

## Moffatt Oxenbould AM Acceptance Speech

19 September 2019

Thank You!

This Award is an unexpected – and sincerely appreciated - honour. I am proud to join a list of four distinguished recipients –three of them having been long - standing colleagues and friends with whom I've shared all sorts of artistic adventures over many years.

Opera is a famously irrational - yet resilient - art form that unites many different artistic disciplines – but good singing is at its core. In an increasingly competitive environment, young singers will always need encouragement and opportunities to refine technique and craft while evolving a unique artistic identity and personality. This need has been creatively met by support from the Music and Opera Singers Trust since its inception in 1982, giving meaningful opportunities to fine Australian and New Zealand singers to realise their potential and have a chance of making dreams come true.

I consider myself privileged to have also had an involvement in this process over the years – endeavouring to provide a congenial and supportive environment in which many artists have been able to give of their best. It is a tough collaborative process - not without pitfalls and disappointments - but it is crucially important to continue to strive for the excellence that the art form, artists and audiences deserve.

It must have been in 1981 that I was one in a small group meeting in Roland Gridiger's office to discuss the launch of a scholarship bequeathed by the late Marianne Mathy. Thirty-eight years later it is both humbling and gratifying to receive an award bestowed by what has grown into a highly respected organisation that continues to play such a worthwhile role in encouraging and assisting classical singers in Australia.