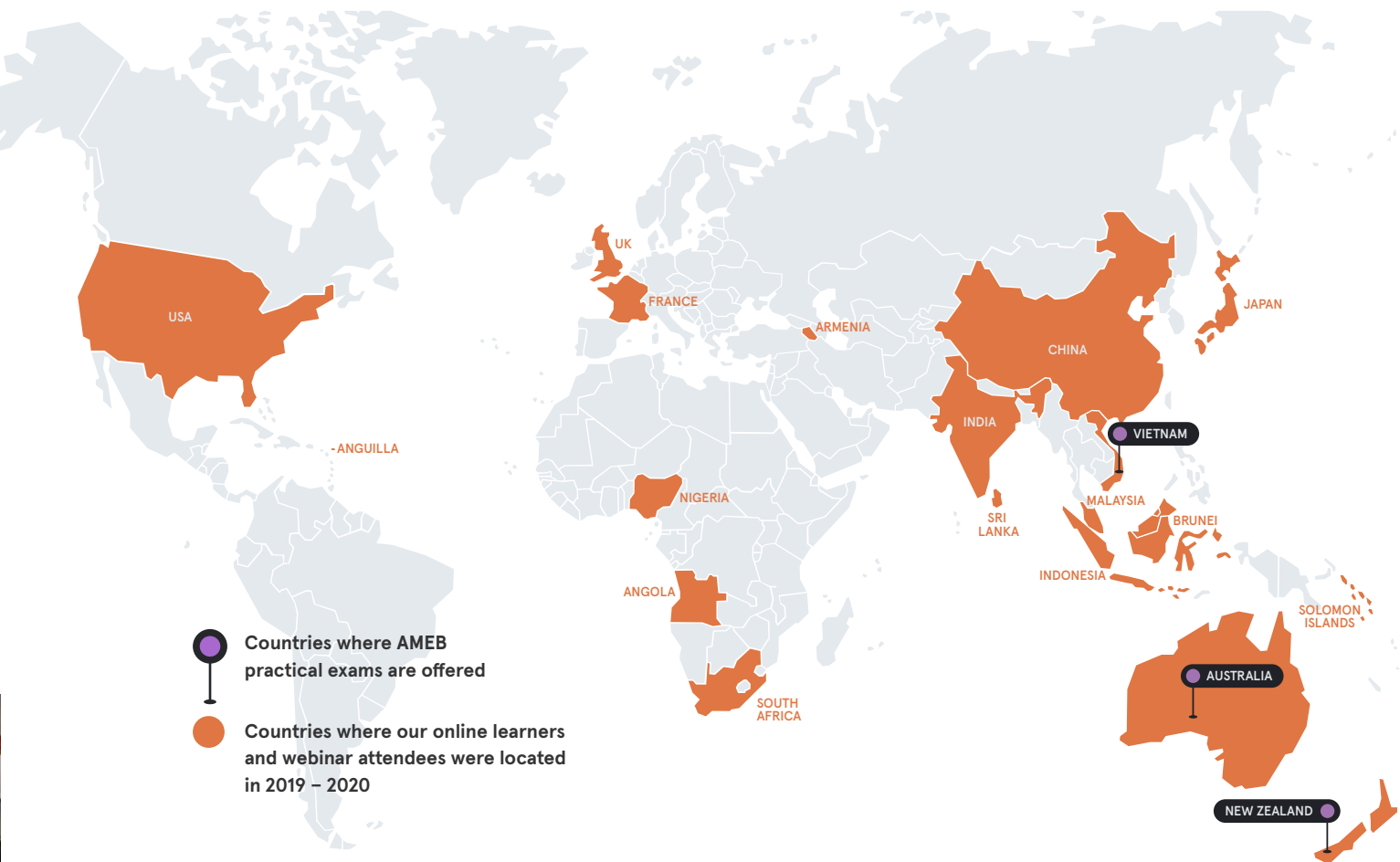
Encouraging participation. Broadening the focus to 'experiencing the joy of learning'. And providing solace and connection during the difficult times that the year brought.



# We are for everyone



FOR  
THE  
♥ OF  
MUSIC



# Delivering world-class pedagogy

Our goal is to inspire students, teachers and examiners alike with our approach to learning.

