

Melba's reputation internationally is on par with the world's leading classical music labels...



he Melba Foundation and Melba Recordings was established as the result of a widely felt need for an Australian CD label of the highest quality to support Australian performers globally. Maria Vandamme's background as a recording and documentary producer at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation took her to international music festivals. Working as a producer at the Salzburg Festival, she sought to redress the general anonymity of Australian classical musicians on the world music stage and to promote a vision of Australia as a country of cultural sophistication, of artistic vitality and excellence.

In 2004 the Melba Foundation's vision was acknowledged by the Commonwealth Government with a \$5m five year grant which enabled Melba to make the now celebrated recordings of the Adelaide production of Wagner's Ring, the world's first super-audio surround-sound CDs of the Wagner Tetralogy which attracted unprecedented international acclaim and catapulted the label and its artists into the world's press. In 2009 a further government grant of \$2.7m was awarded to the Foundation.

There are fundamental themes that run through the Melba Recordings catalogue. From the beginning, vocal music, opera, arias and song have been the backbone of repertoire. Melba Recordings invited esteemed conductor Richard Bonynge to delve into his treasure-trove of music manuscripts and share his particular magic with many of Australia's premier voices.

The range of instrumental music recorded by Melba reflects a refusal to accept merely precise or professional performance: an insistence that instrumental performances share the passion and poetry of the voice has lead to a unique and remarkable range of virtuoso instrumental recordings, including a series featuring players from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Melba has a commitment to support young artists, applying equally the same rigorous standards to emerging and established artists in CDs that will be a badge of honour for a lifetime.

Melba's recordings are supported by a distribution network that spans eleven major territories on four continents.







"Australia's distinguished record label." uk gramophone

"Melba's recordings are supported by a distribution network that spans eleven major territories on four continents. Furthermore, this is augmented by an international marketing and public relations program including a significant on-line capability. Melba's releases are now anticipated by the world music press and audiophiles. MARIA VANDAMME worked for

twenty years as a music and recording producer at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1998 Maria left the ABC to pursue her dream of producing recordings of excellence, choosing her own performers, players and engineers. She works in the spirit of the great impresarios, betting her own judgement on her projects. She is the spiritual heiress of another famous Australian recording producer, Louise Hanson-Dyer, the founder, backer and artistic director of L'Oiseau-Lyre, the record label that almost single-handedly brought baroque music back into the standard repertoire and changed performance styles for all time."

Terry Lane, Melbourne Broadcaster and writer

"I admire her so much. She's so determined, so strong and she's really put something together here which I think is a great contribution to Australia." Rupert Murdoch, Ac, KSG



MELBA GIVING RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES TO EMERGING ARTISTS

BENAUD TRIO "...the music is solid and distinctive, the performances are superb." UK GRAMOPHONE

"It's great to see Melba engaging so whole-heartedly with Australian music and young performers. Melba's recording quality, the signature ouch of this company." $\star\star\star\star$ THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN



As Foundation and a former Chair of the Melba Foundation, I was delighted to support a series of recordings with young artists Lin Jiang, Anthony Romaniuk, Kristian Winther, David Tong, the Ng brothers and the Tinalley String Quartet. The brilliant performances captured on disc will live forever, and take these talented musicians into living rooms in the thirteen countries in which Melba's recordings are distributed Lany Potter ac

RICHARD BONYNGE, LADY POTTER AC AND GOUGH WHITLAM



SOME EMERGING ARTISTS:
BACK (LEFT TO RIGHT):
LIN JIANG, JUSTIN WILLIAMS,
PEI-JEE NG, DAVID TONG,
BENJAMIN MARTIN,
MICHELLE WOOD.
FRONT (LEFT TO RIGHT):
LERIDA DELBRIDGE,
PEI-SIAN NG,
KRISTIAN WINTHER.



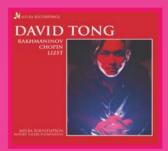




"a dazzling artistic triumph for its performers ... A finer memorial to Dame Nellie Melba is impossible to imagine." sunday Herald sun australia







TZIGANE "Devotees of Ravel's exquisite chamber music need look no further than this fine collection." sa-cd.net uk

THE VIRTUOSO PIANO MUSIC OF GEORGE FREDERICK BOYLE "Admiringly recommended. A fine introduction to a body of work wholly unknown to all but connoisseurs."

