



July Friends

Nellie Melba: Queen of Song

An evening of song, with a display of Melba memorabilia from the Library's collection

Date: Friday 25 July

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Foyer

Bookings: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au

Friends Monthly Book Club

For Friends of the National Library of Australia only. This month's book is Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky

Date: Tuesday 29 July

Time: 7 – 8.30 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Bookings: (02) 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA
National Library of Australia
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6262 1698
Fax: (02) 6273 4493
Email: friends@nla.gov.au
Website: www.nla.gov.au/friends

This month the Friends of the National Library will present a performance of *Nellie Melba: Queen of Song*. Dame Nellie Melba (born Helen Porter Mitchell) was Australia's first international superstar. She achieved international recognition as a soprano, singing in London, Paris, Milan and New York, and, within a few years of her operatic debut, was regarded as one of the most accomplished and famous sopranos of her time.

Canberra soprano Louise Page, accompanied by Phillipa Candy on piano, will recreate the glamour, fame and notoriety of Dame Nellie Melba in this beguiling tribute to Australia's first international diva. This costumed show will lead the audience through Melba's life and include reminiscences of her early life in Australia, her decision to become an opera singer in Europe and the influence of her teacher Mathilde Marchesi. It will also delve into her introduction to society, her debut in Brussels and her success in Paris leading to her triumph at Covent Garden where she reigned for three decades as the 'Queen of Song'. Highlights of the evening will certainly be the performances of the songs and arias which made Melba an icon.

Nellie Melba: Queen of Song will be further enhanced with a display at interval of Melba memorabilia from the Library's extensive Music Collection, selected by the Library's Curator of Music, Robyn Holmes. Items will include scores and sheet music dedicated to or performed by Melba, letters, photos and a selection of personal items.

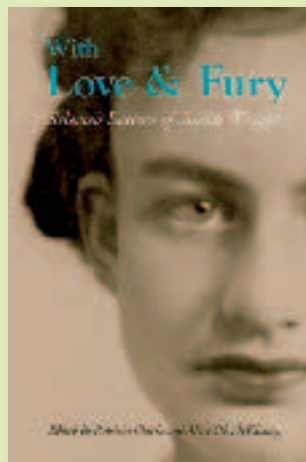
Louise Page and Phillipa Candy, one of Australia's most experienced recital pairs, delight audiences around the country with compelling and innovative Lieder recitals for which they have received many awards and accolades. They enjoy the intimacy and rapport with the audience that comes from presenting song recitals. In December 2007, Louise Page was awarded a Canberra Critics Circle Award for Music and was named the 2007 Canberra Times Artist of the Year.

I do hope you can join me for what promises to be an exciting night of song on Friday 25 July. Tickets are available through the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698 for \$35 for Friends and \$45 for non-members.

SHARYN O'BRIEN
Acting Executive Officer
Friends of the National Library of Australia

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Only available to members of Friends of the National Library of Australia. Please quote your membership number when ordering.

Donald Friend (1915–1989)
Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall
(detail)
From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan'
Manuscripts Collection MS 5959, Item 2

National Library of Australia Treasures Gallery

Treasure of the Month

This quilt was made around 1845 by a group of Aboriginal children who were taught sewing, reading and Sunday School by Elizabeth Irwin, in the Swan River settlement of Western Australia. Miss Irwin was the niece of Colonel Frederick Irwin, who was acting governor of the colony between 1847 and 1848.

The quilt was donated to the Library in 1959 by Mary Willis, of Essex (UK). It had been given to her by Jane 'Jennie' Nixon, who was nurse to Colonel Irwin's seven children at the Swan River settlement and, later, in England.



Patchwork quilt made by Aboriginal children in Western Australia, c.1845
cotton; 105.0 x 139.5 cm
Pictures Collection
nla.pic-an7828946

Help us build our Treasures Gallery

The National Library's collection has been growing since its foundation in 1901, and contains many items of national importance. To make these more accessible to the public, the Library is planning a Treasures Gallery to showcase them, with accompanying interpretation and the highest standards of preservation. Telling the stories of Australia's history and culture, the Gallery will be a must-see destination for all Australians. Each month, *National Library of Australia News* will feature an item to be displayed in the future Gallery.

Your donation to the Treasures Gallery Appeal will help us realise our goal.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

To find out how you can donate, call the Development Office on 02 6262 1141 or email development@nla.gov.au. Alternatively, visit our website to download a Treasures Gallery donation form at www.nla.gov.au/supportus.

VIVID

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