

Year in Review



Australian
Music
Examinations
Board

—
2024 – 2025

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This report presents a synopsis of the activities and outcomes delivered by AMEB Ltd during the 2024-2025 financial year, as well as the Financial Statements, Directors' Report and Audit Report on the Financial Report for AMEB Ltd for that period. Published and Copyright October 2025.

Acknowledgement of Country

We at AMEB respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, learn and create.

We recognise their continuing connection to country, and draw inspiration from the music, dance, song and storytelling handed down through many generations.

We pay our respects to the Elders who came before us, are with us today and are yet to come.

We commit to a reconciled and shared future.

A message from our Chair

2024–2025 has been a year of innovation, momentum and connection for AMEB Ltd. As we reflect on these past 12 months, we are proud to have deepened our impact across Australia and beyond, supporting teachers, inspiring learners, and championing the role of the performing arts in the cultural fabric of our communities.

AMEB's work this year has focussed on building collaborations, creating new pathways, and continuing to support teachers and students with best-practice and meaningful educational resources. We launched new initiatives like the AMEB Sound Insights Series in partnership with the Melbourne Recital Centre and expanded our professional development offerings, reaffirming our commitment to empowering educators, the heart of our sector.



Mike Tyler

Chair
AMEB Ltd

We also took important steps in diversity, equity and inclusion, with the First Nations Composers Program (supported by Creative Australia funding) and our inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan marking significant milestones in our journey.

Financially, we returned to surplus, positioning AMEB for sustainable growth.

These achievements reflect the dedication of our people and partners. On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued support as we shape a future where creativity, excellence and community remain at the centre of everything we do.

A message from our CEO

Over the past year, I've been continually inspired by the passion and resilience of the teachers and students in our community. Every question asked, lesson delivered, skill gained, performance given, exam completed, and contribution made to the community, reflects a shared belief in the power of music and the performing arts to bring joy and shape lives.

We've worked hard to support you throughout 2024–2025 with practical resources, accessible events and best-practice pedagogy. I'm proud that we also seized opportunities to advocate for music education which reinforce how culturally vital our sector is.



Bernard Depasquale

CEO
AMEB Ltd

Thank you to the entire team at AMEB for their tireless work, the Chair and Board of Directors for their continued support, our colleagues in the independently-operated State Offices with whom we work closely, and the broader AMEB community of examiners, consultants and many others.

My sincere gratitude also to all the teachers, students and families for being part of this journey.

Together, we're building a future where every learner feels seen, supported and inspired.



About AMEB

The Australian Music Examinations Board Ltd (AMEB) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to education, advocacy and leadership in music and the performing arts.

AMEB is Australia's leading music examinations board and publisher of print music. We strive to inspire and support performing arts students, teachers and artists of all ages and stages.

Our world-class syllabuses, publications and resources help learners to develop their skills on their chosen instrument or in their area of performance, in a structured and carefully designed sequence. When ready, they can take an AMEB examination which provides formal recognition of their achievement.

Over the past 100 years, we have helped generations of people to experience the joy of learning to play and perform using this approach. In doing so, they are also developing life skills, enhancing cognitive function and instilling a life-long love for the performing arts – regardless of whether they go on to pursue a career in that field.

Teachers are at the heart of music and performing arts education. They inspire, motivate, listen, build confidence, encourage creativity and so much more for their students. Much of what we do at AMEB focuses on supporting this wonderful community.

AMEB is a leading advocate for the Australian music sector and the many contributors within it. Our efforts highlight the critical importance of the performing arts sector to our national economy and creative output. There are also initiatives that we have established to support diversity across the music sector and help open up new opportunities and pathways that might not otherwise have existed.

IMAGE – AMEB Viola Consultant Roger Benedict and his student Daniela Edwards, performing at the AMEB Viola Syllabus Celebration Launch, 2024.
Photo: Dan Gray.

Our vision, values and strategic priorities

Vision

Building a future rich in collaborations,
innovative developments,
new pathways and opportunities,
and global leadership in
performing arts education.

Values

Inclusion
Excellence
Leadership
Community
Creativity

Strategic priorities

Leadership

Be recognised leaders and advocates in the Australian music sector

Vision

Be future-focused

Reach

Grow our impact and increase participation

Expertise

Engage the best people to drive best practice

Sustainability

Build a sustainable and effective organisation

AMEB is jointly owned by a group of three universities and three state government education departments, representing all states and territories in Australia. Under our federated structure, we work closely with our colleagues in the State Offices.

