Welcome to 2015 - President’s Message

Dear Members

This is the ACT Music Educator's (ACTMEN's) first newsletter. ACTMEN was unofficially formed in 2005 as an informal forum for music educators to participate in professional conversation. Driven by Mr John Frohlich of the Canberra Institute of Technology, Mr Mathew Irving of Radford College and Mrs Debbie Masling of Lyneham High School, ACTMEN has developed into an educational body that advises and promotes music education programs, education policy and professional development of Music Educators in the ACT.

ACTMEN hosts two major events every year: the ACTcent Concert and our Annual Conference. This year the ACTcent concert is happening at 7:00PM on Thursday, June 26th at Llewelyn Hall, Australia National University. The ACTcent concert involves a selection of year 12 performers from across the ACT. Please keep your eyes out for our application forms. I encourage you to bring your current music students to the concert. Sometimes it only takes one awe-inspiring moment to change a student’s life.

Our Annual Conference will take place the following day from 8:30-4:00PM on Friday, June 26th at CIT Woden – Music Industry Centre. We are trying our best to provide relevant workshops for everyone, please let us know if there is anything in particular you are looking for.

I hope to see you at our events this year.

Sincerely, Kevin Knapp, President

ACTMEN Conference 2015

The 2015 Annual ACTMEN Conference will be held at CIT in Woden on Friday 26 June. This all day conference will again feature a host of local and national presenters. Music educators of all domains will be catered for with sessions for instrumental teachers, primary and secondary classroom teachers and ensemble conductors and directors. The conference will be TQI accredited. Stay tuned to the ACTMEN website and Facebook page for more details.
KMEIA—Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia

KMEIA has a range of professional Learning events and workshops throughout 2015 planned for Canberra. The events are aimed at a range of teachers and levels of experience—something for everyone—non specialists, choral directors, secondary classroom teachers as well as a fun and games workshop. For details see our Professional Learning page in this newsletter or go to the website:


ACTorff

ACTorff are also running a number of workshops in conjunction with the NSW chapter and dates can be found in this newsletter or at their website.


ANU MEP—Music Engagement Program

ANU’s Music Engagement Program (MEP) runs a number of PL courses for specialists and non specialists and have a range of courses available now for enrolment for semester one. Please share with other interested teachers in your schools! They are listed later in this newsletter by title and date.

All registration is done through mep@anu.edu.au or phone 6125 8978 Some have TQI accreditation.

SingFest

Singfest began in 2014 as a one day event on top of the annual school band festival hosted by the Instrumental Music Program at the Canberra City Band rooms. SingFest was run in the same manner—a performance slot with adjudicated notes, recording, photos from your assigned adjudicator then a 30 minute workshop with the same adjudicator working on aspects of your group’s performance. This part is beneficial for both the students and the conductors of the groups. Some schools had large choirs and some had their more advanced, smaller vocal groups—it is for any level—beginner, intermediate, advanced groups. Tobias Cole and Katharine Finlayson worked with the 6 schools. There is a cost of just $4.50 per student. Date for 2015—Monday September 7—open to all ACT and regional schools. Information will be sent to schools in Term 2 or go to the IMP website for details—www.imp.act.edu.au
In the Spring 2000 issue of *Kjos Band News*, I wrote an article entitled, “A+E=T.” In other words, A (Air) + E (Embouchure) = T (Tone). While this is true for all wind instruments, it is especially true for brass instruments.

In addition to tone quality, air support dramatically affects intonation, articulation, range, and endurance. If there is a deficiency in any of these areas, the first place to look for the source of the problem is air support.

Once the student is inhaling and exhaling properly, the brass embouchure should be taught. The embouchure is, obviously, critical to producing a good tone on all brass and woodwind instruments. With woodwind instruments the reed or the air stream creates the vibration that is necessary to produce a tone. The brass family, however, is the only family of instruments where a part of the body (lips) is the vibrating force used to produce the tone. Consequently, good tone on a brass instrument must be taught in such a way that the vibrating lips (“buzz”) remain relaxed and free of any stress.

Assist students in forming and developing their brass instrument embouchure by making each student responsible for providing a small mirror that can be placed on the music stand. This will allow students to see that their embouchure is being formed properly.

