

Entry type: Person  
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# 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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