We achieve this by working closely with the best in the field to create new syllabuses, repertoire lists and publications that are rich and relevant, inclusive and current.

In 2019-2020 we were delighted to launch the highly anticipated revised Trumpet syllabus and publications including Series 2 grade books, recorded accompaniments and technical work.

Students and teachers of contemporary music celebrated the release of a number of new syllabuses and books in our Rockschool program.

Major developments in theory included the launch of our Theory of Music Integrated course and workbook series for Grades 1, 2 and 3, the only books that correspond fully with the AMEB Theory of Music syllabus. We also introduced changes to theory set works which will assist learners in developing their analytical skills.

And our Performance Arts Awards program launched in December 2019, creating a new pathway for students of street and jazz dance.

World class learning methods. Exciting and diverse repertoire. Active pedagogical discussions and networks. This is how we deliver rewarding challenges, benefits and joy for our learners, teachers and examiners.



“

**I'm excited about the opportunities this syllabus is going to deliver to students and teachers across Australia and New Zealand.**

**Melissa Mataic**, PAA Lead Consultant and Examiner



“

The Rockschool syllabuses continue to provide Australian and New Zealand candidates with relevant and academically sound content and assessments. Teachers love the repertoire and the contemporary technical work, and students love playing along to the high quality backing tracks and receiving their certificates.

Alyson Locke, Chief Examiner, Rockschool



“

I am doing Grade 1 [theory of music], I am 57... as an adult learner I have found the books amazingly helpful in conjunction with online, because as an older person it is the way we used to learn.

# Evolving and innovating

Technology is integral to education. We are constantly evolving our platforms and products, creating innovative ways for learners to test and stretch their skills.

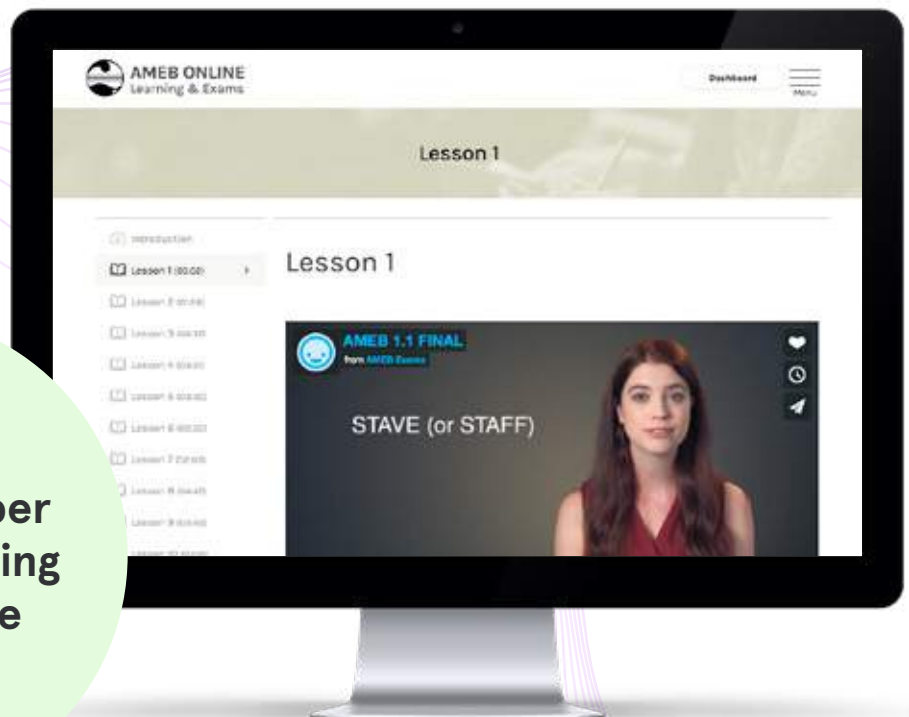
In 2019–2020 we enhanced our world-class AMEB Online theory platform, making it even easier to use and offering more syllabuses and grades. AMEB Online allows learners around the world to access quality theory courses and exams, wherever and whenever they choose.

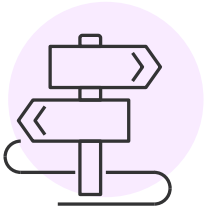
We were also excited to develop and launch a new Amazon Alexa skill called Scale Helper in June 2020, a voice-activated practice tool that makes scale practice more fun and interactive.

