

Mary Miller

The triumph and tragedy



Winner of the 1948
Herald Sun Aria

ASSEMBLY HALL

Saturday, November 24th, 1945, at 8 p.m.

First Recital

by



Associate Artist
MARSTON BATE
(Violoncello)

At the Piano
MARGARET
SCHOFIELD

MARY MILLER

Australia's Notable Young Soprano

Programme: Die Nussbaum: Die Lotusblume: Mondnacht: Widmung (Schumann): Quando rapita in estasi (Donizetti): The Bell Song (Delibes): Oh mio babbino caro: Polonaise (Fucini): Time, you old Gypsy man (Besley): From the land of the sky blue water (Cadman): Shepherd's Cradle Song (Somervell): The Answer (R. H. Terry).

Prices: 6/-; 4/-; 3/- (plus tax).
Plan at Allan's, Nov. 19th.

Direction:
John Fry.

J. Roy Stevens, Print, Melbourne.

Promising young soprano
Mary Miller announced as
one of the semi-finalists of
the 1948 Herald Sun Aria

Semi-Finalists In Sun Aria

BALLARAT, Thursday. —
These 16 Sun Aria singers for the semi-finals tomorrow night were announced by the adjudicator (Mr. Joseph Post) tonight:—

Robert Simmons, East St. Kilda; Nancy Barnden, Toorak; Joan Arnold, Prahran; Betty Fretwell, Carnegie; Lesley Allen, Preston; Gloria Read, Cronulla, N.S.W.; John Tilbrook, Caulfield; Betty Scotland, Glenhuntly; Patricia Church, Sydney; Joan Aird, Geelong; Bettine McCaughan, Brighton Beach; Mary Miller, Ormond; Nita Maughan, Enfield, N.S.W.; Maureen Boyce, Mentone; Colin Thomas, Sydney; and Alice Hallifax, Kooyong.

Eight for the final at Melbourne Town Hall next Monday night will be announced tomorrow night.

● Qualifying Test.—Page 10.

Accompanied by
none other than...

100,986—Highest Net Daily Sale In Australia

IT'S TOPS
BALLARAT BITTER

DAILY AT DAWN
The Sun
NEWS-PICTORIAL

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a newspaper.

Official Weather Forecast—City: UNSETTLED.

For SIGHT TESTING
Appointments
PHONE MU9885
COLES & GARRARD
MELBOURNE & GEELONG

DYER STICKS TO 'DONS
See Back Page

16 Pages. 2d.

Melbourne, Saturday, October 9, 1948

No. 8124

THESE EIGHT SINGERS WILL CONTEST SUN ARIA FINAL ON MONDAY NIGHT



MARY MILLER, Soprano, Ormond. BETTY FRETWELL, Soprano, Carnegie. GLORIA READ, Soprano, Cronulla, N.S.W. JOAN ARNOLD, Mezzo Soprano, Prahran. NITA MAUGHAN, Soprano, Enfield, N.S.W. LESLEY ALLEN, Soprano, Preston. ROBERT SIMMONS, Baritone, East St. Kilda. BETTINE McCAUGHAN, Soprano, Brighton Beach.

Mary was selected as one of the finalists

THE eight competitors selected to contest the 500-guineas Sun Aria final in Melbourne Town Hall on Monday night are:—

- ROBERT SIMMONS, of East St. Kilda;
- JOAN ARNOLD, of Prahran;
- BETTINE McCAUGHAN, of Brighton Beach;
- BETTY FRETWELL, of Carnegie;
- LESLEY ALLEN, of Preston;
- GLORIA READ, of Cronulla, N.S.W.;
- MARY MILLER, of Ormond;
- NITA MAUGHAN, of Enfield, N.S.W.

They were selected from 16 semi-finalists at the Alfred Hall, Ballarat, last night by the adjudicators, Messrs. Joseph Post and Thorold Waters.

Aria's influence in developing Australian opera, Page 12.