FANFARE US

STRAVINSKY Ray Chen and Timothy Young "irresistible" GRAMOPHONE UK

ENCORE MY GOOD SIR Lin Jiang and Benjamin Martin "One of the most exciting horn soloists of his generation...it's a surefire winner" Music and Vision Daily uk

A SELECTION OF MELBA'S AWARDS

"...unmissable...one of the most beautiful SACDs from the start of 2012." Opus d'or: Featured CD of the Month Opus Haute Définition France Arcadia Lost

Winner of the 2006 ABC Classic FM "Listeners Choice" Award Australia Die Walküre

Winner of the 2007 Prix Lauritz Melchior, Académie du disque lyrique (Paris) Stuart Skelton in **Die Walküre**

The Absolute Sound (Audiophile) US - Golden Ear Award 2007: Shostakovich: Symphony No.10

Nominated for the 2007 ARIA Fine Arts Awards Australia Das Rheingold

Classic FM Magazine UK - Opera and Vocal Disc of the Month: Götterdämmerung

BBC Music Magazine UK - Music Choice: Opera Siegfried

Opus Haute Définition France - Opus d'or: Hélène,

Opus Haute Définition France - Opus d'or Britten Folksongs

Opus Haute Définition France - Opus d'or Elan

2009 Prix Lauritz Melchior, Académie du disque lyrique Paris Timothy Mussard in Götterdämmerung

2010 Prix Gabriel Fauré, Académie du disque lyrique Paris for best musical interpretation in **Turbulent Heart**

Fanfare US Critic's Choice Best CDs of the Year' - Rhapsodie: Fantasie: Poème

Fanfare US Critic's Choice Best CDs of the Year' - Arcadia Lost

International Record Review UK - Outstanding Recordings Rakhmaninov Piano Sonatas

The Australian Business Arts Foundation recognises Melba's support for young artists with its 'Giving Award' [Victoria]









Recordings are an essential element for every aspiring soloist, chamber music group, composer or orchestra.

Melba is run by people who have the highest expertise in their individual areas, artistic, production, engineering, art work and marketing, and provides an important tool for our young musicians' international careers. Sport and athletics are gratifyingly supported by federal and state governments to the benefit of

the sports and to Australia's international image. Melba deserves support from government businesses and individuals. When you support Melba you invest in the cultural image of Australia. **Barry Tuckwell AC OBE FRCM FRSM** Chair, Melba Foundation

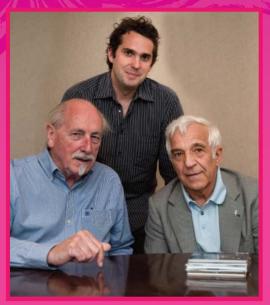


One of the most pertinent questions facing us in society is whether to lead or to follow. This was never a consideration for Nellie Melba; her ethos was to shoot for the stars. No person with reasonable expectations would have even considered attempting the things Nellie achieved.

Her example led the way. Suddenly a whole generation could see what was possible. At every turning, Nellie strove to achieve the pinnacle of artistic standards. Nellie was a woman who refused

to dutifully fit in – she wanted to change the world and she did, through talent, hard work, force of will. Nellie Melba showed Australians that one of us could make it to the top of the world. The Melba Foundation is giving our musicians that same opportunity today. Great recordings make musicians immortal. **Maria Vandamme** CEO, Melba Foundation

THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FRONT DESK



"Recordings are so important to orchestral musicians – they shine the spotlight on them and give them prestige among their colleagues."

VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY, PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC ADVISOR SSO.

"Ben Jacks performs everything to perfection."
CLASSICAL LOST AND FOUND US

BARRY TUCKWELL, BEN JACKS AND VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY



"Michael Dauth...playing with liquid beauty of tone and soulful commitment...a very winning performance" FANFARE US



MATTHEW WILKIE, ROGER BENEDICT, NICK BYRNE, KEES BOERSMA

AUSTRALIAN COMPOSITION

Vital contemporary music of Australia is embraced wholeheartedly by Melba artists, allowing it to take its place alongside performances of the great canon of classical masterpieces.