And we created how-to videos to help students, parents and teachers navigate our online learning and exams systems.

Most importantly though, technology and innovation made it possible for our learners, teachers, parents and examiners to keep on going when COVID-19 dramatically changed our lives in 2019–2020.

**Record number  
of learners using  
AMEB Online**

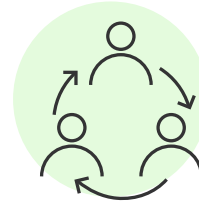




**Navigating new pathways for learning**



**Increasing accessibility**



**Keeping people connected**



I actually did an online exam myself to see what it was like, as I have never actually done AMEB theory exams online. Worked really well, and now I feel confident about recommending the interface. I also got so excited I enrolled in the next level of exam immediately!

# Supporting our community through challenging times

We know that 2019–2020 was tough. With bushfires, floods and COVID-19 impacting people across Australia and beyond, we wanted to do whatever we could to help.

For people affected by Australia’s bushfire emergency, we were glad to help rebuild their musical lives by replacing any AMEB publications lost due to the fires.

When COVID-19 prevented face-to-face exams, we adjusted syllabuses and introduced exams via pre-recorded video. Learners were able to complete their exams in the safety of their homes.

Many teachers found the impact of COVID-19 restrictions particularly challenging. Our ‘Break the Isolation’ free webinar series, held between March and June 2020, helped teachers of music, speech, drama and dance quickly transition to online teaching and stay connected. There was also enormous interest in the broader topics covered including tax help for teachers, and wellbeing and connection in physical isolation.

To further assist teachers, we negotiated a special free licence allowing them to screen share AMEB publications during their online lessons, helping overcome challenges like pointing out a specific marking on a page.



Thank you for all the webinars you organised during COVID. It was really important to feel connected with our music community and made a big difference to my sense of well-being during ISO. It’s often the small things that make a difference.



Fortunately, our warehouse was able to continue operating during the restrictions, serving music retailers across Australia through our Encore business and customers through the AMEB and Print Music Works online stores.

And everyone was able to access our online theory courses for free during the height of the Australian COVID-19 outbreak. From current AMEB students to elderly people rekindling their interest in music, the positive response was overwhelming.

From all of us at AMEB, thank you to the health professionals, frontline workers and emergency services personnel who continue to work tirelessly to protect our communities and keep us all safe.



**My granddaughter has been doing a lesson and the test every day. Fabulous presentation of the theory Grade 1! Thank you AMEB for this free offer! An awesome contribution to the music education of our young Australians during these trying times.**



**FREE ONLINE MUSIC THEORY COURSES**

We have made our Theory of Music Courses free for the time being while we all adapt to learning from home.

[Click here for step-by-step instructions to start your course today!](#)

A white circle containing a black musical note icon.

# Lifting voices

One small opportunity can change the future. We strive to create space and amplify the voices of those who might not otherwise be heard.

Through our partnership with the Women in Music Festival in 2020, emerging composers – female, non-binary and male – who were still at school had the opportunity to be recognised and awarded for their work.

Ten piano teachers from across Australia were able to attend the Piano Pivot Live conference in January 2020, through AMEB sponsorship, helping them evolve their knowledge and teaching approach.

We were also proud to work more closely with Yugambeh songwoman and educator Candace Kruger in 2019-2020 to help keep Indigenous language alive through song. An exciting project centred around Candace's work will be launched next year.

Lifting each other up. Benefitting all.

“

**Candace reminds me of Kodaly and Bartok and their collection of folk songs. She is so inspirational. Thank you!**



“

**I cannot thank AMEB enough for the opportunity that the AMEB ticket has afforded myself and my music students... It is fair to say that Piano Pivot Live has changed my teaching approach quite a bit... The main thing I've taken from [it] is - if there is a will to teach music, there is a way that fits.**

# Our people

We have an extraordinary community of people at AMEB.

Our thanks go to every member of this community for making 2019–2020 possible: from our examiners and syllabus consultants to the staff across all our operations; our ambassadors, specialist advisory groups, and webinar and workshop presenters; our recording artists, touring presenters, composers and arrangers; our proof readers, proof players, sound engineers and producers; and our graphic designers and printers.

