



Photo courtesy of [Bogumiła Żongołłowicz](#)

Ewa Malewicz

Polish soprano; stage name Ewa Laren, also called the 'Nightingale of St. Kilda'.

She was born on 1 January 1922 in Warsaw. During World War II she attended underground classes at the Warsaw Conservatorium of Music, led by composer and teacher Prof. Stanisław Kazuro.

During the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, she sang for the insurgent radio station "Błyskawica".

After the fall of the Uprising, Ewa Malewicz was transported to Germany where she remained after the war. She studied at the Nordwestdeutsche Musikakademie Detmold and held performances for the occupation radio of the British Rhine Army and for German radio in the Allied occupation zones.

She took part in concerts for soldiers of the 1st Armored Division, the Independent Parachute Brigade and Polish Guard Companies stationed in post-war Germany, as well as for Poles who, as a result of the war, found themselves displaced in German camps. The concerts were organized by the German branch of the Society for Aid to Poles based in London.

In 1950, Ewa Malewicz migrated to Australia. She staged live performances on Australian radio, sang for Polish immigrants and performed in the cabarets, "Wesoła Kookaburra" (The Merry Kookaburra) and "Perskie Oko" (The Wink).

In 1993 on the 24th of April, she passed away in Melbourne and was laid to rest at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery. In her will, she bequeathed her property to the Polish community in Australia.

Biographical note based on the book by Bogumiła Żongołłowicz entitled "Kabaret Wesoła Kookaburra" (Emigration Archive, vol. XVII, Toruń 2004).



**Polish Community
Council of Australia**

The Ewa Malewicz Foundation

Using funds from Malewicz's bequest, the Polish Community Council of Australia (PCCA) created a foundation named after her. Since 2004, the Ewa Malewicz Foundation has been supporting a music competition that bears her name.

Between 2004-2015, the Ewa Malewicz Music Competition was coordinated by the Polish Cultural Association in New South Wales.

Six competitions were held in Sydney, in which Polish youth participated exclusively. The competition rules allowed entrants to choose and perform works by any composers, including at least one work by a Polish composer. Notable winners were Konrad Olszewski (2004 – piano) and Daniela Leska (2008 – soprano).

In 2019, PCCA transferred the management of the competition to the Society of Polish Culture (SoPC) in Melbourne, Victoria. Competition rules were amended to allow young (up to 16 years old) Australian musicians of all ethnic backgrounds to enter. Participants must perform works by Polish composers exclusively.

From 2019, finals of the competition have taken place during the "Polish Music Day" as part of the annual cultural event PolMusicA in Melbourne.

The organizers are PCCA, SPoC and the Federation of Polish Organizations of Victoria.

*Information on competitions prepared by
the Presidium of the Polish Community Council of Australia*
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