



INSTITUTE OF WESTERN MUSIC & SPEECH – SRI LANKA

(INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT NO. 44 OF 1988)

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

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EXAMINATIONS' BOARD – MEMBERS

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MRS. NIRANJALEE WEERAKOON

MRS. JEHANI GAMALATHGE

MRS. MAJELLA SILVA

MRS. SHAHANI DEWARAJA

MRS. NELUKA NANAYAKKARA

Dear Teachers and Members,

It is both an honour and a privilege to serve as the President of the Institute of Western Music & Speech (IWMS), Sri Lanka's premier examining body for Music, Speech and Allied Subjects.

As we celebrate our 66th anniversary, we reflect with pride on our enduring commitment to nurturing the talents of children across our nation. For more than six decades, IWMS has remained steadfast in its mission of promoting excellence in education and the performing arts, reaching every corner of Sri Lanka.

It was a great pleasure to meet many of you at our signature event Teachers' Day Celebration held on 12th of July at the Kingsbury Hotel. The occasion was a wonderful opportunity to recognise your invaluable contribution and to enjoy the fellowship, friendship and unity that define the IWMS family.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our distinguished panel of Music and Speech examiners. Your professionalism, expertise and unwavering dedication have been instrumental in establishing IWMS as one of the country's most respected, innovative and trusted examining bodies. My sincere thanks also go to our Council and Board members, whose commitment, vision and teamwork continue to strengthen the Institute and guide its progress.

This year has been particularly significant. We successfully concluded our annual Prize Awarding Ceremonies, expanding the celebrations for the first time to the regions of Mannar, Kalmunai, Kandy and Matara, in addition to our prestigious national ceremony at the BMICH. This milestone reflects our continued commitment to recognising and celebrating the achievements of students throughout Sri Lanka.

Our second session of examinations is now in progress, and I am confident that, with your continued dedication and support, it too will be conducted to the highest standards of excellence.

As we look ahead, I remain optimistic about the future of IWMS. Together, let us continue to inspire young minds, uphold the highest standards of education and embrace new opportunities for growth and service.

Thank you for your continued loyalty, commitment, and partnership. I wish you every success in the year ahead and pray that God richly blesses you and your families.

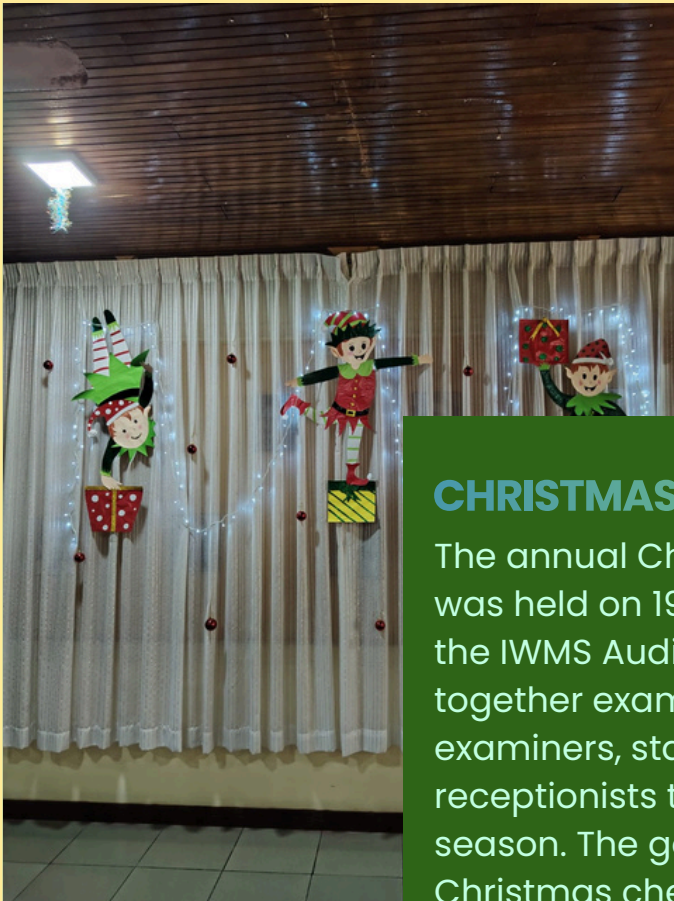
With warm regards,

Mrs. Suhashini Victoria
President



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on 21st March during which the office bearers, council members and board members were duly appointed for the year. Reports on the activities and affairs of the institute were presented and received by the membership. The meeting adjourned with fellowship among the members.



CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER 2025

The annual Christmas get-together was held on 19th December 2025 at the IWMS Auditorium, bringing together examiners, retired examiners, staff members and receptionists to celebrate the festive season. The gathering was filled with Christmas cheer as attendees enjoyed singing of carols, games and fellowship in the true spirit of the season.





AVURUDU CELEBRATIONS

The IWMS Avurudu Celebrations were held on 17th April 2026 amidst beautiful festive decorations. The examiners and staff came together sharing prayers and wishes for a prosperous year ahead. The celebrations continued with a variety of traditional Avurudu games, fostering camaraderie and enjoyment among all present.

The event concluded with a delicious meal featuring traditional Avurudu food and sweetmeats, making for a memorable and joyful occasion.

Recruitment of our new Director Administration
Mr. Vajira Jayawardhana



-We warmly welcome Mr. Jayawardhana to our IWMS family-

PRIZE GIVING – 2025

The prize giving ceremonies this year were decentralized to ensure active student participation islandwide.

Mannar (North) and Matara (South) – 6th, 7th and 8th March 2026



Kandy (Central) – 14th and 15th March 2026



Kalmunai (East) – 6th June 2026



In Colombo the prize giving was held at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium on 4th and 18th June 2026. The main prize giving ceremony was held on 10th May at BMICH, with Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.





CONFERRING OF FELLOWSHIP

Honorary Fellowships were conferred on 10th May 2026 at the main prize giving.



