



News



Sydney

It has been a wonderful springtime of activities here at Bernies, and Hammond didn't miss out! On Thursday September 9, Robert Barbarossa gave a Hammond Workshop, playing on the XE-200 and also the B-3 organ. This was followed by the Hammond Organ Course, a three-session course that ran on September 15, 22 and 29.

Robert Barbarossa grew up playing Hammond. He was a student of Bernie's way back in the day, and went on to graduate at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Robert is a popular guest of the Bernies Music Land stage and his workshops deliver fascinating classes for Hammond players. If you are interested in participating in a Hammond Course in the new year, please register your interest by phoning 9872 5122 or email michelle@musicland.com.au.

The Hammond buzz is back again, with the arrival of two new Hammond treats. The first is the B-3 mark 2 organ, an absolute dream for organ players. This model features an improved sound generator system (96 Digital Tone Wheels™), which recreates all of the wonderful idiosyncrasies and subtleties of the Tone Wheel Generator. New features include; improved sound engine, improved vacuum tubes (used both in the preamp circuit and overdrive circuit), the latest Digital Leslie simulation and an upgraded Chorus/Vibrato division, to more closely model the electro-mechanical "scanner" of the vintage B-3.

One of the most important and interesting features is the nine-key contact system operating on each key. These contacts connect from each of the nine drawbar pitches and, by pressing a key slowly, each pitch level can be determined from high to low. This mechanical contact system is also responsible for Hammond's famous key click noise. The new B-3 mark 2 incorporates a complete mechanical contact system, totally unique in a modern instrument. The legend is back, and better than ever!



New "Mini B"

The second Hammond treat has been affectionately named the "Mini B". It is a cabinet that transforms your XK-3c keyboard and lower manual into what looks like a mini version of the famous B-3. The Mini B package includes a superb timber base, along with a deluxe stool and music rest. These have been made in Europe from high-quality timber and are the perfect addition to your Hammond setup. The Mini B pack is just \$2995 and now available, so come and see it at the store today!
Michelle C.

The Australian Institute of Music, Sydney, Embraces Hammond and Leslie...

The Australian Institute of Music, Sydney is a name synonymous with a campus full of people offering their heart and soul to music, as if it were the only thing that mattered to them. Seated in the cafeteria, you would, at any given point of time, hear a steady chatter of young passionate enthusiasts as they are probably discussing technique, chops, musicianship, etc. As you proceed down the numerous corridors, peeping into recording and teaching studios, the air simply cries out a thirst for playing music – with a passion. In a nutshell, think Berklee College of Music and cut it down a little in size.

In October 2010, the Australian Institute of Music unveiled their latest "admissions": a Hammond Pro-XK system and a Leslie 3300 speaker to match. To celebrate this fantastic new addition to the music faculty, an afternoon celebration was held. The local Hammond dealer, Mr. Bill Ferguson from Carlingford Music Centre, was there to talk to the music lovers and introduce the Hammond gear. He also introduced Aussie Hammond guru, Mr. Tim Neal, who was flown in especially to give the Hammond a good workout and create excitement amongst the budding musicians.



Tim jazzed up the afternoon with all the choicest jazz tunes, ranging from Latin Jazz to (double four time) swing. He was accompanied by two members of the Institute's music staff; Mr. Jeremy Sawkins on guitar and Mr. Nic Cecire on drums. The auditorium was filled with over 80 people, both students and a few teachers. Needless to say, Hammond was received with open arms and the crowd was in awe of the skill and musicianship of the trio. Head of Contemporary Music, Mr. Jamie Rigg was more than pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm. The afternoon was a great success and the Institute is working on many creative ways to bring the Hammond into their classes and activities.

Musico P/L would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Jamie Rigg for welcoming Hammond into the Institute and for being a great host. A big thanks to Bill from Carlingford Music, Sydney, for all his input and effort into making this happen...and Tim...you did it again!!

Franz W, Musico P/L Wholesale Division