



NEWSLETTER

Institute of Western Music & Speech – Sri Lanka

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament No. 44 of 1988)

September - 2025

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Mrs. Suhashini Victoria

Chairperson – Examinations' Board

Mrs. Shanuka De Alwis

Vice President (Music)

Mrs. Ramani Soysa

Vice President (Speech)

Mrs. Venica Abeygoonewardena

Vice President (Social Activities)

Mrs. Sonali Jayatunge

Hony. General Secretary

Mrs. Kishani Ferdinando

Hony. Treasurer

Mrs. Geetha Wedage

Hony. Secretary - Examinations' Board

Mrs. Dinali Illangatillake

Council Members

Mrs. Shiranthi Asirwatham

Mrs. Minna Tange

Mrs. Shyaminie Perera

Mrs. Surangika Fernando

Mrs. Shahani Dewaraja

Ms. Amanthie De Silva

Mrs. Ruklanthi Theverapperuma

Ms. Aanjali Perera

Board Members

Mrs. Priyanthika Wickramasinghe

Mrs. Niranjalee Weerakoon

Ms. Jehani Gamalathge

Mrs. Majella Silva

Mrs. Neluka Nanayakkara

Mrs. Ruvini Tudugala



Dear Teachers and Members,

It is both an honour and a privilege to serve as the current President of the IWMS – Sri Lanka's premier examining body in Music, Speech and Allied subjects.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of service to the children of our Motherland, reaching to every corner of the nation with our mission.

It was a pleasure meeting many of you at our signature event on the 27th of July, when we gathered at the Kingsbury Hotel to celebrate Teachers' Day. I trust you enjoyed the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie that was shared.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our qualified panel of examiners in both Music and Speech, whose commitment and dedication have helped establish IWMS as the most innovative, reputed and professional examining body in Sri Lanka.

It is deeply rewarding to work alongside such an efficient and cooperative Council and Board. Together, I look forward to another year of growth, service and new challenges for our Institute.

This year, we successfully concluded 17 prize-awarding ceremonies in June — one of our many flagship events. Our second session of examinations is currently in progress, and I am confident that they will be equally successful.

I warmly look forward to your continued support and I pray for God's blessings upon you all.

Mrs. Suhashini Victoria

CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER



The Annual Christmas get-together was held on 13th December 2024 at the IWMS Auditorium with festive cheer. The examiners, retired examiners, staff members and receptionists gathered to celebrate the season in true IWMS spirit with a day filled with carols, dancing and games followed by a festive lunch.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on 29th March 2025 bringing together members to review the year's progress and discuss future prospectives. A key highlight was the appointment of the new Office Bearers, Council and Board members who were appointed to uphold the values and vision of IWMS in the coming year. The meeting adjourned with fellowship.

AVURUDU CELEBRATIONS

The Avurudu celebrations took place on 21st April at IWMS, which was decorated with vibrant avurudu decorations. The examiners, staff and receptionists enjoyed a day filled with fun avurudu games and delicious sweetmeats.



PRIZE GIVING - 2024

The IWMS Prize Giving ceremonies were held at Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium on 10th, 24th, 28th, and 31st May 2025. The final prize giving was held at the BMICH on 8th June 2025, which was graced by the Principal of the British School in Colombo, Mrs. Hannah Wells, as the Chief Guest. The outstanding achievements of students were recognised at this event.



TEACHERS' DAY



The IWMS Teachers' Day was celebrated on 27th July 2025 at Kingsbury. There were stalls set up for teachers to purchase clothing, jewellery, household linen and spices. Teachers from across the country joined together for a day filled with games, dancing, singing and, to enjoy a hearty lunch. At the event, teachers were recognised and appreciated for the contribution in service and loyalty shown to IWMS over the last 65 years.



STAFF NEWS

Recruitment of staff members



Hansani Ranasinghe

Welcome to the IWMS family!



