

## Preparation for Grade Examinations

As your child is preparing for an AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) Grade examination, I would like to point out a few tips for their success and enjoyment of this unique endeavour. If you have any questions concerning any of these points, or would like to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me on my mobile number or email listed below.

I thank you for your time and kind assistance in supporting your child's musical development.

### Points for AMEB Preparation

#### **1. Practice on a regular basis: 15-30 minutes everyday.**

Practice is the key to your child's success. Through practice the student begins to understand and master the musical shapes, sounds and finger techniques of the pieces they will perform in their exam. Some of us may be familiar with the saying, "Practice makes perfect." Not that we need perfection for this exam, but rather fluency, which will greatly assist your child if they are nervous on the day.

#### **2. Practice in a quiet calm space**

Music practice takes great concentration, so make sure your Child has a quiet, calm environment to work in. There should be no TV or radios, or even audible conversations to distract your child attention. I have found that even the child's room can become a great distraction, with computers, posters, books, etc. to take away their focused attention. Maybe you will need to help your child with finding this space within your home.

#### **3. Attend all Lessons (Please!)**

I ask your kind assistance to make sure your child understands which day and time their lessons are. If they have a conflict with schedule, let me or Mrs. Kerr know, so we can schedule a make-up. These lessons are VITAL leading up to the examination, and will provide your child the information and musical support they need to pass their examination.

#### **4. Motivate and support your child towards their goal**

I have had many parents over the years say to me "I am not musical, so I cannot help with this exam." You can! Gently ask your child about the musical pieces they are playing, maybe what they sound like, their titles, etc. I bet not before too long, your child may want to play them for the family, in church or for a relative. The more we inspire their ability the greater it will become, honestly! Also ask your child about their scales, which will help with their finger and breath techniques. Scales always seem to get the least attention in the practicing process. Lastly, this music examination experience is rather unique and can be fun and fulfilling. I ask that you support your child, listen to their frustrations, and tell them they sound great, because they do!