SUN ARIA 1948 FINALISTS
Selected from 112 entrants in the North Street Society's 1948 Competitions.
PROGRAMME

<p>No. 13 ROBERT SIMMONS 1. Vile Race of Courtiers (Cortigiani, Vil Razza) 2. Vision Fugitive</p> <p>No. 41 JOAN ARNOLD 1. Oh, Weep Mine Eyes (Pleurez Mes Yeux) 2. He Is Kind, He Is Good (Il Est Bon, Il Est Doux)</p> <p>No. 51 BETTINE McCAUGHAN 1. Senta's Ballad 2. Romanza And Scena</p> <p>No. 62 BETTY FRETWELL 1. Thou Monstrous Fiend 2. Elsa's Dream</p>	<p>EAST ST. KILDA Rigoletto - - - - - Verdi Herodiade - - - - - Massenet</p> <p>PRAHRAN Le Cid - - - - - Massenet Herodiade - - - - - Massenet</p> <p>BRIGHTON BEACH The Flying Dutchman - - - Wagner Cavalleria Rusticana - - - Mascagni</p> <p>CARNEGIE Fidelio - - - - - Beethoven Lohengrin - - - - - Wagner</p>	<p>No. 67 LESLEY ALLEN 1. Oh, Skies Cerulean (O Cieli Azzurri) 2. Farewell To The Forests (Adieu Forets)</p> <p>No. 69 GLORIA READ 1. Ocean, Thou Mighty Monster (Vasto, Potente Mare) 2. Ritorna Vincitor (May Laurels Crown Thy Brow)</p> <p>No. 78 MARY MILLER 1. Mad Scene 2. Bell Song</p> <p>No. 80 NITA MAUGHAN 1. Willow Song 2. Elsa's Dream</p>	<p>PRESTON Aida - - - - - Verdi Jeanne D'Arc - - - - - Tschalkowsky</p> <p>CRONULLA, N.S.W. Oberon - - - - - Weber Aida - - - - - Verdi</p> <p>ORMOND Hamlet - - - - - Thomas Lakme - - - - - Delibes</p> <p>ENFIELD, N.S.W. Othello - - - - - Verdi Lohengrin - - - - - Wagner</p>
--	--	---	---

After the competitors have been heard, CHARLES SKASE, Sun Aria Winner of 1947, will recitativo "C'En Est Fait" and aria "Salome, Salome Demande" from "Herodiade" by Massenet.

P. con. News Japan.

First Try, First Win



MARY MILLER, 22, music student of Ormond, won the Melbourne Sun-News Pictorial's 1948 350-guinea Aria contest—the first time she had entered such a contest. Adjudicator Thorold Walters awarded her 95 out of a possible 100, highest he had ever awarded to any contestant in Australia.

Mary Miller Wins Aria

The final of the "Sun" Aria competition was won in the Town Hall last night by the soprano Mary Miller, of Ormond, from seven other finalists.

Miss Miller sang the Mad Scene from Thomas' Hamlet, and the Bell Song from Lakme, by Delibes.

Of her the adjudicator, Mr. Thorold Waters, said that her voice was a brilliant and flexible soprano and that she could go a long way if she cared. The prize is 350 guineas.

The second prize of 50 guineas went to Joan Arnold, of Prahran, and the third of 24 guineas, to Robert Simmons, of East St. Kilda. The other five finalists each received 10 guineas.

Mary won with the highest score ever received.

FAN MAIL FOR SUN ARIA WINNER



SUN ARIA WINNER, MARY MILLER (second from left) with her mother (right) and sisters, Betty and Helen, reading some of the many messages of congratulation she received at her home in Ormond yesterday night. Later in the day (right) she met James Nicolson, manager of the Italian grand opera company, during her visit to the city. "Having heard you win the Sun Aria, I am certain of your future," he told her. "You have a very lovely voice and I am sure a great wait awaits you in Europe." See Sundowner column.



And the tragedy to come...

LISTENER TO 24/11/48

Mary Miller In Hospital

Soprano Mary Miller, winner of the 1948 Sun Aria, is very ill in the Royal Melbourne Hospital following a serious abdominal operation this week.

