



## MEDIA RELEASE

# MELBA FAREWELL BEGINS

## 6pm Tuesday, July 22

Great Hall, National Gallery of Victoria: International, St Kilda Road

## 108 year-old Melba Conservatorium to be transformed into Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust

### Melba's hope that "another Melba may arise" gets new lease of life

**MELBOURNE, JUNE 19, 2008**— In a scene reminiscent of **Dame Nellie Melba's** famous farewells and returns to the stage, the farewell to the music institution that bears her name has begun, even as the new entity that will take her opera legacy into the future emerges.

On January 1 next year, the **Melba Conservatorium of Music** will cease to operate as a conservatorium and become the **Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust**. The transformation will formally begin at **6pm Tuesday, July 22**. Aided by a generous bequest by Dame Nellie Melba, the Melba Conservatorium has provided musical education for aspiring singers, instrumentalists, pianists and composers for the past 108 years. Melba's legacy of support for young singers "...in the hope that another Melba may arise" will live on in the new entity.

The **Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust** has signed a Heads of Agreement with the **University of Melbourne** to provide scholarships for a new **Master of Opera Program** that will begin in 2012. The Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust will have a multi-million dollar fund from the sale of its Richmond premises and is seeking to raise additional support to secure the best opera training in Australia for Melbourne.

The **Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust** will be launched in the **Great Hall** of the **National Gallery of Victoria: International** at **6pm Tuesday, July 22**.

The launch will be attended by the "divas and divos" of the opera community, and include a performance by the **Victorian Opera Chorus**.

Speakers will be **Rob Logie-Smith**, Chairman of Trustees, Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust; **Professor Glyn Davis AC**, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Melbourne; **Richard Gill OAM**, Music Director, Victorian Opera; and **Rosamund Illing**, Head of Voice, The University of Melbourne. The MC is ABC Radio's **Christopher Lawrence**.

Interview and photo opportunities are available and refreshments will be served.

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