

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0560

Crossley, Ada Jemima

(1871 - 1929)

Born 3 March, 1871, Tarraville Victoria Australia

Died 17 October, 1929, Woodlands Park Great Missenden Buckinghamshire England

Occupation Singer

Summary

Contralto singer Madame Ada Crossley studied piano under Mrs Hastings of Port Albert and later Signor Zelman. She then sang with Madame Fanny Simonsen of Melbourne. Prior to leaving Australia in March 1894, to study in Europe, she gave farewell concerts in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. With Percy Grainger a member of her entourage, she toured Australia and New Zealand, returning to England via South Africa (1903-1904). Crossley returned to Australia for a series of concerts in 1908-1909. Once again Grainger was a supporting artist. During the First World War she sang at benefit concerts. After the war she reduced her professional engagements. Ada Crossley died on 17 October 1929 at Woodlands Park, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Events

1970 - 1970

Performed with the third Philharmonic Subscription Concert at the Melbourne town hall

1970 - 1970

Debuted in Sydney

1970 - 1970

Left Australia to study with (Sir) Charles Santley in London and later in Paris with Madame Marchesi

1970 - 1970

Made her London debut at the Queen's Hall

1903 - 1903

She claimed a repertoire of 500 sacred songs and ballads, ranging from Gluck and Handel to Richard Strauss, and she sang in English, German, French, Italian, Norwegian, Danish and Russian

1902 - 1903

Toured the United States of America, during which she recorded for the Victor Gramophone Companies Red Seal Celebrity series

2003 - 2004

Engaged by J C Williamson to visit Australia and New Zealand, she returned to England via South Africa

2005 - 2005

Married Dr Francis Frederick (1879-1945), throat specialist,

1908 - 1909

Revisited Australia

Published resources

Resource Section

Crossley, Ada Jemima (1871 - 1929), Missen, Margery, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080176b.htm>

Edited Book

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Magazine article

Profile: Jill Crossley,
<http://www.australianphotography.com/news/profile-jill-crossley>

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

[Wemyss family : SUMMARY RECORD](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood

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