**Ensure a good formation of the embouchure by having each student do the following:**

1. Shape the inside of the mouth as if saying “oh.” Bring the lips together as if saying “em.” Remind students to keep their mouth in the “oh” position while saying “em.”
2. The lips should have firm corners but a relaxed center. The chin should be flat and pointed.
3. Take a full breath of air and blow, creating a relaxed, buzzing tone.
4. While buzzing, place the mouthpiece over the buzz. Cornet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, euphonium, and tuba should have equal amounts of the mouthpiece on the upper and lower lips. For French horn, place the mouthpiece over the buzz with 2/3 of the mouthpiece on the upper lip and 1/3 on the lower lip.
5. Put the mouthpiece into the lead pipe. Take a full breath of air and play a long, steady tone.

Once a student can produce a relaxed buzz they should be encouraged to do “mouthpiece workouts.” The first mouthpiece workout should be to produce a “siren.” Explain that the pitch is changed by tightening and loosening the corner muscles. The next set of mouthpiece workouts consists of three, four, and five note songs played on the mouthpiece only. The songs on pages 6, 7, 8, and 9 of *Standard of Excellence, Book 1* are perfect for this purpose. Impress upon students that the brass instrument is in reality an amplifier of the pitches that are produced by the embouchure.

By following these simple steps, students will learn to form a good brass instrument embouchure that will be important to the development of a beautiful brass instrument tone.


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Teaching the Brass Embouchure by Bruce Pearson

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IDEAL

FIRST TIME EVERY TIME!

REALITY

FINE!

48TH TIME EVERY TIME!

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www.ToneDeafComics.com
ACTcent concert—Thursday June 25, ANU School of Music

The 2015 ACTcent concert aims to highlight outstanding Year 12 ACT music students. The concert will feature a selection of the best performers and composers from the ACT. It provides a high-profile platform for young musicians and in turn, an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate their achievements.

The ACTcent concert is modeled on the Victorian “Top Acts” and NSW “Encore” concerts. Due to the nature of the BSSS system, it is impossible for the ACTcent concert to feature the best year 12 musicians and as such, our intent is to feature a selection of the best.

To be eligible, students must be studying Accredited or Tertiary Music (BSSS) or HSC/IB Music at an ACT school or college and submit an application as part of the audition process. The piece that is submitted for audition must be an item used as part of the students assessment in Senior music.

Details will be provided to all colleges and institutions in the ACT eligible to submit students in the coming weeks.

Conferences in Australia and Worldwide

ACTMEN—Friday June 26, CIT Woden—TQI accredited!!!

Maryborough Music Conference—run by Education Queensland for music teachers—other states welcome!

https://mmc.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx

ASME 2015—Adelaide


ISME 2016—Glasgow—no site yet!

MidWest—Band and Orchestra Directors’ Clinic, Chicago, USA—every December—over 10,000 participants!

December 16-19, 2015

Meet our Sponsors

Gullivers Sports Travel is the Gold Sponsor for the ACTMEN conference—thanks for your support in 2015

Pro Audio Supplies

Gullivers Sports Travel
Workshops and Professional Learning Opportunities in Canberra/Region

ACTorff

May 2 (Saturday) — Nikki Cox (Qld) - Orff in the Classroom—9.00-3.00

May 8 & 9 (Friday & Saturday) — NSW 2 day conference—Richard Gill OAM, Dr Andrew Martin & Lyn Williams OAM

August 8 (Saturday) — Katie Wardrobe—Midnight Music—9.00-3.00

September 21-25 inclusive (Monday—Friday—Week 10 ACT!)—NSW Orff Schulwerk Levels 1, 2 & 3—UTS Kuring-gai Campus

October 24 (Saturday) — Workshop TBA 9.00-1.00

Contact—Susan Curbishley—susan.curbishley@cg.catholic.edu.au

KMEIA

May 9 (Saturday) — All Things Choral—from the classroom to the stage—Mark O’Leary—9.00-3.00 at Radford College Junior School—$70 non members, $60 KMEIA members, $30 students—Sessions include—Conducting, Methodology and Repertoire

Contact—katharine.finlayson@ed.act.edu.au or go to http://www.trybooking.com/HBHM

August 4 (Thursday) — Non-specialist music teacher session—4.30 - 6.30 at Radford College PAC—FREE