Complementing our music education objectives, AMEB owns Encore Music Distributors, a specialist in the distribution of educational sheet music, songbooks, educational music resources and music accessories. Encore also supports the distribution of AMEB publications.

Our work at AMEB is almost entirely self-funded through earned revenue, with only small amounts of discrete funding secured for specific projects. Income is solely invested back into our educational initiatives and operations.

We rely on the generosity of our donors and funding partners to help deliver our educational programs and outreach.



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The future feels full of potential.

Bernard Depasquale, CEO AMEB Ltd

Our people

AMEB's work is made possible by a community of extraordinary people.

This community includes examiners, syllabus consultants and advisers, writers, composers and arrangers, proof readers, proof players, recording artists, sound engineers and producers, and a range of organisations working in partnership with AMEB.

Some will be visible and known to our teachers and students, often in the exam room, at our events, and as the experts behind our publications. Many others work tirelessly behind the scenes.

We extend our gratitude to every person and organisation who has contributed in some way to AMEB's efforts in 2024-2025.

Their expertise, commitment and support are invaluable in helping us achieve AMEB's objectives.



IMAGE – (from left to right) Andrew Snell, General Manager AMEB Victoria, Jeremy Fletcher, Client Relations Manager AMEB Victoria, Elena Kats-Chernin, composer and pianist, Bernard Depasquale, CEO AMEB Ltd, and Kristian Chong, AMEB Examiner and concert pianist, at the AMEB Sound Insights event at Melbourne Recital Centre, April 2025.
Photo: supplied by Melbourne Recital Centre.



Highlights 2024 - 2025

IMAGE – Ingrid Martin conducting the Symphonic Winds Performance Ensemble during the QMEC 2025 Gala Concert at the Queensland Conservatorium.
Photo: Kirsten Cox.

Supporting the teachers

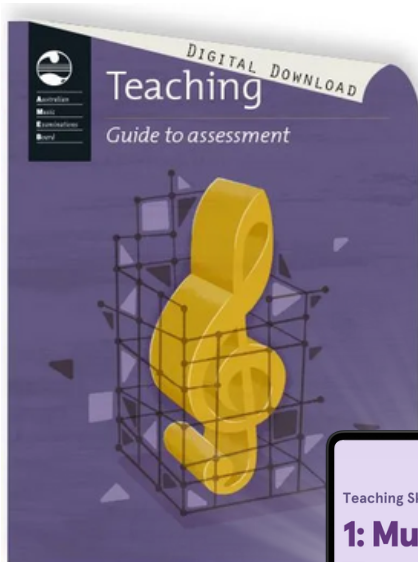
The approaches that teachers use are crucial in shaping the learning experience and wellbeing of their students. This concept is at the heart of the ground-breaking [AMEB Teaching syllabuses](#) and 'Companion text', launched in 2023–2024. The enthusiastic response from studio teachers over the last year has been exciting to see.

In 2024–2025 further resources were created to support teachers in their practice.

Our teaching webinar, held in October 2024 and available on-demand, featured AMEB Teaching Syllabuses contributor, Dr Emily Dollman, and AMEB Head of Publishing, Steven Hodgson explaining the syllabus concepts that empower teachers to teach with clarity and confidence.

We were also proud to release the first instalment in our exciting new Teaching Skills Video series in June 2025. The series features leading music educators and authors from the AMEB Teaching 'Companion text' delving deeper into ways that teachers can embed the theories and practical approaches into their delivery. These on-demand videos make professional development easy, accessible and affordable with a certificate issued to validate learning.

We look forward to seeing many more music teachers making the most of this toolkit and seeking an AMEB Teaching qualification over the coming years.



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This was more than just professional development – it was a powerful moment of reflection that helped me realign my direction as a music educator.

Numerous professional development events were delivered throughout the year, offering new perspectives and ideas, practical strategies and connection for studio and classroom music teachers.

In July 2024, world-class clinicians Lisa Bastien and Paul Harris toured nationally with the AMEB team, presenting to more than 600 music educators across 14 different events. Following this success, preparations for the [2025 AMEB educational tour](#) (delivered in July) were then finalised.

The cornerstone event was the Queensland Music Education Conference (QMEC), delivered by AMEB in partnership with the Queensland Department of Education. Over 400 music educators attended and relished the opportunity to learn from international and local clinicians as well as participating in hands-on sessions and performing together in ensembles.

We also toured six international clinicians to five additional events across eastern Australia, attended by nearly 400 music teachers.

