

IRMTNZ HISTORY on one page



Between 1900 - 1981:

- 6 attempts at a parliamentary bill to register music teachers, the last one was finally successful in 1928: *The Music Teachers Registration Act*.
- 4 iterations of amalgamations of individual nationwide societies of professional music teachers, the last one in 1981: *The Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand*

End of the nineteenth century: throughout New Zealand there were formal *Societies of Professional Musicians*. Members were professional performers who were often also music teachers and many were concerned that the standard of music teaching throughout the country was not consistently high.

1900: First attempts at a Registration bill. 1900: a national gathering of musicians to consider a *Registration Bill for Music Teachers*. Bills were put before Parliament in 1900 and 1907 but failed. On 22 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; 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.

In 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 came represented *Societies of Professional Musicians* from Auckland, Gisborne, Napier, Masterton, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury, Timaru, Oamaru, Otago, Southland. The result was that the ***New Zealand Society of Professional Teachers of Music [the NZ Society]*** was established.

In 1928, *The Music Teachers' Registration Act* was finally passed, but it was not very satisfactory. It created only 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*, though in fact the same people administered both. The local music societies had become branches of the *NZ Society*, though in a very loose way. Obviously this needed tightening, so everything was amalgamated under the Incorporated Societies Act and ...

In 1931 the *Music Teachers Association of New Zealand Incorporated* was established. The 'Objects' 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 ...

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

With the ***Music Teachers Act 1981***, the ***Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand*** was established. After a great deal of perseverance and toil, with this Act the *NZ Music Teachers' Registration Board* and the *Federation* were finally brought under one umbrella.

Many IRMTNZ precedents and procedures were now established: the Code of Ethics; a Study Guide for aspirants to Associateship was published as well as 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 Journal was taken to a new professional level; the training of music teachers was carried out by a Teacher Training Committee and the culmination was the Teacher Training Course: Pre-Service, Units A, B and C. (Now the online Teacher Training Course: Foundation; Intermediate; Advanced). In 1993 the IRMTNZ Diploma was established and negotiations are being undertaken for its NZQA recognition in 2018-19.

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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Caryll Watson and Sian Williamson: *A Musical Legacy, a centennial history of Wellington Branch IRMT*. Pub. IRMTNZ Wellington 2008L

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