

Visual Story

Michelle Nicolle Trio
Relaxed Performance

Access resources developed in partnership with Scope Australia

**MELBOURNE
RECITAL CENTRE**

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1. The Venue



This event will be held at Melbourne Recital Centre. It is the building on the corner of Sturt Street and Southbank Boulevard in Southbank. Many people say it looks like a beehive.



Are you coming to Melbourne by train?
Get off the train at Flinders Street Station. Go across St Kilda Road to the tram stop. Take a number 1 tram (going to South Melbourne Beach).

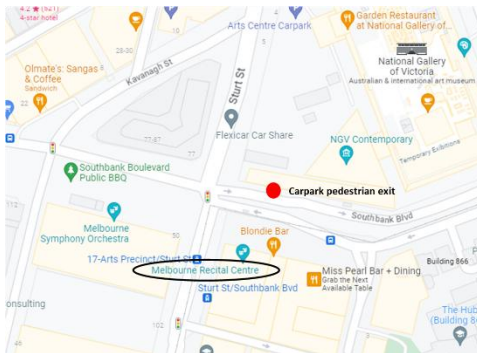


Get off the tram at stop 17, right next to Melbourne Recital Centre (corner Sturt Street and Southbank Boulevard).

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE



Are you coming to Melbourne by car? The best place to park is at the Arts Centre Melbourne Car Park at the top of Sturt Street. For more information about parking costs [click here](#).



Once you have found a park, exit the underground carpark at Southbank Blvd and cross the road to Melbourne Recital Centre.

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE

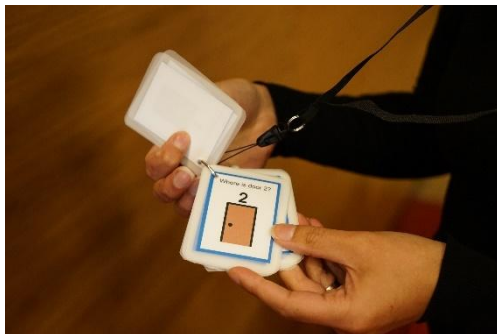


There is a main entrance to Melbourne Recital Centre on Southbank Boulevard.



Inside, the ground level foyer is partly carpeted, which makes it quieter. There is often music playing in the foyer through a speaker system.

Sometimes the foyer can be a busy and loud place depending on the number of people attending a concert.



If you have any questions whilst in the foyer, our Ushers carry picture cards with them. You can look through the picture cards and select the question you may want to ask. You can also print off the picture cards you want at home and bring them along with you. [Click here to see the picture cards.](#)



An important place in the foyer is the Box Office. Here you can collect or buy your ticket. The Box Office is open two hours before each performance. If you have access needs, please let us know when you're booking your tickets.



If you need help with asking questions at the Box Office, point to the sign in the photo.



Staff will show you a communication board to help. You can also [view or print out](#) this communication board before you arrive.

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE



This Relaxed Performance will be held in the Primrose Potter Salon, on the ground floor level of Melbourne Recital Centre.



There is just one door which leads into the Primrose Potter Salon from the foyer. You can sit anywhere you like in this venue.



To get into the Primrose Potter Salon, you have to go through a small room called the Sound Lock. This room is dark and keeps noise out of the concert venue.



Before you enter the Sound Lock an usher will scan your ticket. The scanning machine will beep.



Please bring along the things that help to keep you comfortable and calm. You can bring ear plugs, earmuffs, visors or a stimming toy.



Should you need them, you will find accessible toilets on each level of Melbourne Recital Centre. There are hand dryers in the accessible toilets that may make a loud noise.

2. The Musicians



This Relaxed Performance features *The Michelle Nicolle Trio*, including:

vocals

guitar

double bass



Michelle Nicolle, hailed as Australia's preeminent female jazz singer, is a living embodiment of artistry and elegance in the jazz world. An internationally touring artist for over 26 years she has performed throughout Europe and Asia with highlights including the North Sea Jazz Festival, Tokyo Jazz Festival, the Prague Jazz Festival and USA venues The Blue Building, (NYC), JazzVox (Seattle), Jazz Lounge Live (San Diego), Kulak's Woodshed (LA), The Black Cat (San Francisco). Performing at the MRC with her swinging trio of voice, guitar (Hugh Stuckey) and double bass (Tom Lee), Michelle will move the audience to musical worlds they have visited before and can visit again.