September 5 (Saturday) — Kodaly in the Secondary Classroom—Dr James Cuskelly—9.00-3.00—$40 non members, $30 KMEIA members, $10 students

November 13 (Friday) — AGM and Fun & Games Workshop—workshop at 4.00 followed by AGM at 5.00 at Radford College PAC—FREE

ESTILL

April 12 (Sunday)—Introduction to Estill Voice—12.30-3.30, Wild Voices Music Theatre Studio, Reid, Cost $77 full fee, $55 early bird

July 5-9 inclusive (Sunday—Thursday) — ESTILL workshop—the complete Estill voice training for the professional and serious voice user presented by Naomi Eyers—Held at Classical ballet Centre, cook, cost $990 full fee, $880 early bird and student, returning participant $750

Contact—Dianna Nixon—dianna@wildvoicesmusictheatre.com or http://www.wildvoicesmusictheatre.com

ANCA

June 28 (Sunday) - Choral Workshop—10.00—1.00—Workshop for teachers run by Lyn Williams and possible concurrent workshop in sightsinging for singers and community choir members—adults and older students then from 2.00-5.00—workshop featuring a number of student choirs from the ACT working with Lyn Williams—observation session for teachers

MEP ANU

March 17, 24 & 31—(Tuesday) - Every Chance to Sing—Early Childhood (P-2) - Must attend all three sessions for TQI accreditation. 4.00—6.00pm, ANU School of Music - FREE

April 7—(Tuesday) - Fun with Dramatizing the Curriculum—4.00-6.00pm, ANU School of Music - FREE

May 5, 12 & 19—(Tuesday) - Every Chance to Sing—Primary (3-6) - Must attend all three sessions for TQI accreditation. 4.00—6.00pm, ANU School of Music - FREE

May 26 & June 2—(Tuesday) - Fun with Music and Art—4.00-5.30pm, Location TBA - Cost $10 for materials

Contact—MEP—mep@anu.edu.au or phone 61258978
Bands, Orchestras and Choirs excel in Eisteddfod!

The Australian National Eisteddfod’s 2014 divisions for Bands & Orchestras and Choirs took place in May and August respectively. Both events place a particular focus on participation, and recognizing the achievements of groups. Each entrant receives an attainment award (all Bands Orchestras below the adult Open ages receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze trophy; all Choirs in the 10 years and under or 12 years and under receive a Gold or Silver grading in addition to the traditional 1st place). Hence a major focus is on providing the opportunity to perform in Llewellyn Hall and other venues, and learn from adjudicator comments.

Most sections took place in Llewellyn Hall; others were held at Lyneham High School Performing Arts Centre (Jazz and Primary School Bands) and Canberra Institute of Technology Music Industry Centre (Rock Bands). Use of Llewellyn Hall is made possible through assistance from the ACT Government, through Arts ACT.

Bands & Orchestras caters for a broad range of genres, including sections for primary and high school, concert, jazz, rock and brass bands and orchestras. Entrants include many local public and private schools and community groups. Interstate participants this year included St Patrick’s College (Launceston), Hunter School of the Performing Arts (Hunter Valley) and St Joseph’s College (Geelong). A total of 3,000 individuals took part, in 100 groups. In the Open sections Canberra City Band and Canberra Brass won the Open A Grade Concert and Open A and B Grade Brass Band sections; other groups to take part included Ginninderra Wind Orchestra, South Canberra Youth Wind Orchestra and Hunter School of Performing Arts, Young Music Society Wind Ensemble and Tuggeranong Valley Band.

The significant prize money on offer in Choirs, in particular through the Australian Choral Challenge and the 12 Years and Under and 19 Years and Under Championships, helps attract significant interstate participation. Six hundred public and private primary school students took part in the 10 Years & Under and 12 Years & Under sections, which were followed by a workshop by the Adjudicator. Canberra Grammar School Year 2 Choir won the 10 Years and Under section; Arawang Primary School Senior Choir won the 12 Years and Under section with Holy Cross Catholic Primary School from Sydney highly commended. ACT Primary Concert Choir and Turner Trebles tied for 1st place in the 12 Years and Under Championship section. Canterbury Collage Cantata Choir from Brisbane won both the Open and 19 Years and Under Championships.