MISS MILLER'S condition is still serious and all singing engagements have been cancelled for several months ahead.



Mary Miller

Her role of "The Queen of the Night" in Mozart's "The Magic Flute," which will open at the Princess Theatre this Thursday night, November 18,

will be sung by Ina Crouch, winner of this year's Sydney Elsteddfod. Miss Crouch was recommended for the part by Madame Florence Austral.

P. & A. Parade winner, Joyce Macartney, will replace Mary Miller as soloist, together with baritone William Smith, in this Sunday's "Music for the People" concert at Bendigo, when Hector Crawford will lead the Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Compere at Bendigo will be Eric Pearce. The programme will be broadcast by 3BO.

Miss Miller is too ill to answer the numerous letters of congratulations received following her Sun Aria win. She wishes to thank her well-wishers through these columns.

RAY'S TIMES 12-1-49

SINGER PASSES

Radio listeners shared a common grief when the news came over the air on Saturday that Mary Miller, favorite soprano of Victoria and



MARY MILLER

winner of the last "Sun" Aria Contest, had died in the Royal Melbourne Hospital that morning at 3 o'clock.

Her illness, which occurred about a month after she had won the 'Sun' Contest, had been the subject of sympathetic conversation in almost every home, and hundreds of inquiries were received by the hospital each day concerning her condition.

Mary was a sweet and unassuming girl, and seldom has the passing of an artist struck such a responsive chord in the hearts of so many. Her death on the verge of what could have been an outstanding career came as a shock even to people to whom she was known only by her peerless voice.

This paper, which played a small part in making her known to a wider public, tenders to her sorrowing relatives its deepest sympathy.

Only three short months after winning the aria, Mary died unexpectedly of cancer. Not having realised she was so unwell, this came as a huge shock to all.

A memorial concert was held in her honor

Mary Miller Memorial Concert
PROGRAMME
 ORGANISED BY THE SUN NEWS-PICTORIAL

GOD SAVE THE KING

ROBERT SIMMONS
 The Prologue (Pagliacci) Leoncavallo.
 O del mio amato ben Donaudy.

JOAN ARNOLD
 Prelude (Cycle of Life) Landon Ronald
 The Lover's Curse arr. by Herbert Hughes

JOHN DUDLEY
 O Image Angel Like and Fair (Magic Flute) Mozart.
 English Rose (Merrie England) German

DESMOND BRADLEY
 Dance of the Goblins Bazini.
 Humoresque Dvorak.

CHARLES SKASE
 Star of Eve (Tannhauser) Wagner.
 Floral Dance Katie Moss.

MAUREEN BOYCE, JOHN DUDLEY and WILLIAM LAIRD
 Prison Scene (Faust) Gounod.

JOHN AMADIO (Accompaniste: Meryl Ross)
 Flight of the Bumble Bee Rimsky - Korsakoo.
 Slumber Song for the Bass Flute Schubert.
 Carnival of Venice Briccialdi.

GLADYS MONCRIEFF
 My Hero (The Chocolate Soldier) Oscar Straus.
 Love's Cigarette Fraser Simpson.

I N T E R V A L

Presentation : **VERDON WILLIAMS**

AILSA MCKENZIE
 Softly Awakes My Heart (Samson and Delilah) Saint Saens.
 Beloved Michael Head

ANTHONY STRANGE
 Colette Edith Harry.
 To a Miniature May Brahe.
 Little Irish Girl Herman Lohr.

ERNEST GREAVES
 Sonatina Mozart.
 Arioso Bach.
 The Swan Saint Saens.

ANTHONY STRANGE and JOYCE MACARTNEY
 Deep in My Heart, Dear (Student Prince) Romberg.
 The Flower (Lilac Time) Schubert.
 You'd Better Ask Me Herman Lohr.

