

March 2020

To Music Teachers,

USING COMPUTERS FOR MUSIC LESSONS AND ONLINE EXAMS

Operating in New Zealand since 2006, NZMEB has gone from strength to strength. Our systems are embedded in the New Zealand education system and we are the only Music Examinations Board accepted and moderated by NZQA. Our education system is so respected by the world that many overseas students come to study here.

Like all New Zealanders, we have been following closely the NZ Government suggestions and regulations regarding Covid19. The latest announcement at Alert Level 4 puts our students at home in Lock Down for 4 weeks.



The disruptions to daily routines can cause extra anxiety in children and to this end we would like all our music teachers to do their best to continue teaching.

We propose you use the platform Zoom to do this. While we appreciate this will never be as good as face to face lessons, it is an excellent way in the current situation to continue with our students' musical education. Our research suggests this is the easiest and best freely available system with good audio quality. Check it out at www.zoom.us. You will need to download the application on computer or phone as per instructions and your students can access it through their web browser or download the app if they want to, via the link invitation you send through their email account. It is also possible to use Skype and we know of teachers using WhatsApp quite successfully.

If you require help to do this NZMEB may be able to help you, however, we are hoping you will all have a computer savvy parent in your midst who can talk you through the steps. It is not difficult to download or use the Zoom app. Please contact us on 0800 388 748 or office@nzmeb.org if you would like any further information.

Following on from this, we realise that while the current situation of New Zealand being at Alert Level 4 Lock down is only temporary, it may not be safe for face to face examinations in the near future. To create a level of confidence with our examination entrants and their teachers, **NZMEB wishes to advise that we will run our examinations in an "online" situation**, if necessary. We are confident that there will be enough help from students' families to those who find computer systems difficult to manage. NZMEB will also provide assistance with this.

As New Zealand's only Music Examinations Board embedded in the New Zealand education system, we will continue to offer all programmes which are audited to the NZQA standards, and can be used to access NCEA credits.

* Note: Teachers will receive notice that for 2020 the **NZMEB will accept all other exam syllabuses for their Standard Certificate** (instruments as per our list on the NZMEB "NEWS Flash") as long as our Musicianship and Musical Knowledge is submitted, not the sight reading, aural tests and musical knowledge of the original exam board.

For more information refer to our website www.nzmeb.org, and please do not hesitate to contact us at our home office: phone 0800 388 748, or email office@nzmeb.org. Please stay safe.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pauline Alexander'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

PAULINE ALEXANDER

NZMEB Board