The Eisteddfod is proud of its partnership with ACTMEN in recent years to foster development of Band and Choir conductors. This year’s winner, who received a trophy and $100 towards professional development, was Vanessa Rohana, of Sydney’s Holy Cross Catholic Primary School Choir.

Dates for the 2015 sections will be 21-28 May (Bands & Orchestras) and 21-22 August (Choirs). Syllabuses (including a list of sections available) will be available later in 2014 from http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au (in the meantime the 2014 ones provide a good basis).

The Australian National Eisteddfod also incorporates sections for Singing, Piano and Speech and Drama. Details of all, including 2014 results, are available from our website (http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au).

For further details please contact Simon Best (0403 827303; bandsorchestras@nationaleisteddfod.org.au). We are also seeking a new convener for Choirs as Dianne Anderson is unable to continue; please contact Simon if you are interested.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Australian National Eisteddfod Inc.
ABN 32 452 693 087
PO Box 94, Civic Square, ACT 2608 : Ph (02) 6249 7421
www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au : email eisteddfod@grapevine.net.au
Who do you use, Where can I find??????????
ACTMEN members—send us your ideas for topics in this section or other names!

Instrument repairers

**BRASS/WOODWIND**
- Tritone Brass and Woodwind (Dirk) – PH 6161 9826; website www.tritone.net.au; email tritone@grapevine.com.au
- Blue Phoenix Music Studio (David Greenwood) - 0410 015 032, email bpms@iinet.net.au
- David Martin – woodwind—6226 1283
- TLC Brass repairs—Martin Schaefer—6281 0604

**STRINGS**
- The Violin Shop (Simon Daly) – PH 6161 6003 (Southside)
- The Violin Avenue (Hugh Withcombe & Madeleine Gisz) – PH 6262 7166; website www.theavenueviolins.com.au; email info@theavenueviolins.com.au

**PERCUSSION**
- The Groove Warehouse (Gary France) – website garyfrance.com; facebook

**Piano Tuners**
- Geoff Pogson – PH 6291 0070
- ACT Piano Service (Nigel Leach); PH 0415 739 904 website www.actpianoservice.com.au; www.facebook.com/actpianoservice
- Ron Keirs – PH 0410 648 989

These names have been contributed by teachers but this is not an endorsement by ACTMEN or paid advertisement.

Festivals, concerts and other dates for your arts calendar

National Folk Festival—Thursday April 2—Monday April 6

ACT School Band Festival—Tuesday September 8—Friday September 11 inclusive

SingFest—Monday September 7

Floriade—Saturday September 12—Sunday October 11

National Eisteddfod—21-28 May (Bands & Orchestras) and 21-22 August (Choirs).

Merimbula Jazz Festival—Saturday June 6—Monday June 8
http://actmen.org.au/

Find us on Facebook

Send us an email—
actmusiceducatorsnetwork@gmail.com

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**WEBSITES**
- Midnight music
- Tone deaf comics
  http://www.tonedeafcomics.com/
- Composer Jodie Blackshaw—composition and classroom activities
  http://www.jodieblackshaw.com/
- Dr Anita Collins—great links for parents for your newsletters
  http://www.anitacollinsmusic.com/tedx/
- EDUCREATIONS – This is an interactive Whiteboard app/photo resource (FREE)
  www.educreations.com
- EDMODO – education networking (between teachers/students/parents/colleagues) (FREE)
  www.edmodo.com
- RHYTHM IN A BOX LESSON

**APPs**
- ReadRhythm - sight reading trainer - $3.79
- Musition Rhythm Tapping - $3.79
- Rhythm 101 - $1.29
- Music Tutor – (sight reading improver) - $2.49
- Staff Wars – Pitch reading treble, bass, alto clefs - $1.29
- Musical Terms (FREE)
- Music Dictionary (FREE)
- Ear Trainer Lite (FREE) – Full version $8.99
- Simple Song Writer – great for helping students hear what a chord progression sounds like as a first step in composition (LITE – FREE; FULL $6.49) – There is also a guitar version available as well
- Sound Meter - for Android, iOS, Windows—(FREE)
  Measures sound levels—some just do levels - what you need to find in one that does an average for you!