

## IRMTNZ HISTORY



### 1900 - 1981

The sixth attempt at a parliamentary bill to register music teachers was finally successful in 1928: The Music Teachers Registration Act.

There were four iterations of amalgamated individual nationwide societies...culminating in The Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand 1981.

**Late 19th century:** Throughout New Zealand there were formal *Societies of Professional Musicians* where members were professional performers who were often also music teachers. There was concern that the standard of music teaching throughout the country was not consistently high.

**1900 - 1910: First attempts at a Registration bill.** In 1900, a national gathering of musicians met to consider a *Registration Bill for Music Teachers*. Bills were put before Parliament in 1900 and 1907 but failed. On 22nd January 1908, delegates from music societies around the country re-convened in Wellington to discuss a bill for musicians. They hoped it might achieve the amalgamation of the societies, the establishment of some sort of registration for music teachers, the organisation of music exams, and the setting up of a benevolent fund for musicians in need. Attempts at legislating a bill were made in 1908, 1909, 1910, but were unsuccessful.

**1924:** After being interrupted by the First World War, the ABRSM National Secretary, Ernest Cachemaille, convened another conference of the societies in response to the need for the improved teaching of music in schools and for the improved teachers' training that would be necessary. Those who attended represented *Societies of Professional Musicians* from Auckland, Gisborne, Napier, Masterton, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury, Timaru, Oamaru, Otago and Southland. The result was that the ***New Zealand Society of Professional Teachers of Music [the NZ Society]*** was established.

**1928: *The Music Teachers' Registration Act*** was finally passed, but was not very satisfactory. It created a Board to control and administer, but not examine for, the registration of music teachers; and made no legal provision for the *NZ Society*. Legally the *Music Teachers' Registration Board* was still a separate entity from the *New Zealand Society of Professional Teachers of Music*, although in fact the same people administered both. The local music societies had become branches of the *NZ Society*, but in a very loose way. Obviously this needed tightening, so the two entities were amalgamated under the Incorporated Societies Act.

**1931: *The Music Teachers Association of New Zealand Incorporated*** was established. The objectives of this Incorporated Society formed the basis of the purposes we have today. Later, however, it was discovered that it had not been thoroughly legally structured, so further amendments were necessary.

**1949: the *Federation of Societies of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand*** was formed, although at that point the *Music Teachers' Registration Board* and the *Federation of Societies of Registered Music Teachers* were still legally two separate entities.

**1981:** With the [\*Music Teachers Act 1981\*](#), the ***Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand (IRMTNZ)*** was established. After a great deal of perseverance and toil, this Act of Parliament finally brought the *NZ Music Teachers' Registration Board* and the *Federation of Societies of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand* under one umbrella.

Many IRMTNZ precedents and procedures were now established. Publications included the Code of Ethics, a Study Guide for aspirants to Associateship, and a Handbook for members. New application forms and Certificates were designed. Much work was done on methods of dealing with the new requirements for proof of teaching ability, the existing Journal was taken to a new professional level and the training of music teachers was carried out by a Teacher Training Committee, the culmination of which was the Teacher Training Course: Pre-Service, and Units A, B and C. This has now become the IRMTNZ Teacher Training Courses: Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced. In 1993 the IRMTNZ Diploma was established, although it is no longer in use due to work currently being undertaken to establish a Graduate Diploma with NZQA recognition.

Ernest Cachemaille had been appointed the first Registrar to the *Music Teachers' Registration Board* in 1929 and served until 1953. He often called upon music teachers registered under the Act "to value what they had, to work for the betterment of standards in teaching and to maintain the professional status of music teaching which had been achieved by the passing of the Act in 1928".

#### Sources

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