Music Students Achieve the Extraordinary

Overwhelming talent, healthy competition, and a nurturing musical environment has led eleven remarkable Brisbane Girls Grammar School students to achieve a prestigious and highly sought after AMusA or LMusA music Diploma.

What makes the achievement more impressive is that several of the girls, who studied piano, violin or oboe to achieve their diplomas, already hold the esteemed Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Diplomas in other instruments, and the award is more commonly given to students studying at a tertiary level or beyond.

Mike Tyler, Chair of the AMEB Board of Directors says that the awards are extremely prestigious; less than two per cent of all AMEB candidates successfully complete the diploma examinations.

“To have eleven young musicians from Brisbane Girls Grammar School achieve at these levels in a single year is really quite extraordinary,” Mr Tyler said.

The students were presented with their diplomas at a ceremony at Brisbane City Hall earlier this month.

Mark Sullivan, Director of Instrumental Music at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, says he is very proud to have so many exceptional students in the music programme at the School. He credits the School’s nurturing environment and providing the students with opportunities to play in concerts and competitions prior to their diploma examinations, as part of the reason for the School’s and students’ success in music.

“The achievement of these diplomas represents exceptional musical talent and years of personal discipline and dedication to achieve the technique that is required to perform at such an advanced level of musicianship. Diploma candidates must demonstrate a professional level of technique and musicianship in their performance,” Mr Sullivan said.

One student, Michelle Lin, was one of only two students last year in Queensland to achieve the highest diploma—the Licentiate Diploma—with distinction in piano.

“The prospect of these students continuing on to professional music careers is very good,” Mr Sullivan said. “Some will surely join the growing number of former Brisbane Girls Grammar Students who have become professional musicians."

One such student is 2008 Dux Georgina Roberts, who has eschewed a traditional academic path and will be pursuing a Bachelor of Music Degree at Griffith University’s Conservatorium of Music.

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