Two pedagogy-focussed workshops were held in February 2025. AMEB Theory Specialist Andrew Raiskums provided teachers with valuable insights and effective strategies for teaching music theory. AMEB Viola consultant Raquel Bastos shared insights into the new AMEB Viola Grades 5 and 6 grade books.

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Thanks for the fantastic conference! Still feeling inspired and grateful for the experience. A wonderful opportunity to catch up and exchange ideas with friends, old and new.



IMAGES (left to right) – Bernard Depasquale, CEO AMEB Ltd, welcoming delegates to QMEC 2025 at the Queensland Conservatorium, Brisbane. Conductor, Jenny Moon delivering a choral session at QMEC 2025. Music Teachers networking at QMEC 2025. Photos: Kirsten Cox.

Syllabuses and resources

Each year AMEB reviews and develops syllabuses and resources to ensure the best possible pedagogical support is available to students and teachers.

The release of the AMEB Theory of Music Grade 6 'Integrated course and work book' and online course in 2024-2025 marked the completion of the full suite of AMEB Theory of Music resources, a significant achievement years in the making. As AMEB Theory Specialist Andrew Raiskums explains, "Understanding music theory is a holistic thing – the student should try to gain an appreciation of what they are learning as it appears in the pieces they are playing, singing or listening to."

Our Theory of Music resources enable teachers and students to take this essential approach, at a pace and in a format that suits them best.

AMEB Viola Series 2 was also completed in 2024-2025 with the release of the Grades 5 and 6 grade books. Developed by acclaimed violist and AMEB Consultant Raquel Bastos, and AMEB Principal Consultant, educationalist and violist Helen Tuckey, these books offer inspiring repertoire that addresses musicality, technical skills, performance and more for intermediate viola students.

We were pleased to announce a complete update of the AMEB Regulations which took effect from 2025. The Regulations now reflect contemporary practice and are written in user-friendly language and logically organised to follow the typical candidate journey.

The AMEB Rockschoool syllabuses, resources and qualifications continue to be an excellent offering for learners looking for contemporary repertoire and instrumentation. In 2024-2025, new repertoire grade books for Electric Guitar, Bass and Drums were released. We also celebrated 10 years of AMEB Rockschoool with two events held in March in partnership with the Australian Institute of Music (AIM).

While AMEB is best known for music education, Speech and Drama remains integral to our program. In 2024-2025 we continued to offer syllabuses supporting aspiring actors, stage performers, presenters and communicators.



AMEB Sound Insights

The [AMEB Sound Insights Series](#), the first of its kind in Australia, was launched in 2025 in partnership with the Melbourne Recital Centre. The series was created to inspire and support the development of music students.

Three events, focusing on violin and piano, attracted more than 200 students and their supporters. Attendees valued the opportunity to see and hear syllabus repertoire favourites performed by AMEB examiners – also concert performers in their own right – as well as having the chance to talk directly with a panel of AMEB experts about the pieces, gain insights from the composers, and receive invaluable advice.

Following the success of the inaugural series, we look forward to delivering more AMEB Sound Insights events in the near future.



AMEB Award

The [AMEB Award](#) attracted a diverse and exciting cohort of participants in 2024-2025. From mature students to young contemporary musicians, participants embraced the opportunity to ‘level up’ their artistry by consciously contributing to their community and gaining recognition for their achievements.

We celebrated some of this year’s AMEB Award recipients with interviews and feature articles. Their insights reveal how the AMEB Award provided the motivation to look beyond their developing artistic performance skills and consider their role in the broader community.

Their achievements demonstrate the value of working towards a qualification that acknowledges important contributions such as mentoring, fundraising, event planning, writing, volunteering and leadership.



IMAGES (top to bottom) – Caroline Almonte, AMEB Examiner and concert pianist, Jennifer Trynes, composer, and Steven Hodgson, Head of Publishing and Syllabus Development AMEB Ltd, at the AMEB Sound Insights event held at the Melbourne Recital Centre, March 2025. Photo: supplied by Melbourne Recital Centre. Gold AMEB Award recipient, Shumo. Photo: supplied.

Advocating for music education

AMEB’s advocacy efforts in 2024–2025 included actively contributing to policy discussions, and promoting the importance of music education and its value to the economy.

CEO Bernard Depasquale attended a Victorian Ministerial Roundtable into music education in the classroom, alongside other vested stakeholders from the sector.

AMEB was also invited to attend the launch of The Bass Line project, the first comprehensive economic analysis of Australia’s music industry, commissioned by Music Australia and delivered by Creative Australia. At the launch we were able to highlight the broader economic contribution of music education, and its critical role in the cultural and educational landscape.