Melissa Fernando



Thanking
Thilini Kasthuriarachchi
for her services rendered to IWMS



Staff Trip

This year's staff trip took place from the 7th – 10th August 2025 in Chennai, India. Over the course of four unforgettable days, they were immersed in an exciting sightseeing adventure, shopping sprees and a grand farewell dinner. It was a relaxing yet enjoyable experience for all the staff members.



EXAMINATIONS' BOARD NEWS



Dear Teachers and Members,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the newly elected Chairperson of the Examinations' Board for the year 2025/26.

We wish to continue with our mission to promote, nurture and develop the talents of our precious children islandwide, in the fields of Music and Speech, to the best of our ability.

To this end, we wish to encourage and support our wonderful and dedicated teachers who are instrumental in working with us towards our common goal and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support and cooperation over the years. You have understood the necessity for us to work together for the betterment of our children, and I look forward to many more years of collaboration and partnership.

We have laid the groundwork for the new communication platform through Whatsapp communities. You may have already sent in your Whatsapp number and been added to the groups relevant to you. This is to ensure a smooth and seamless examining session for all and is vital in assisting us to get important messages across to you.

As you have already been informed, we have reverted to pre Covid scheduling of exams and I humbly request that all teachers support us in this as it will greatly benefit all those involved.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our current panel of examiners and all the previous panels for their dedicated services to the IWMS in the past 65 years. Your professionalism and efficiency have been key to the smooth running of our examination process. To those on our panels who have given of their time and ideas at an honorary level, I say a huge 'thank you'. You continue to help the IWMS move forward and upward, with the future in mind and with full transparency and synergy.

My sincerest gratitude to ALL the members of our Staff. They are truly 'unsung heroes'. We would not be where we are if not for every single one of them, who gives their all to serve and improve the IWMS.

I would like to conclude by saying that our doors are always open to any of our members who may need our support and guidance and I welcome your valuable suggestions and ideas. The success we have achieved thus far is a truly collective effort.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." – Phil Jackson

With gratitude and blessings to you all.

Mrs. Shanuka De Alwis

Dates for

Theory Examinations- 2025

First Session

Colombo - 28th & 27th April

Outstation - 17th May

Second Session

Colombo } - 27th & 28th September
Moratuwa }

Outstation - 11th October

North & East - 26th October

Commencement of Practical Examinations – 2025

The Practical Examinations in Colombo commenced on 19th June 2025 with the lighting of the oil lamp and a prayer service at the IWMS premises. The Outstation Centres commenced on 14th June.



An Exciting Addition.....

Initial Music Theory

Introducing a new Theory Syllabus for young learners of Music.

It will be held for the first time in the second session Theory Examination - 2025.



Name a bus you can never enter.

A syllabus.



DID YOU KNOW.....?

An "earworm" is slang for a melody or song that is stuck in your head.

On a lighter note...

DID YOU KNOW.....?

The greatest number of people to play the same piano at the same time is 23.

Which dinosaur knows the most words?

A Thesaurus



What are a pianist and a sports fan both interested in?

The score.



Obituaries



Mrs. Patricia De Silva

She was a loyal and committed Speech Examiner at IWMS for 28 years and served on the Council and the Examinations' Board at various levels as a past Chairperson, Vice President (Speech), a Council member and a Board member.

She conducted a series of English programmes for the staff of IWMS.



Mrs. Nilanthi Goonesekera

A Dedicated member of the panel of Speech Examiners who served the IWMS as Treasurer, Vice President (Speech) and Vice President (Social Activities).



This year, the Institute of Western Music and Speech proudly celebrates 65 years of service. True to our mission, we remain committed to evolving and growing with dedication and diligence, ensuring a holistic learning experience for our children.

We are still the only institute of its kind, incorporated by an Act of Parliament, and we operate solely as a non-profit organization. All funds received through examination fees are reinvested to benefit our teachers and students—through initiatives such as 100% free prize givings, workshops and other services.

The Institute is governed by an Honorary Board and Council, with our Examiners being remunerated for services provided and the Staff are salaried employees of the IWMS. Our focus has never been on profit-making, but on providing the highest quality of service to our community. We consider this work a privilege and will continue to remain steadfast in our dedication to this cause.

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