Tom Adeney Damian Barbeler William Barton Phyllis Batchelor Betty Beath
George Frederick Boyle Gerard Brophy Colin Brumby Nicholas Buc Lisa Cheney Peter Clarke
Stephen Cronin Robert Davidson Paul Dean Louis Denson Ross Edwards John Gilfedder
Percy Aldridge Grainger Alfred Hill Matthew Hindson Ralph Hultgren Elena Kats Chernin
Graham Koehne Michael Knopf Stephen Leek Mary Mageau George William
Lewis Marshall-Hall Freeman McGrath Richard Mills Sean O'Boyle Peter Rankine
Marianne Scholem Andrew Schultz Ronald Settle Roger Smalley Stephen Stanfield
Paul Stanhope George Thomas Thalben-Ball Toby Wren







Roger Smalley Through a Glass Darkly "In years to come this disc will also have documentary historic significance...A stunningly vivid recording of three rewarding contemporary works." Music web international uk

Smoke Encrypted Whispers "...remarkable CD... a sonic tapestry of contemporary Brisbane, as torpid as a summer day, as threatening as a thundershower." **** weekend Australian

"With so many world class artists, how embarrassing for us that we didn't have an international standard, and internationally distributed CD label to promote this wealth of talent. Australia desperately needed a CD label to equal the standard of its virtuosos, and with Melba, we finally got it." PAUL DEAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

"A 'must own' recording...the perfect album to sample just how realistic a multi-channel SACD can sound... Performance and Sonics: ★★★★" sa-cd.net uk

"Simply fantastic...I now expect the Melba Ring Cycle to take its place in the annals of recorded history as one of the very top Ring Cycles ever produced." POSITIVE FEEDBACK ONLINE USA

"I simply can't imagine [Wagner's Ring] being done better...this is electrifying music making, and edifying production." HIGH FIDELITY REVIEW US

"Sensationally recorded...the best-sounding Cycle on the market to date, bar none."
GRAMOPHONE UK

"...ground-breaking." BLOOMBERG USA

"Here's looking forward to more opera from a company who created history!"

(POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON-LINE)

"The orchestra virtually matches its counterparts in Vienna, Berlin and New York...Asher Fisch has shown himself to be a Wagnerian of the highest order..." opus canada

BBC Music Magazine (UK) BBC Music Choice: Opera Disc of the Month "This Siegfried is something else...a performance that grows from quality beginnings into something special...Fisch's conducting underpins every moment of this great performance." CLASSIC FM MAGAZINE UK ***



ASHER FISCH PLAYS LISZT WAGNER PARAPHRASES

Top 5 CDs of the year Classique News (France) list – and a "coup de cœur de l'été 2012". Guaranteed to go straight to your heart! *** "It is love at first sight for Asher Fisch's Liszt/Wagner paraphrases recording."



WORLD PREMIERES ON MELBA

Smoke Encrypted Whispers (various composers) 'Smoke Encrypted Whispers'

Bohemian Rhapsody Freddie Mercury arr. Nicholas Buc 'Bohemian Rhapsody'

Piano Trio 'Dulcissimo Uscignolo' (Stanhope); Piano Trio (Hindson); Trailer Music (Buc) 'Benaud Trio'

Ballade, Sonata, Five) 'The Virtuoso Piano Music of George Frederick Boyle'

Ballet music from Etienne Marcel, Ascanio and Les Barbares (Saint-Saëns) 'Elan'

Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 36 (original 1913 version) (Rakhmaninov) 'Rakhmaninov Piano Sonatas'

Sonate pour Piano et Alto, Op. 53, Quatre Petites Pièces (Kæchlin); Concertino pour Alto et Piano Op. 111, Introduction et Danse, Op. 102, Andante Espressivo, Allegro Appassionato, Op. 79 (Jongen) 'Volupté'