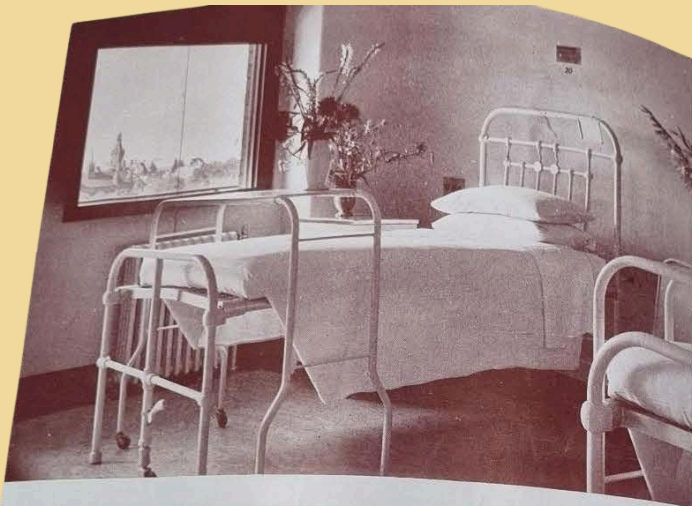
WILLIAM LAIRD
 Lord Randall arr. by Cyril Scott.
 Largo el Factotum (Barber of Seville) Rossini.

NANCE OSBORNE and JOHN AMADIO (Accompaniste: Meryl Ross)
 Shadow Song (Dinorah) Meyerbeer

EUNICE GARLAND
 Rhapsody Dohnanyi.

BETTINE McCAUGHAN, JOHN DUDLEY, AILSA MCKENZIE and CHARLES SKASE
 Quartet (Rigoletto) Verdi.

Official Accompanist : **HENRI PORTNOJ**



A corner of the ward at Royal Melbourne Hospital to be endowed permanently by proceeds of this concert, in Mary Miller's name. At the entrance to the ward will be a bronze plaque inscribed:

IN MEMORY OF
MARY MILLER

By the co-operation of many sympathetic admirers through The Sun News-Pictorial this ward is permanently endowed in fond memory of **MARY MILLER**, brilliant Australian singer.

SUN ARIA WINNER, October 10, 1948. Died January 8, 1949
 (Australia's Greatest Vocal Prize) (Aged 22 years)

"Put your hand in the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."



Tonight's concert takes the place of the complimentary concert usually given to help singers who win The Sun Aria contest.

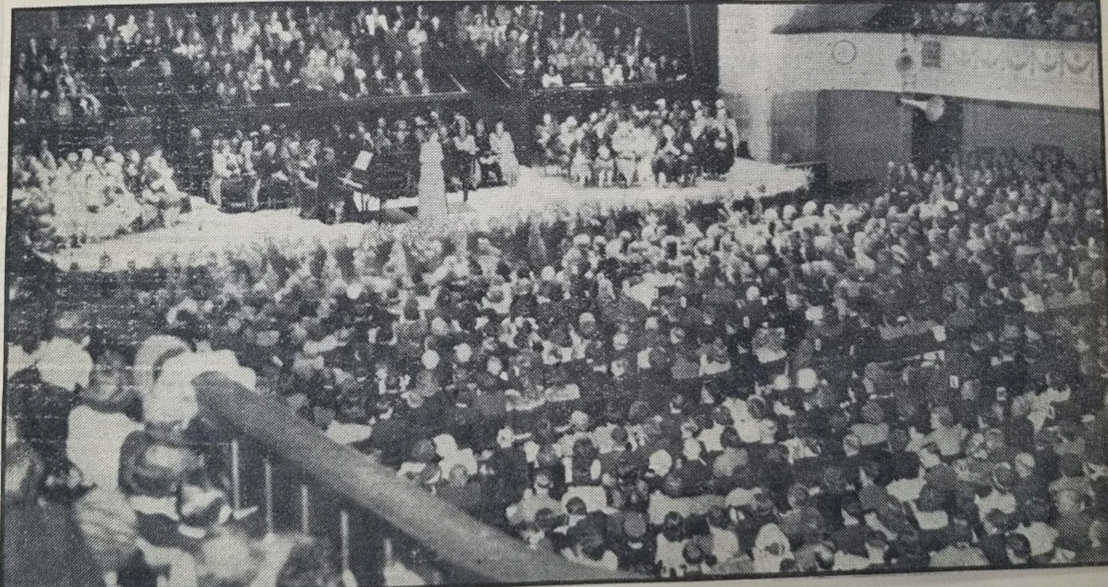
The Silver Jubilee of The Sun Aria will be marked this year by the 1949 Finals at Melbourne Town Hall on Monday, October 10th.

