



The United Music Teachers of NSW

North Western Region

February 2019

Happy New Year to you all, and welcome to our new members. There is always room for more, so if you have other colleagues who would like to join, tell them about us. 2018 also brought some consolidation of the requirements for the UMT Awards Day, and a summary is given later in the newsletter.

2018 in review:

Our Autumn and Spring Recitals were well attended last year, and this gave a wonderful opportunity to many students, to perform for others, practise their performances, prepare for exam performance and to just play to enjoy. Two changes introduced were for the students to introduce themselves and their items, and a brief written feedback sheet for each performer, giving them some things to think about and practise for when they perform. Two wonderful afternoons of entertainment.



**Roger Woodward
Finalists**

In May, for the first time we held a very large audition for the Awards Day. A total of 6 entered the Junior Award, 7 entered the Roger Woodward Award, 1 entered the President's Award, and 2 others performed to gain experience of performance for the HSC. Outstanding performances, and from these we chose 7 to represent our region for the Junior, Roger Woodward and President's Award at the Finals day in June. A special thanks to Margaret Grieg, Noelle Brinsden and Estelle Shields for providing the adjudication for the day. A job well done.

Autumn Concert

The Association also held an outstanding Masterclass with Tamara Cislowska, a Professional Development day by Dr Helen Mitchell on engaging in performance, incorporating the Moot Audition, and a Performance Day in the City, open to all members and their students. These activities were a great opportunity for all involved.

So Far For 2019:

NW Region

North Western Autumn Concert: Sunday March 31st: Inala, Franklin Rd, Cherrybrook. Open to all students. This is NOT a competition, just a performance opportunity. Beginners welcome. Details soon.

UMT Planning Meeting and Morning Tea: Friday March 8th, my home in Cherrybrook. To discuss concert fees, performance feedback, needs and wants, and just a good old get-together.

Auditions for UMT Junior/Roger Woodward Awards/President's Award: Sunday May 26th, at Inala School. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES FOR THE AWARDS DAY. A summary is given further in the newsletter.

This audition is open to those who are at Grade 4 level and above. There will be assessments of performances on request, and some may be offered the opportunity to perform in the UMT Award Final to be held on Sunday, June 16th. Details sent later this term.

North Western Spring Concert: Sunday September 22nd: Inala, Franklin Rd, Cherrybrook. Open to all students. This is NOT a competition, just a performance opportunity. Beginners welcome.

Other UMT

UMT AGM: Sunday March 10th at 2:00pm, at Margaret McMurtrey's home in Baulkham Hills. Please let me know if you'd like to attend.

North Shore Autumn Festival: Sunday March 17th - North Shore Auditions for the UMT Awards
Finals Day: Sunday June 2nd

UMT Awards and Roger Woodward Awards Finals Day: Sunday June 16th, 12:00pm, 2:00pm and 2:45pm: UMT Junior Awards, President's Award and Roger Woodward Awards final.

UMT Central Meeting: Sunday July 7th.

Performance Day: Sunday August 18th, 2:00pm: Pitt Street (Sydney) Uniting Church, with written assessments of performances on request AND a Teachers' Concert

Other Events of Interest to date

KCC: (Keys, Cakes and Conversation): held on the first Thursday of the month, an informal gathering of teachers with a wide variety of topics covered – all free. Generally held at Music on the Move in Hurstville from 10.00am-12.30pm, but also other venues at times. You should contact Annette.allerding@gmail.com to register your attendance on any of the days. I never get there before 10:30, but that has always been okay. Let me know too if you'd like to go.

Feb 7: De-stressing the HSC – Meryl Jackson Kew OAM

March 7: The First Piano Lesson – Sue Calabrese, Margaret Brandman & Annette Allerding

April 4: Piano for Leisure, Series 4: Grades 4-8 – June Spithill

May 2: Stylistic Interpretation – Anthony Van Den Broek

June 6: Creating Expert Sight-readers – Samantha Coates

July 4: Modulation Spiders in Action & Improvising

Fun with Piano Repertoire: Feb 11, 29 Waratah St, Oatley – Rod MacFarlane – MTA event. See the MTA website.

AMEB Piano Series 18 Workshop: Feb 16-17, at the Independent Theatre in North Sydney. Attend whole workshop or just a single day. I'm going so let me know if you are.

Strategies for Learning/Teaching Australian Classical Piano Repertoire: Sunday April 28, The Music Room in Killara, from 1:00-4:00pm - an MTA event with Dr Cathy Aggett. See website.

Stay Tuned Choir holds Harmony in the Hunter. I've very recently joined a choir, meeting on Tuesday nights at Lorean Novalis in Dural. We have a truly marvellous time singing anything from Gospel, Popular, Folk, Spiritual etc – we performed at the ABC Big Sing Out as a feature choir, and had a most wonderful end of year concert in Burwood, complete with bagpipes and Tango dancers. It's such a blast being able to just sing your heart out (and never being asked to accompany) and have a great time. This year we are having a full weekend workshop in the Hunter Valley (Morpeth), with many inspiring sessions, Saturday night-free-for-all and a Concert for Charity on the Sunday. We really need more men though – I'm a Tenor, along with some males and other female tenors, but the basses need more numbers. Music reading not required, all materials for learning are in Dropbox, no auditions – it's just come and sing your heart out.

If you'd like to join up, let me know and I'll send you details. This has been such a wonderful thing for me – something for myself, and I guard Tuesday nights jealously to keep me sane.

My Time!

UMT Awards Finals Day:

Some important updates: Teachers must be financial members of the UMT to be able to enter students into these sections.

Auditions: North Western Region: Sunday 26th May; North Shore: Sunday 2nd June. Entrants outside of these regions may attend either audition.

Age limits apply for each section, and are to be taken as at June 30th of the year of the Event.

The UMT Awards (14 years and under) are now to be known as **The UMT Junior Award**

Anyone who has won any award in this section cannot enter for the next two years, after which they may enter again if they are still age-eligible. They are also free to enter the Roger Woodward Award up to the age of 18 years. Vocalists must be 21 years and under for this section.

The Roger Woodward Award: Open to those up to 18 years of age.

Anyone who has previously won the Roger Woodward Award is ineligible to enter again.

Memory work is expected from Pianists and Vocalists, however, it is optional for Instrumentalists.

No Age restriction for Vocalists.

The President's Award: This award is open instrumentalists only, who are 19 years and over.

This award is currently still under review and may be subject to change.

Further details will be emailed to you along with entry forms and requirements later this term, but full details with the rules, regulations, contact details and costs are also available from the Website: <http://www.unitedmusicteachers.org>

Thanks so much to all who have made my life so much easier by helping out whenever possible. If any of you have knowledge of events that may interest others, let me know and I'll forward it on to members. I look forward to bringing you more and letting you know more updates asap.

Details and information regarding all the workshops, concerts and masterclass will be available from the UMT website shortly.

Sue Calabrese

UMT NW Secretary

Phone: 0403 317 311; Email: miss.sue2054@gmail.com