Les Djinns Op. 35, Eros Op. 37, Ballade du désespéré Op. 61, Psyché Op. 33 (Vierne); Poème de la mer et de l'amour (original version) (Chausson) 'Turbulent Heart'

Selected arias (various composers) 'Cherry Ripe'

Concerto pour cor et orchestre, Rhapsodie pour cor et orchestre (Damase); Villanelle orch. Terracini (Dukas); Phantasy for horn and orchestra (Marshall-Hall) 'Rhapsodie : Fantasie : Poème'

Encore My Good Sir (Huang) 'Encore My Good Sir'

Piano Quinet, Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano, String Quartet No. 2 (Smalley) 'Through a Glass Darkly'

Phoenix Story (Kats-Chernin) 'Phoenix Story'

Hélène, Nuit persane (Saint-Saëns) 'Hélène, Nuit persane'

Fantasie variée (Dagnelies); Adagio from Ophicleide Concerto (Proctor); Variations for Ophicleide (Kummer); Air varié (Klosé) 'Back from Oblivion'

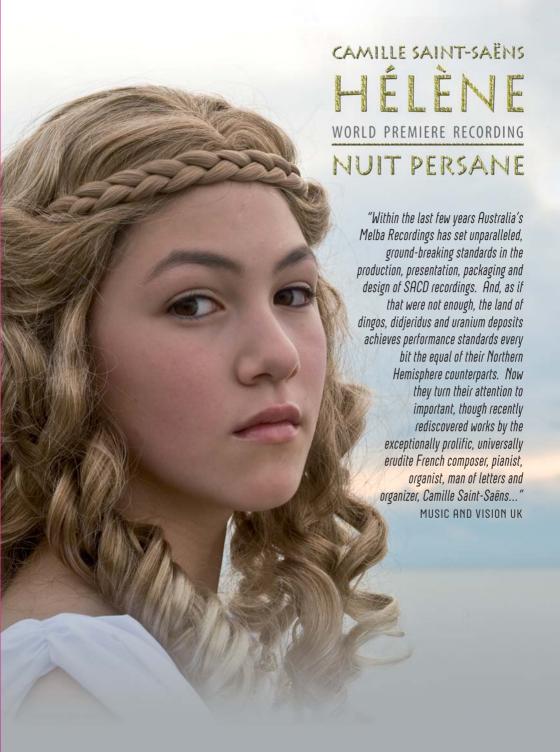
Epithalamium (Mills); Etudes Espace I, II, III (Schultz); Dawn Canticle, Organmaninya (Edwards); Assemblages (Brumby); Valse Triste (Hill); When I was one-and-twenty (Batchelor) Fantasia in G minor (Hart) 'Gothic Toccata'

Selected arias (Massenet) 'Amoureuse'

Selected arias (Faccio, Gomes, Ponchielli, Leoncavallo, Giordano, Cilea,

Mascagni) 'Believe in Love'

La somnambule (Hérold)



THE RICHARD BONYNGE EDITION

ROSAMUND ILLING

ELIZABETH WHITEHOUSE

DEBORAH RIEDEL

CHERYL BARKER



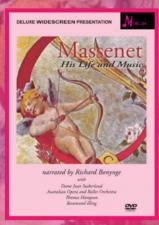












MASSENET HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

DIRECTED BY SCOTT MURRAY

Melba's first release was a DVD film on Jules Massenet, a composer adored by Richard Bonynge. The Maestro's dual passions are to bring to light lost treasures and supporting Australian singers. **The Richard Bonynge Edition** comprises world premieres of the first romantic ballet La somnambule by Ferdinand Hérold, and 5 recital discs with sopranos Rosamund Illing, Cheryl Barker, Elizabeth Whitehouse and Deborah Riedel

"a masterly piece of film which establishes a standard for the future of music documentaries...directorial ingenuities." THE AGE AUSTRALIA