We are also grateful to the organisations and individuals who partnered with us, in Vietnam, the UK and across Australia.

Most of all, we say thank you to our learners, teachers and parents. AMEB exists for you.

**500+**

hours volunteered beyond AMEB by our staff

- **Contributing to Boards and Committees**
- **Supporting not-for-profit musical groups**
- **Establishing an Arts Leadership network**
- **Performing for community events**
- **Directing community choirs**
- **Coordinating concerts**



# Image credits

## WE ARE FOR EVERYONE

### PAGES 5 – 7

- 1 AMEB Online Orchestra 2019 participant Deb from Mendooran, NSW, on harp. (Photo supplied)
- 2 The Yugambeh Youth Choir performing in the AMEB Online Orchestra 2019. (Photo: Lann Levinge)
- 3 AMEB Online Orchestra 2019 participant Joshua on cello. (Photo supplied)
- 4 Tintern Grammar Junior Choir performing at the launch of the AMEB Online Orchestra 2019, in the Kenneth Myer Auditorium, Ian Potter Southbank Centre, the University of Melbourne. (Photo: David Ng)
- 5 A learner with teacher Chu Hai Ly at the AMEB practical examinations in Hanoi, Vietnam. (Photo: Nam Truong)
- 6 A learner taking his AMEB P Plate Piano examination in Vietnam with examiner Glenn Riddle. (Photo: Nam Truong)
- 7 AMEB Vietnam Certificate Ceremony held at the Concert Hall of the Viet Nam National Academy of Music in Hanoi, December 2019. (Photo: Luu Quang Vinh)
- 8 Guests at the launch of the new AMEB Trumpet syllabus, hosted by Yamaha Music Australia. (Photo: David Ng)
- 9 Members of the Tintern Grammar Junior Choir, prior to their performance at the launch of the AMEB Online Orchestra 2019 at the Ian Potter Southbank Centre, the University of Melbourne. (Photo: David Ng)

## DELIVERING WORLD-CLASS PEDAGOGY

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- 1 Touring presenter and Yamaha Performing Artist, Dr Joel Brennan, performing at the launch of the AMEB Trumpet syllabus. (Photo: David Ng)
- 2 AMEB Head of Publishing Steven Hodgson and AMEB CEO Bernard Depasquale at the launch of the new Trumpet syllabus. (Photo: David Ng)
- 3 AMEB Rockschoo! Chief Examiner Alyson Locke. (Photo supplied)

## EVOLVING AND INNOVATING

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- 1 AMEB Online learner Allegra after successfully completing her Theory of Music Grade 3 examination. (Photo supplied)

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

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- 1 AMEB Online learner Lylah after successfully completing the first test of her Theory of Music Grade 1 course. (Photo supplied)

## LIFTING VOICES

### PAGE 14

- 1 Yugambeh songwoman and founder and director of the Yugambeh Youth Choir, Candace Kruger. (Photo supplied)
- 2 Recipients of AMEB sponsored tickets to the Piano Pivot Live 2020 conference, pictured with host Tim Topham (at left) and AMEB CEO Bernard Depasquale (at right). (Photo: New Heights Media)
- 3 The Yugambeh Youth Choir. (Photo supplied)

## OUR PEOPLE

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- 1 AMEB team members (L-R): Zakaria Assegaf, Accountant; David Howell, Typesetter and Reprints Manager; and Michelle Forbes, State Manager (AMEB Tasmania). (Photo: David Ng)
- 2 AMEB Head of Publishing Steven Hodgson. (Photo: David Ng)
- 3 (L-R) Leah Phillips, AMEB Marketing and Communications Officer; Shane Dummett, Valiant Press; Jarrad Gilson, Oaklands Productions; Fiona Seers, AMEB Head of Examining; Andrew Collyer, Hal Leonard Australia; Bernard Depasquale, AMEB CEO; Richard Snape, Hal Leonard Australia; Jeff Higgins, AMEB Marketing and Sales Manager; Jessica Gethin, ambassador of the AMEB Online Orchestra 2019 and internationally renowned conductor. (Photo: David Ng)



Come play  
with us!





**A**ustralian  
**M**usic  
**E**xaminations  
**B**oard

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