In addition, AMEB has been working with Alberts | The Tony Foundation on research and positioning of music education programs in Australia.

As one of the world’s leading gatherings for classical and art music professionals, the Classical:NEXT conference in May 2025 offered CEO Bernard Depasquale a unique opportunity to connect with global peers, explore new ideas, and reflect on how AMEB’s work aligns with – and contributes to – the evolving music education landscape. This was made possible through the generous support of AMPAL and the Music Australia International Conference Contribution (MAICC) grant.

AMEB also lent its support to programs that encouraged developing musicians. The AMEB Emerging Ensemble Encouragement Award was awarded to two ensembles who showed exceptional promise in the 2025 Musica Viva Strike A Chord competition. We promoted the new Page Olding Piano Duo Prize which fosters young piano duos, as well as the Musica Viva Australia In Schools program.

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Thank you again to the entire AMEB team for your ongoing dedication to teacher development. Your work is making a real difference in classrooms like mine.



IMAGE: Horizon String Quartet (Coffs Harbour, NSW) and The Cathedral School Trio (Townsville, QLD), recipients of the AMEB Emerging Ensemble Encouragement Award in the 2025 Musica Viva Strike A Chord competition.
Photo: supplied.

First Nations Composers Program

In 2024 AMEB took an important step with the launch of our inaugural commissioning program, the First Nations Composers Program.

The aims of the [First Nations Composers Program](#) are to enhance the representation of First Nations composers in AMEB repertoire, to create opportunities for First Nations composers in the educational setting and with significant audience reach, and to provide a platform for teachers and candidates to engage with First Nations compositions that offer both cultural and pedagogical value.

The program builds on AMEB's ongoing journey of actively listening, learning and collaborating with First Nations peoples on meaningful opportunities that create a lasting impact for the First Nations community.

Four First Nations composers have been involved in the program – Brenda Gifford (Yuin), James Henry (Yuwaalaraay, Gamilaraay, Yorta Yorta and Yuin), Christopher Sainsbury (Dharug), and Aaron Wyatt (Noongar) – supported by Dr Candace Kruger (Yugambeh) who is our Cultural Advisor for the project.

Each composer has written four works for a variety of instrumentation and grades, completed across 2024 and 2025.

We were thrilled to publish the first commissioned work in late 2024, in the Viola Series 2 Grade 6 grade book: Aaron Wyatt's "Aloft", a graceful meditation on flight that "reflect(s) the freedom and solitude of viewing the world from above". The remaining works will appear in upcoming AMEB publications.

We are very grateful to the composers and Dr Kruger for their willingness to be involved.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. We are hopeful that AMEB is able to secure sufficient funding and donations for this program to continue over the coming years and become a significant positive legacy for First Nations composers.



IMAGES (from left to right) – Composers Aaron Wyatt, Christopher Sainsbury, Brenda Gifford and James Henry; and Cultural Advisor, Dr Candace Kruger.
Photos: (left) Jessica Bader, (second from left) Jamie Kidston, other photos supplied.



Australian Government



‘Reflect’ Reconciliation Action Plan

We were proud to announce AMEB’s inaugural [‘Reflect’ Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) in 2025. Running from July 2025 to December 2026, this initiative outlines AMEB’s formal commitment to work towards reconciliation between First Nations Peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.

We believe that listening, understanding, consulting and collaborating are important tools to help us strive towards reconciliation. As an organisation, AMEB’s ‘Reflect’ RAP will help us to keep opening our eyes and ears to the rich history of our First Nations peoples, as well as appreciate, nurture and embrace living First Nations creators and performers.

In this RAP we are exploring our local and national First Nations cultures and actively searching for ways to include this legacy in AMEB’s syllabus output, planning and strategy, and everyday operations.

Our thanks to Tasmanian artist Caleb Nichols-Mansell for his beautiful artwork, ‘Music in Country’, which brings our RAP to life.



International footprint

Whilst AMEB has been serving the Australian performing arts community for more than a century, our qualifications are also highly respected in many other countries. Students, teachers and educational institutions across the globe recognise the quality, integrity and value of the AMEB system.

In 2024-2025 our international presence continued to make an impact. We delivered AMEB Rockschool music exams in New Zealand, and AMEB exams and publications in Vietnam. Our online theory courses and exams were taken by students all around the world.



IMAGE – Dr Tanya Nguyen, AMEB Ambassador to Vietnam, with recent participants of the AMEB Vietnam Teacher Training Course, outside the Vietnam National Academy of Music, Hanoi. Photo: supplied.



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