3. The Repertoire



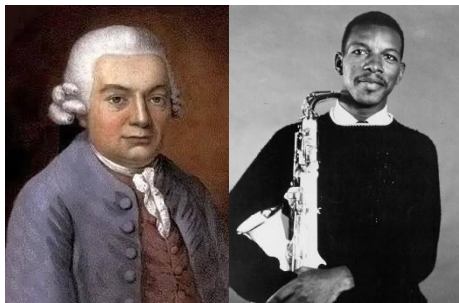
Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz

Michelle, Hugh and Tom will start the concert with the universally loved song *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* by composer Harold Arlen and lyricist Yip Harburg in 1939. Written for the main character, Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, it begins with a beautiful verse which was omitted from the film but is performed in stage versions of the Musical. It went on of course to be Judy Garland's signature song.



Someone procrastinating by sleeping

Putting it Off is an original song by Michelle Nicolle which begins with a musical phrase on the bass that continues throughout the piece and reflects the lyrics' story about the 'art' of procrastination. The song is in a minor (sad sounding) key yet the middle section has many major chords (happy sounding) as the story tries to find a possible solution. Michelle will do some vocal improvisation ('scatting') over this piece.



Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
alongside Ornette Coleman

The next piece in the concert is called *March in D'Ornette* and is a reimagining of a Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (son of JS Bach) composition. Michelle played this piece as a young violinist and is a favourite piece from her 2023 album, *The Bach Project*. It has no lyrics. Michelle and Hugh and Tom will be shaping the phrases and extending the melody in such a natural, freeing way— imagining how it would sound if one of their musical heroes, Ornette Coleman, were playing it.

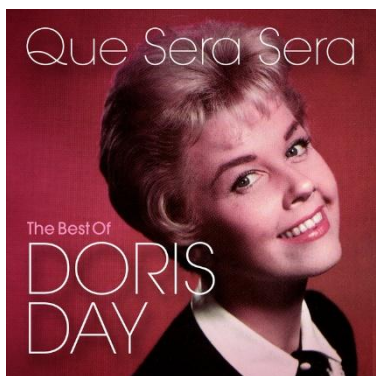


Image of a moon and starlit sky

The fourth piece in the concert is called *Only Trust Your Heart* and is a gentle bossa nova style song which features on Michelle's 2025 album, *The Silent Wish*. Written by Benny Carter and Sammy Cahn in 1964, it's lyrics warns us to not be fooled by all 'love things' like the moon, stars and a kiss.



A young Sonny Rollins and his
saxophone



A Doris Day album featuring
Que Sera Sera

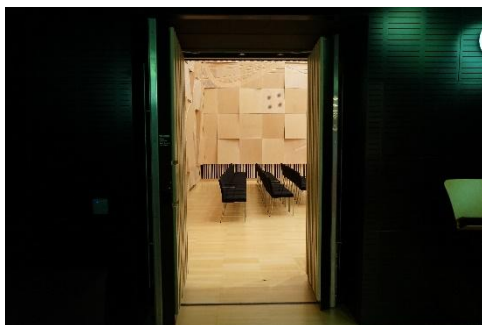
Blessing in Disguise is the next song and is a tune written by the great American jazz saxophonist and composer, Sonny Rollins in 1966. It begins with a lyric written to Sonny's improvised solo introduction, then sits on a repetitive riff and eventually launches into a fun, high energy romp over two chords. Michelle will use lots her own 'scatting' on this tune and will explain a little about what she's doing – maybe even encouraging the audience to join her.

Que Sera, Ser a will be the final song. The French title phrase repeats in English, "What will be will be". Written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans in 1955 for the Alfred Hitchcock film *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, it won the Oscar that year for the best original song. Sung by Doris Day, the joyous expression of the three chapters of our lives – childhood to parenthood- it became her signature tune throughout her life. Michelle, Hugh and Tom will welcome the audience to sing along with them to close the concert.

4. The Performance



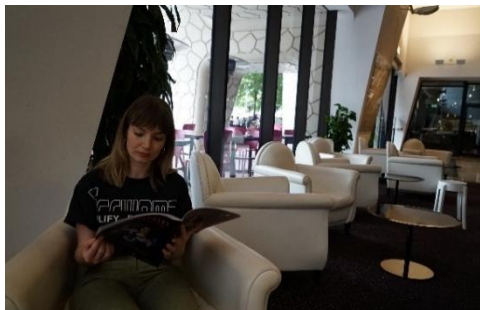
This Relaxed Performance will run for 45 minutes. There will be no interval. The house lights will remain on in the Primrose Potter Salon.



Doors to the Primrose Potter Salon will remain open for the duration of the performance.



The seating plan will include clear exit paths, more aisles and cushions on the floor.



A quiet space will be created in the ground level foyer for those who need a break.



The staff at Melbourne Recital Centre are looking forward to sharing music with you. We want you to enjoy every moment of your time with us. Please ask us if you need help or any other information.