Mrs. Kishani Ferdinando



Mrs. Dinali Illangatillake



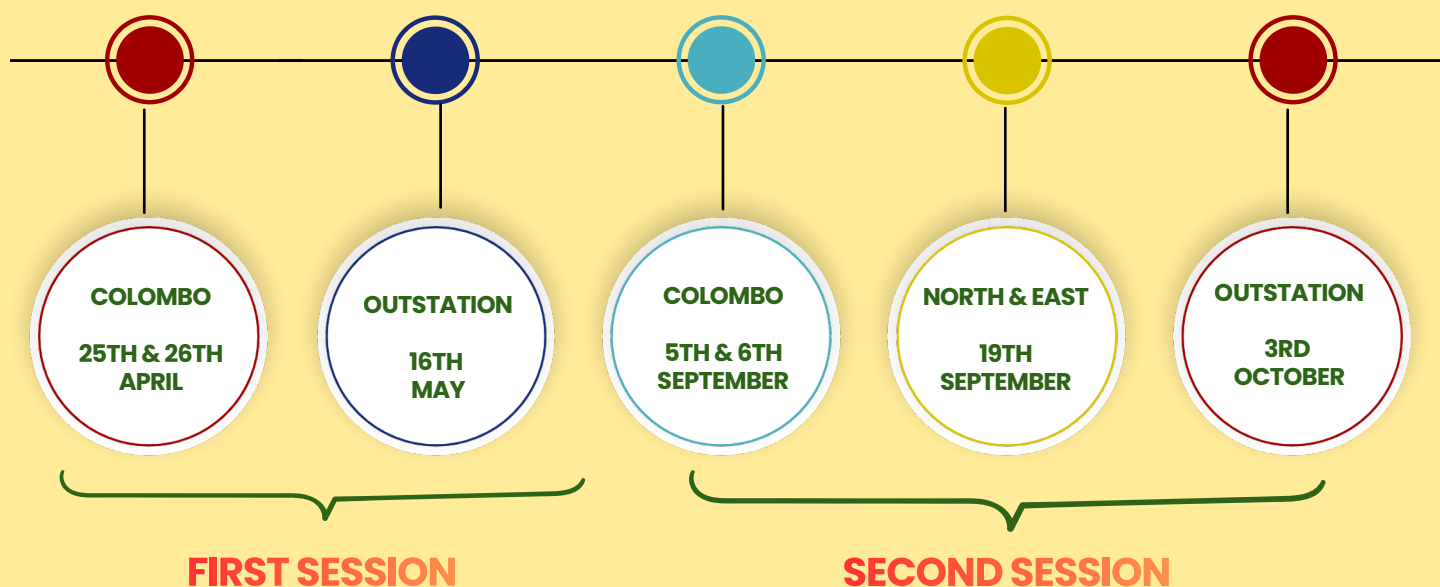
Mrs. Ruvini Tudugala



Mrs. Shahani Dewaraja



DATES FOR THEORY EXAMINATIONS-2026



COMMENCEMENT OF PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS – 2026

The practical examination sessions in Colombo commenced on 2nd June with the lighting of the oil lamp, prayers and fellowship at the IWMS premises.



EXAMINATIONS' BOARD NEWS



The year 2025 has been one of both achievement and challenge for the Institute of Western Music and Speech.

I am delighted to note that the Institute recorded an impressive total of over 65,000 examination entries during the year. This remarkable achievement reflects the continued confidence that teachers, parents and students place in the Institute and its examinations. It is also a testament to the dedication and hard work of our examiners, coordinators, teachers and administrative staff who continue to uphold the high standards of the IWMS.

One of the major milestones achieved this year was the successful updating and revision of the Spoken and Written English syllabuses.

Further, the Recorder syllabus was enhanced with more information and guidelines. These revisions were undertaken with great care to ensure that our syllabuses remain relevant, progressive and aligned with the evolving educational needs of today's learners. I am grateful to all the Examiners who contributed their expertise and time towards this important task.

The year was not without its difficulties. The conduct of examinations was significantly affected by numerous unforeseen challenges, including disruptions caused by Cyclone Ditwah and adverse weather conditions experienced across several parts of the country. Despite these obstacles, the Board and both Panels of Examiners worked tirelessly to ensure that examinations were conducted as smoothly and fairly as possible, while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of candidates, teachers and exam personnel.

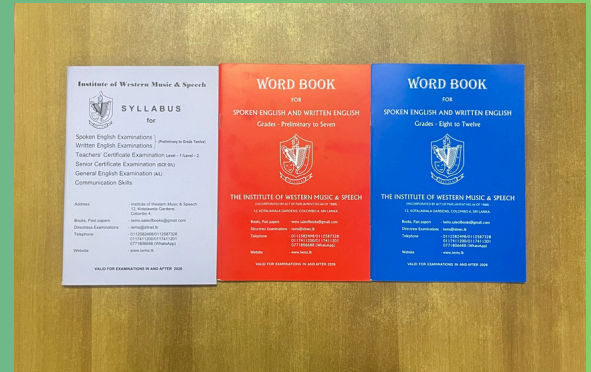
At this juncture, I wish to place on record our sincere appreciation to all our teachers for their unwavering patronage, loyalty and commitment to the Institute of Western Music and Speech. Your dedication to nurturing young talent and maintaining the standards of our examinations remains the cornerstone of the Institute's continued success.

"Success is not the work of one, but the achievement of many working together with dedication and vision."

Mrs. Shanuka De Alwis
Chairperson – Examinations' Board

NEW ADDITION...

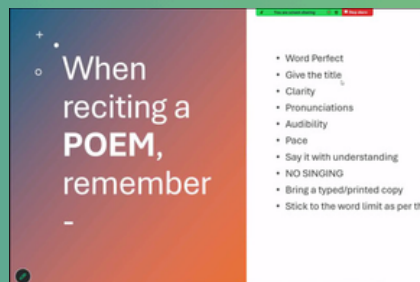
Introducing our revised syllabus and new workbooks for Spoken English Examinations from Preliminary – Grade 6.



WORKSHOPS

We had the privilege of conducting several online workshops for both Spoken English and Music.

9th May: All grades in Spoken English



23rd May: Pre-preparatory to Grade 4 in Music



An outline of the new syllabus was provided with a comprehensive collection of handouts. Teachers islandwide were able to join and interact with the resource persons, making it a productive session.

