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PIANO EDUCATORS DAY

A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS!



The idea of Piano Educators Day popped into my head one afternoon, when I was trying to think about what piano teachers are looking for and how we could help. I identified three things; useful, exciting teaching ideas, access to the latest print music and resources available, and access to various examination bodies. Then I thought, why not put this all together in one, action-packed, exciting and inspiring day? Hence, **Piano Educators Day** was born!

The planning for Piano Educators Day began in November last year, when I approached three of the major examination bodies, five of the print music distributors, and our wonderful friends, the Team of Pianists, with my idea. I was greeted with keen enthusiasm, so we promptly set dates and began to coordinate the day.

The first Piano Educators Day at Bernies

Music Land was conducted on Thursday 21 January. We then repeated the whole program the following day, as we were already set up and didn't want anyone to miss out.

The morning began at 9.30am with Bernie Capicchiano (President of the Australian Music Association and Managing Director of Bernies Music Land) presenting "The State of the Music Industry" and "Introduction to Piano Technology". Then at 10.00am, Professor Max Cooke OAM (Partner of the Team of Pianists and renowned pianist, author, teacher and examiner) presented "Ten Points for a Really Good Piano Teacher". His presentation was captivating and his advice was inspirational to the piano teachers.

After the morning break, there were presentations by three of the leading examination bodies. Maureen Milton (and Maureen Grieve on the second day) presented the innovation of the ANZCA (Australian and New Zealand Cultural Arts Ltd.) classical and modern syllabi, and gave great news of ANZCA's expansion into Asia and growing recognition. Gregory Smith of ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) gave an exciting presentation of ABRSM's Jazz syllabus and some of the great performance courses available in their syllabus. Then, Tony Hodges of Trinity Guildhall presented an interesting account of this renowned examination body, highlighting their renowned international standards and clever "Rock School" syllabus.

If you think the teachers had a rest for lunch, you were wrong! Representatives from leading print music suppliers were here with brilliant displays of all the latest and greatest print music and methods! These included; Alfred Publishing, Hal Leonard, Encore Distributors, AMPD (All Music Publishing & Distribution) and Music Sales. The wonderful representatives talked to the teachers and answered a multitude of questions!

Following lunch, there was a series of presentations by guests from the print music companies; including Samantha Coats presenting Blitz Books, Abe Cytronowski presenting Scale Cards, Catherine Gerrard presenting P Plate Piano, Michael presenting the Hal Leonard range, Suan presenting the Alfred Methods and much more. It really was an action-packed day!

Now, we knew that there was just so much to absorb in one day, so we presented the teachers with a handbook of notes and resources, plus a show bag of freebies, brochures and information to take home with them. They also received participation certificates, signed by both Bernie and Max Cooke.

Feedback forms were collected on the day and I was simply delighted with the response. This included:

- *Thank you for organising such a well run, informative and enjoyable day of PD specifically for piano teachers!*
- *You have done it again! Top rating!* - *Boost of confidence received! Information quite exciting.*
- *A great inspiration to commence my teaching in 2010. Your great atmosphere and hospitality were much appreciated.*
- *A wonderful day. Very well organised. All staff very helpful, professional, cheerful, thoughtful and calm. Congratulations everyone and to Michelle and Bernie for their overall organising.*

We also received many ideas to incorporate into next year's Piano Educators Day. It will be bigger and even better this year – so, if you are piano teacher, make sure that you stay tuned for the brochures later in the year.

Thank you to the wonderful, proactive teachers who attended. Thank you to the Team of Pianists for their support and contribution to the day, especially to Max Cooke for his inspiring presentations. Thank you to the examination bodies; ANZCA, Trinity Guildhall and ABRSM, who make such a dedicated effort to listen to the teachers and provide great syllabi for them. Thank you also to the print music distributors; Alfred Publishing, Hal Leonard, Encore Distributors, AMPD and Music Sales, who were enthusiastic and made great contributions to the day's success. I look forward to presenting you with an outstanding Piano Educators Day in 2011.

Michelle C.