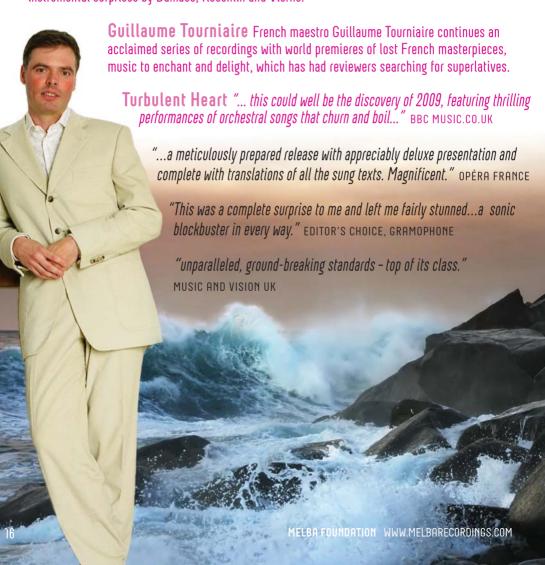
"a cogent argument for Massenet's enduring popularity." opera now uk

"a luscious drop indeed, like a fine aural sauterne. The disc is worthy of its Melba label." THE BULLETIN AUSTRALIA ★★★★★

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

"Bravo Melba!...in the vanguard of those labels who advocate the cause of French composers with such timeliness" classique news france

From the outset French music has been an important flavour in Melba's catalogue, with a series of world premieres of significant French music, numerous awards and a strong following in the French press. Melba has shone a light on works encompassing a wide range of styles, eras and genres, from a documentary film on Massenet, the ballet music of Ferdinand Hérold, vocal rarities and instrumental surprises by Damase, Koechlin and Vierne.



Also under the baton of Maestro Tourniaire

Elan Ballet music by Saint Saëns

"...this is a splendid collection...another triumph for conductor Tourniaire, Orchestra Victoria, and...Melba." American record guide us

Mozart Clarinet concerto with Paul Dean and the OSO

"Sublime Mozart indeed!...as near perfection as one could ever expect to hear." sacd.net uk

Hélène Opera by Saint Saëns

OPUS D'OR AWARD "...this beautiful recording on double SACD will leave no one unmoved." opus hd emagazine france

"Off they sail to Asia and immortal infamy while Guillaume Tourniaire steers Orchestra Victoria to triumph." OPERA UK

Pure Diva Tribute to Joan Hammond

"a beautiful recital...dramatic engagement at every turn, distilling passion or melancholy according to the arias..." PARUTIONS.COM FRANCE



STEVE DAVISLIM

Five recordings with the distinguished Australian tenor, two of which feature Simone Young (conducting songs by Richard Strauss, and providing piano accompaniments of Benjamin Britten's folk songs arrangements), Vaughan Williams' "On Wenlock Edge", Schubert's Winterreise, Chausson's Poème de l'amour et de la mer and then opera written for Nellie Melba, Hélène, by Saint Saëns.





"...the luminous, warm voice of Steve Davislim and the perfect accompaniment of Simone Young ..."

OPUS HAUTE DÉFINITION FRANCE

"takes its place amongst the best recitals of Strauss' orchestrated lieder." ★★★★
sa-cd Net uk

"...couldn't be more perfect, more exquisite. Nor could this recording." american record guide us







TURBULENT HEART

MUSIC OF VIERNE & CHAUSSON Steve Davislim Guillaume Tourniaire The Queensland Orchestra

"A Lesson from the Antipodes – This is a revelation and one of the highlights of the start of 2010... (Tourniaire's) expressiveness never lets up and he heads a magnificent orchestra that is cohesive and replete with individual colours...there can be only one imperative – Discover!"

★★ LE DIAMANT D'OPÉRA**SPECIAL COMMENDATION, OPÉRA FRANCE

"Melba's production values are luxurious – a palpable harbinger of the sumptuousness on disc. Splendid!" FANFARE US



WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MELBA ARTISTS

Kristian Winther Tzigane "Winther really tears into the gypsy rhapsody with gusto - more than I've heard from any other recording of the work." AUDIOPHILE AUDITION US

Ray Chen "Everything engages me. I think Ray Chen plays better than Perlman here." CLASSICAL CD REVIEW US