Portrait of Miss Mary Miller by courtesy of New Talma Studios.

MARY MILLER MEMORIAL



MELBOURNE TOWN HALL was crowded last night for the concert organised by The Sun to raise funds for a memorial to Mary Miller, winner of The Sun Aria in 1948. Mary Miller was on the threshold of a brilliant career as a vocalist when she died in Royal Melbourne Hospital three months after her Aria success. Proceeds of the concert will be used to endow a four-bed ward in Mary Miller's name at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Left: Mrs. Miller, Mary's mother (second from right), at the concert. Right: Mary Miller as she was when she won the Aria. Below: The scene in the hall during the concert.

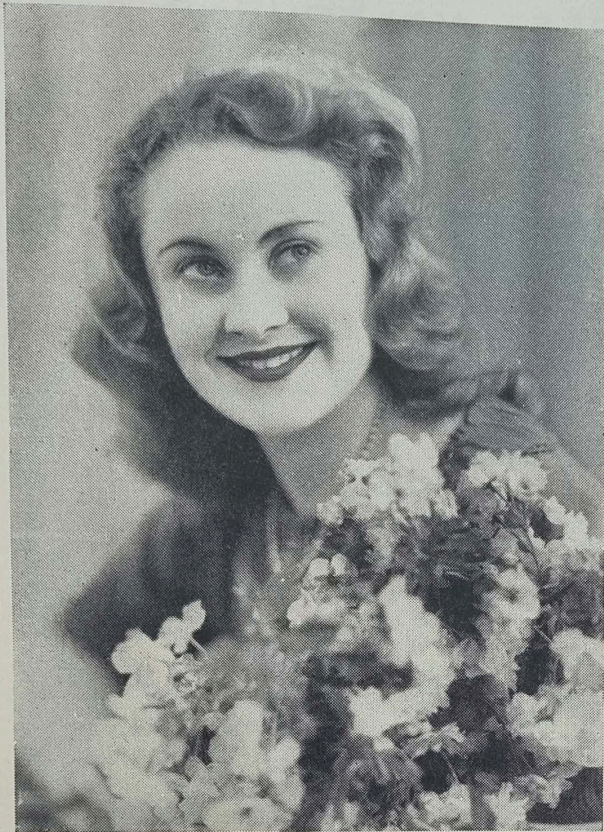


Concert Cheque Presented



A CHEQUE FOR £1000, representing the proceeds of the Mary Miller Memorial Concert, was presented yesterday, by Mr. Cliff Johansen, assistant manager of The Sun (left) to Mr. Victor Hurley, president of the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The concert was organised to provide a Mary Miller ward at the hospital.

With the proceeds of that concert to go towards establishing a Mary Miller ward at the Royal Melbourne Hospital



TO MARY—

*Sweet singer with the gentian eyes,
The flaxen hair; how fair the guise
You chose for your brief shining here;
A star, swift passing, that drew near.*

*Serene your gaze, and bright the brow
We had with laurels crowned ere now;
But who can say you have not met
Yet brighter crowns than earth has set.*

*Far your winged feet in former days
Have sped Elysium's halycon ways,
And with the pipes of Pan your trills
Re-echoed round Olympian hills.*

*To that, O spirit rare, return,
And to the songs that praises earn
Add yours, that they may linger e'er
In worlds so pure, so young, so fair.*

(A Dedication to Mary Miller)