

**AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD (AMEB)
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 24 AUGUST 2018**

Good evening and welcome to this special Concert to mark the Centenary of the Australian Music Examinations Board.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Mr Mike Tyler, AMEB Federal Chairperson, and CEO Bernard Depasquale;
- Associate Professor Andrew Legg, AMEB State Chair and Mrs Dianne Legg;
- Ms Jody Heald, President, Tasmanian Music Teachers' Association;
- Marita Crothers, AMEB State Manager;
- Mr David Sanzoni, President, Australian Strings Association Tasmania and Mrs Kirsten Sanzoni.

As you will have seen from this evening's program, we have a line-up of nine diverse pieces to be performed by twelve exceptionally talented young Tasmanian musicians.

And I would also like to note and congratulate their Teachers who are here this evening; and indeed the Accompanists.

My remarks now will be very brief. I would simply like to observe that way back in November 1918 Tasmania was visited by Mr. J. Sutton Crow, organising Secretary of the Australian Music Examination Board for Victoria, with a view to signing this State up to the proposed national AMEB.

Mr Crow – who was said to have built an imposing reputation as an administrator of musicⁱ – explained that, and I quote:

“Besides conducting examinations of a high standard, the board was desirous of taking an active part in the musical education of the Commonwealth and of assisting in the raising of the musical tone throughout Australia.”ⁱⁱ

If that turn of phrase seems rather quaint now, it nonetheless serves to remind us that there virtually was no such thing as formal musical education then – certainly not a uniform national standard, which is an important way of improving student attainment.

So we owe a debt of gratitude to those founders, and to every AMEB member and music teacher since. Their and your perseverance has paid off handsomely, and I can say that in the full knowledge that this evening’s expertly trained performers will demonstrate with great skill the beauty and magic of music, which to many is the true universal language.

Thank you.

ⁱ *The Shop: The University of Melbourne, 1850-1939*, By Richard Joseph Wheeler Selleck p. 613.

ⁱⁱ North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Friday 22 November 1918, page 2.