

### **Samantha Coates**

Samantha Coates is a professional pianist and teacher with over 25 years experience in both private and group tuition. She is also the author and publisher of BlitzBooks, the music education series that has captured the imagination of students across Australia and transformed the teaching of music theory, sight reading and general knowledge. Samantha attended the Conservatorium High School in Sydney before completing her Bachelor of Music degree at the NSW Conservatorium, majoring in piano performance. She has had extensive experience as a solo performer and accompanist, and also enjoys singing in a cappella ensembles. She continues to teach at Australian Music Schools where she specialises in theory and musicianship classes. In the 10 years since the first Blitz workbook was published, Samantha has revolutionised theory teaching and has become a sought-after lecturer and presenter on a wide range of pedagogical topics, including sight reading, aural and exam preparation. In 2007 she was a State finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards. Samantha's ongoing dedication to making music education as fun as possible has seen her find many ways to engage students' interest and enthusiasm. Her aim is to make music more accessible to all instrumentalists through a holistic approach to the teaching of music theory, sight reading, aural and general knowledge. In her spare time Samantha enjoys organising professional development seminars for teachers, staring at the ocean, going for long walks, and camping with her husband and two lovely children.

### **Darryl Coote**

Darryl Coote is a partner of the TEAM OF PIANISTS, Artists-in-Residence at the National Trust (Victoria). His professional life encompasses activity as solo pianist, chamber musician, concerto soloist, teacher and adjudicator. He studied piano with Max Cooke at the University of Melbourne, where he completed his studies for Bachelor of Music with Honours and subsequently Master of Music, then later with Kurt Bauer at the Musikhochschule, Hanover. He was the first winner of the national Hephzibah Menuhin Memorial Scholarship and was Victorian State winner of the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition. Darryl has appeared in concert in all states of Australia as well as in many of Victoria's metropolitan and regional venues. During the past fifteen years, he has presented programmes in the highly-acclaimed series TWILIGHT CHAMBER MUSIC AT RIPPON LEA. An all-round ensemble performer, he often performs piano duets with Max Cooke, as well as major two-piano works with Robert Chamberlain. He is a sought-after chamber musician and accompanist, having worked with artists such as Anne Gilby (oboe), David Thomas (clarinet), Paul McMahon (tenor), Sally-Anne Russell (mezzo soprano), Kristy Conrau (cello), Rohan de Korte (cello), Josephine Vains (cello), Judith Hickel (violin), Charles Castleman (violin), Miwako Abe (violin) and Brian Hansford (baritone). Darryl has recorded and broadcast extensively on Australian radio networks, including ABC Classic FM and 3MBS FM. He features on all nine CDs produced by the TEAM OF PIANISTS, having recorded Bruch's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra with Robert Chamberlain and the New Monash Orchestra conducted by André de Quadros. He is an experienced teacher, examiner and adjudicator, and is a member of the piano faculty at Monash University. He has adjudicated major Eisteddfods interstate and has given masterclasses in Malaysia, in Germany, in China, in various universities around Australia, as well as at Boston University (USA), at the Eastman School of Music (USA) and at the Kunitachi Academy in Tokyo (Japan). Together with Max Cooke, he is one of the co-founders and an adjudicator of the Australian National Piano Award and he was secretary of the Organising Committee for the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference (Melbourne, July 2003). In May 2008 he accepted the office of President of the Victorian Music Teachers' Association.



Victorian Music Teachers' Association Inc.

# Professional Development Day

Tuesday September 21, 2010

9.45am - 3.45pm

Richmond Uniting Church

314 Church St, Richmond

9.45am	Registration
10.00am	Session 1: Sight Reading and Aural Training <i>Samantha Coates</i>
11.30am	Break
11.45am	Session 2: Syllabus Comparison- Making the best choice for your students <i>Samantha Coates</i>
1.15pm	BYO lunch (tea/coffee provided)
2.15pm	Session 3: Successful Music Performance <i>Darryl Coote</i>
3.45pm	Close

VMTA office: Ph: 9415 1314 Fax: 9415 1014 email: [vmta@ozemail.com.au](mailto:vmta@ozemail.com.au)  
[www.vmta.org.au](http://www.vmta.org.au)

# Session Information

## Session 1: Sight Reading and Aural Training – Samantha Coates

During an investigation into brain activity during musical tasks, researchers at the University of Montreal found that sight-reading musical scores activates regions in all four of the cortex's lobes, and that parts of the cerebellum are also activated during those tasks. Added to this is all the research surrounding the 'Mozart Effect' – that listening to music enhances learning. Given such great reasons to engage in these activities, why is it that sight-reading and aural are still the most poorly performed tasks in practical exams? Samantha Coates will analyse what actually happens when we sight read at the piano, and will discuss how sight-reading is intricately related to aural and theoretical skills. Most importantly though, Samantha will demonstrate entertaining and engaging techniques for enhancing these essential skills in our young musicians.

## Session 2: Syllabus Comparison: Making the Best Choice for Your Students - Samantha Coates

In this highly informative session, Samantha will present an overview of the three written courses offered by the AMEB: Music Craft, Theory and Musicianship. Samantha will highlight the main differences between these courses, with a focus on Preliminary to Grade 4. Having recently entered herself for all of the Music Craft exams, Samantha has a unique insight into the intricacies of the course, both from a teacher and student perspective. This combined with her expert knowledge of Theory and Musicianship means she is able to give a helpful and detailed syllabus comparison that will enable teachers and students to choose the syllabus most suitable to them, based on their strengths and weaknesses.

## Session 3: Successful Music Performance - Darryl Coote

What constitutes effective performance and how do we achieve it?

Confident performance is the result of:

- Understanding culturally and intellectually what one is trying to communicate, and having a commitment to communicate that message.
- A developed range of technical ability adequate for the demands of the repertoire to be performed.
- Analytical learning and practice procedures.
- Adequate try out performances, and "stepped" rehearsal procedures.

The presentation will outline the value of an advance practice and preparation plan. The role of background listening and research, in order that artistic issues are understood, will be examined. Systematic preparation and formative learning procedures will be considered.

"Stepped" rehearsals and consultation lessons are a valuable part of preparation, in helping one to cope with a performance situation psychologically. Appraisal of rehearsals is essential, leading then to further follow-up rehearsals.

*Certificates of Attendance will be provided for Professional Development purposes.*

## Registration Form

### Professional Development Day - Tuesday September 21 2010

Please return to VMTA, C1.4/1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford, VIC 3067 or fax to 9415 1014 by **Tuesday September 14 2010.**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Town: ..... PC: .....

Phone: .....Email: .....

	no. of tickets	VMTA member/ full-time student	non-member	total cost
Session 1 (Samantha Coates)	[    ]	\$30	\$40	\$ _____
Session 2 (Samantha Coates)	[    ]	\$30	\$40	\$ _____
Session 3 (Darryl Coote)	[    ]	\$30	\$40	\$ _____
All sessions (special rate)	[    ]	\$70	\$95	\$ _____

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

All prices include tea and coffee

All prices include GST

Payment:

Cheques payable to: Victorian Music Teachers' Association Inc.

[    ] Cheque    [    ] Mastercard    [    ] Visa

Credit card number:

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card: .....

Signature: .....