OBITUARIES



Mrs. Shiranee Dabare

A loyal and dedicated member of the panel of music examiners who served in the Council and Examinations' Board holding the position of the Honorary General Secretary.

Ms. Priya De Silva

A former receptionist who served for many years with commitment, dedication and meticulous attention to detail.



MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE



SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

MRS. JEHANI GAMALATHGE

–MUSIC EXAMINER–

JEHANI WAS A PART OF THE "ROMANTIC MASTERWORKS" HELD ON THE 1ST OF AUGUST 2026 AT THE LIONEL WENDT THEATRE WITH DUSHYANTHI PERERA AS THE CONDUCTRESS.

SHE PERFORMED THREE ARIAS, EACH SHOWING A DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE VOCAL REPERTOIRE. THE FIRST WAS "REJOICE GREATLY" FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH, A PIECE FULL OF JOY AND CELEBRATION. NEXT SHE PERFORMED "JE VEUX VIVRE," JULIET'S CAREFREE WALTZ FROM GOUNOD'S ROMÉO ET JULIETTE, IN WHICH SHE SINGS OF ENJOYING LIFE AND YOUTH. THE ARIAS CLOSED WITH "KLÄNGE DER HEIMAT" FROM JOHANN STRAUSS II'S DIE FLEDERMAUS, A BEAUTIFUL AND EXCITING PIECE THAT SHOWS BOTH EXPRESSION AND VIRTUOSITY.



MS. SHEHANI FERNANDO

–MUSIC EXAMINER–

THE GUSTAV MAHLER SOCIETY OF COLOMBO (GMSC) HELD IT'S 2026/2027 SEASON OPENING CONCERT ON THE 13TH OF JUNE 2026 AT THE LIONEL WENDT THEATRE. THE CONCERT WAS CONDUCTED BY SRIMAL WEERASINGHE, WITH SHEHANI SERVING AS CONCERTMASTER. THE ORCHESTRA PERFORMED MOZART'S SYMPHONY NO. 41, THE LAST SYMPHONY WRITTEN BY THE COMPOSER AND HIS MOST CHALLENGING.

IN KEEPING WITH THE GMSC'S COMMITMENT TO FEATURING SRI LANKA COMPOSERS AND WORKS, THE ORCHESTRA PERFORMED MAESTRO ASOKA PUSHPAKUMARA'S "SANSARA". IN ADDITION, THE ORCHESTRA PERFORMED CHARLES IVES' "THE UNANSWERED QUESTION," MARKING IT'S FIRST PERFORMANCE IN ALL OF SOUTH ASIA. FINALLY, TO BID FAREWELL TO THE ORCHESTRA'S LONG-STANDING TIMPANI PLAYER WHO WAS RETURNING TO HER HOME COUNTRY OF JAPAN, THEY PERFORMED A RENDITION OF AULD LANG SYNE, ARRANGED FOR THE ORCHESTRA BY SHEHANI FERNANDO.



**WHAT HAS MANY WORDS BUT NEVER SPEAKS?
A DICTIONARY**

**WHICH WORD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS THE MOST LETTERS?
"SMILES" BECAUSE THERE IS A MILE BETWEEN THE FIRST AND LAST LETTER!**

**DID YOU KNOW?
THE FAMOUS OPENING FOUR NOTES OF BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO.5 ARE AMONG THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE NOTES IN ALL OF CLASSICAL MUSIC.**

THE WORD "PIANO" IS SHORT FOR PIANOFORTE, MEANING SOFT-LOUD IN ITALIAN. THIS WAS BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST KEYBOARD INSTRUMENT THAT COULD PLAY AT BOTH VOLUMES.



ON A LIGHTER NOTE

**WHAT HAS MANY KEYS BUT CANNOT OPEN A SINGLE DOOR?
A PIANO**

**WHAT STARTS WITH "E" ENDS WITH "E" AND CONTAINS ONLY ONE LETTER?
AN ENVELOPE.**

CONTACT DETAILS

Books, Past papers
Director Administration
Directress Examinations
Finance Division
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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGH OUR WHATSAPP GROUPS FOR THE LATEST UPDATES REGARDING SPEECH AND MUSIC ALLIED SUBJECTS.