

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE0558

## Austral, Florence Mary

(1892 - 1968)

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**Born** 16 April, 1892, Richmond Victoria Australia

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**Died** 16 May, 1968, Newcastle New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Opera singer

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### Summary

Born Mary Wilson at Richmond, Victoria, she was also known by her stepfather's name, Fawaz, before adopting the name of her country as a stage name prior to her debut in 1922 at Covent Garden. Known as one of the world's greatest Wagnerian sopranos Florence Austral married the Australian virtuoso flautist John Amadio in 1925 and toured widely with him in America and Australia. After the Second World War she returned to Australia almost completely paralysed with multiple sclerosis. She nevertheless taught until her retirement in 1959. Austral died at a nursing home in Newcastle on 16 May 1968.

## Events

### **2030 - 2030**

Gave a concert in Sydney, Australia

### **1932 - 1933**

Toured North America

### **2034 - 2035**

Austral and Amadio returned to Australia for a season of concerts in capital cities and large country towns

### **1936 - 1936**

Austral returned to London

### **2022 - 2022**

Debuted as Brunnhilde in *Die Walkure* at Covent Garden under the auspices of the British National Opera Company

### **1946 - 1946**

Austral returned to Australia

### **1930 - 1930**

Joined Berlin State Opera as principal

### **1954 - 1959**

Teaching with the Newcastle branch of the New South Wales State Conservatorium of Music

### **1921 - 1921**

Adopted the professional name of Florence Austral

### **1913 - 1913**

Won first prize in the mezzo-soprano section and second prize in two others at the South Street competitions, Ballarat, Victoria

### **1917 - 1917**

Won an entrance exhibition to the University Conservatorium

### **2019 - 2019**

After a farewell concert she left to study Italian opera in New York

### **1921 - 1921**

Appeared at Albert Hall during a Sunday concert

### **2023 - 2023**

Appeared with Dame Nellie Melba

### **2025 - 2025**

Married John Amadio at Hapstead, London

### **1939 - 1945**

Appeared for benefit concerts during the Second World War

### **2030 - 2030**

Gave a concert in Melbourne, Australia

### **1931 - 1931**

Toured Holland

### **1933 - 1934**

Toured Holland

### **1925 - 1925**

Toured North America

### **1931 - 1932**

Toured North America

## Published resources

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Resource Section

Austral, Florence: Australian soprano, 1894 - 1968, 1999,  
[http://www.cantabile-subito.de/Sopranos/Austral\\_Florence/austral\\_florence.html](http://www.cantabile-subito.de/Sopranos/Austral_Florence/austral_florence.html)

Austral, Florence Mary (1892 - 1968), Radic, Maureen Therese, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070129b.htm>

### Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1962, Alexander, Joseph A, 1962

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

### Book

Florence Austral : one of the wonder voices of the world, Moffat, James, 1995

When Austral Sang: the Biography of Florence Austral, Elphinstone, Michael and Wayne Hancock, 2005

### CD Rom

Florence Austral: one of the wonder voices of the world, 1996

## Archival resources

### Melba Memorial Conservatorium of Music

[Records of Melba Memorial Conservatorium of Music](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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