

Kenneth Myer Medallion

The annual Kenneth Myer Medallion for the Performing Arts was established to commemorate Mr Myer's contribution to the Victorian Arts Centre Trust. It came into being on the occasion of Mr Myer retiring from the Chairmanship of the Trust. Its presentation forms part of The Victorian Arts Centre Trust's commitment to the arts industry in Victoria.

The award is presented each year by the Trust to a Victorian for outstanding and distinguished services to the performing arts. It fulfils two roles: recognising services to the arts unequalled in Victoria and providing an incentive within the arts community.

A particular flavour of the award over the years has been to recognise individuals working in ways which are defining the performing arts, particularly at its most developmental, creative edge.

The award consists of a bronze Medallion, commissioned from sculptor Michael Meszaros, prize money of \$5000 and peer recognition.

The links between The Victorian Arts Centre Trust and the Myer family are enduring. The Sidney Myer Music Bowl became one of the Arts Centre venues in 1980. Mr Ken Myer was the first Chair of the Trust. Mr Carrillo Gantner, Ken's nephew, was the President of the Trust for nine years up to June 2009.

Discovery of Recipient

The Kenneth Myer Medallion for the Performing Arts should be:

- presented to a person who has contributed outstanding and distinguished services to the Performing Arts
- awarded to a Victorian, whether or not he/she currently resides in Victoria
- awarded for involvement in either the Australian or international Arts environment.

It should not be awarded posthumously.

It should not be awarded to: Persons from non-performing arts backgrounds; serving Trust members; serving the Arts Centre personnel; serving politicians; companies or organisations.

Medallion Sculptor : Michael Meszaros

Meszaros grew up with sculpture, his father having been a professor of sculpture specialising in medallions. Meszaros' career began at 13 with a portrait medallion of his father. He graduated as an architect from the University of Melbourne and in 1969 won a Churchill Fellowship to study medallion art at the Mint of Rome. Upon his return in early 1970 he began life as a professional sculptor.

He has produced 23 major commissions, hundreds of medallions, large reliefs, portraits, trophies, fountains and personal sculptures. Meszaros' connection with the Myer family began in 1978 when he modelled a portrait medallion of Ken Myer for the Howard Florey Institute. The Florey Institute also commissioned a portrait medallion of Mr Bailieu Myer and a silver struck medallion, featuring the portrait of Mr Ken Myer and a design expressing scientific research, for presentation to the annual Kenneth Myer lecturer.

Both Myers commissioned pieces from Meszaros for their private collections and to commemorate the Myer stores' 80th birthday.

The Myer family then commissioned several pieces from Meszaros to celebrate the centenary of Sidney Myer's arrival in Australia - a plaque for the Myer store in Bendigo, a medallion for the family members and a monument to Sidney Myer which stands in the grounds of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

In 1989 Meszaros was commissioned by the Victorian Arts Centre Trust to produce a bronze medallion for the Kenneth Myer Medallion for the Performing Arts presentations. This medallion features a portrait of Mr Myer.

Recipients

2007 Stephen Armstrong - executive producer

2006 Helen Herbertson – choreographer

2005 Robert 'Bob' Sedergreen – jazz musician

2004 Anna French - theatre designer

2003 Vincent Miller - founder Red Stitch Theatre Company

2002 John Bolton - theatre director and teacher

2001 Malcolm Robertson, Freelance Director/Actor/Writer

2000 Mary Kenneally, Comedienne & Performer

1999 David Pledger, Director

1998 Ariette Taylor, Director, and Daniel Keene, Writer

1997 Jenny Kemp, Director

1996 Naomi Tippett, Polyglot Puppet Theatre

1995 Trina Parker, Designer

1994 Liz Jones, Drama Teacher

1993 Shirley McKechnie, Dancer, and Patricia Kennedy, Actress

1992 John Romeril, Playwright

1991 Betty Burstall and Clifford Hocking