Lin Jiang "In all, a remarkable talent." musicweb international uk

David Tong Four international planists, including two Russians, are gathered in a room, listening to an unidentified CD. "Guess that planist" is the game. "Horowitz's power!" declares one. "
No, Gilels's passion," comes a retort. "For sheer poetry, it has to be Richter," asserts another.
All wrong! Try the young David Tong."
VINCENT PLUSH, THE BUSTRALIAN

Pei-Jee and Pei-Sian Ng "The resulting performance is stunningly successful...l couldn't have stood much more passion." FANFARE US

Benaud Trio "The Benaud Trio is just what Australian music needs – excellence combined with youthful vitality and a dedication to showcasing the new and refreshing the old." ROSS EDWARDS

Tinalley Quartet Of Tinalley's Mendelssohn Quartet in A minor "His string quartets are hardly lacking in recordings, though I'll wager that truly great ones are in short supply, and this one's certainly that." FANFARE US

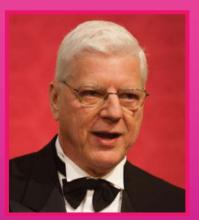
Hamer Quartet Arcadia Lost "The impeccable performances of violist Roger Benedict, the Hamer Quartet, pianist Benjamin Martin...and even the beautiful packaging that, for a change, reflects its contents are admirable. In short, Arcadia Lost deserves honor and recognition. Hooray for the Melba Foundation!" FANFARE US

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE MELBA FOUNDATION

Australian music has long deserved its own Deutsche Grammophon, a name synonymous around the world with excellence in recorded classical music. It now has this label in Melba. I urge Government, the corporate sector and philanthropists to support this company which has achieved so much for the national interest. It is a vital link in the cultural development of our Nation; a seminal example of what a contemporary and outward looking National Cultural Policy can achieve. Baz Luhrmann



I am proud that Melba Recordings which was launched at Raheen in 2000 has become a voice for Australia all around the world, and is now described as "the distinguished Australian label" in the UK Gramophone magazine. It is a real success story which I urge you all to support. Jeanne Pratt AC



One of the biggest challenges facing the creative industries in Australia is connecting artists and their work with audiences both locally and globally. In recent years Melba Recordings has created an internationally acclaimed label and developed new digital delivery platforms which are, at last, strongly and successfully providing access to recordings of Australian music of the highest quality both nationally and into the global arena. This has enormous benefits for Australian performers and Australia's profile as a creative and culturally engaged nation. MALCOLM LONG ASSOCIATES COMMUNICATIONS + DIGITAL STRATEGY

There is an urgent need for a body of recordings from Australia that preserves and celebrates the achievement of our finest musicians. Recordings make our music accessible to all Australian, no matter where they live; they promote artists on the widest international platform and give them the recognition they deserve. Joan Sutherland ac DBE



I believe it's very important that Melba Recordings are able to present so much of our music to a wide range of people who otherwise would not be able to hear such beautiful music... not just those fortunate to have access to the great concert halls...music is an enormous part of our culture and must be supported and encouraged to be perhaps the most important part of our culture. I'm particularly proud of the recording of Wagner's Ring Cycle which has won unprecedented international

success. It is very important that Melba Recordings attract financial support because without it, it wouldn't be possible really to do the splendid work it's doing. DAME ELISABETH MURDOCH AC DBE

Melba's excellent series of recordings with Orchestra Victoria has promoted this ensemble internationally. The respect these recordings have been accorded is most gratifying and well deserved. I am proud to be a Patron of the Melba Foundation and support its endeavours.

LADY SOUTHEY AC

The day Maria Vandamme asked me to record a CD of Mozart with Melba Records was a life changing one for me...I regularly get emails from the US and Europe congratulating me and the label on the high quality of the entire package that is a "Melba" disc. Since my CD was released, my career has blossomed both nationally and internationally.

PAUL DEAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Melba has delivered real value for money; because Melba's recordings now form an important part of Australia's permanent cultural legacy; and because no other organisation has the demonstrated skill, commitment and passion to do this. NATHAN WAKS, FORMER AUSTRALIA COUNCIL MUSIC BOARD MEMBER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ABC

FOUNDING BENEFACTOR The late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE

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VICTORIA

ARTS



THE PIERCE ARMSTRONG























COMO







PHILIP BACON GALLERIES



