

ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ZELMAN COWEN,

A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.St.J., Q.C.,

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF

THE MARIANNE MATHY SCHOLARSHIP

IN THE MELBOURNE ROOM, WENTWORTH HOTEL, SYDNEY.

TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 1982.

I am pleased to accept the invitation to launch the Marianne Mathy Scholarship. It is, I think, an important event, because it is by any standards a rich scholarship which will give great opportunities for an Australian singer to further his or her studies. That is a great encouragement to the Arts in Australia.



For this year the value of the scholarship generated from the Estate will be \$30,000. As I understand the program, applicants will be invited to submit a cassette by 2 April, and after preliminaries have been concluded, heats will be held in the States during May, and judged by local adjudicators, together with a national adjudicator selected by the Music Advisory Committee. This will yield a small final field and the final determination will be made after hearing the finalists, and an evaluation of their study programs so that the award of the scholarship can be made late in June of this year. There is a Music Advisory Committee which comprises distinguished figures in the music world drawn from all over Australia, and in addition a general Advisory Committee headed by Sir Hermann Black. The

General Advisory Committee will be responsible for the organisation of the Competition, and will also assist in fund raising activities which will help to cover administration costs and to add to the corpus of the fund.

This scholarship is a handsome one, and, as I have said, must be a great encouragement to rising artists and singers in this country. It gives expression to Marianne Mathy's deep love of music and the human voice.

It is appropriate that I should speak of her. She died at the age of 87 after a career in Australia in the course of which she taught many singers who have since established distinguished national and international reputations. She was born in Mannheim, Germany in 1890; her family was a musical one. She herself sang as a coloratura, and Bruno Walter once spoke of her "extraordinary musicality". She came to Australia in 1939 and for thirty years until her retirement in 1972, she was associated with the New South Wales Conservatorium. After her retirement she continued to teach privately.

The funds which support this competition were provided by her Will, and the response of many distinguished people in joining both the Music Advisory and the General Advisory Committee shows clearly that this award is seen as an important one.

I am delighted to take part in this ceremony and to launch the Marianne Mathy Scholarship.