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**CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC STATE HERITAGE LISTED**

Macquarie Street’s landmark building where stars like trumpeter James Morrison, members of bands such as Silverchair and Thirsty Merc, and even a Wiggle, developed their musical talents, has been given the State’s highest level of heritage protection.

The Sydney’s Conservatorium of Music has today been placed on the State Heritage Register by the Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly.

The Conservatorium was commissioned by Governor Macquarie and designed by noted colonial architect Francis Greenway and is a very rare example of Greenway’s architecture in the Old Colonial Gothic style.

“The building is of heritage significance at a state level due to its 20th century history as the premium NSW music education agency and through its association with numerous important figures in the music field,” Mr Kelly said.

These include:

- James Morrison – trumpeter;
- Rai Thistlethwayte - lead singer of Thirsty Merc;
- Kim Moyes - band member of The Presets, The Dissociatives and Silverchair;
- Julian Hamilton - band member of The Presets, The Dissociatives and Silverchair;
- Sam Moran - member of The Wiggles;
- Henri Verbrugghen - the Conservatorium’s founding Director and Belgian conductor;
- Eugene Goossens - Conductor and composer; and
- Iva Davies - frontman of band Icehouse.

Mr Kelly said the Conservatorium was originally constructed as a stable for Government House but was converted for use as a Conservatorium in 1915.

“It is a rare and intact example of an early colonial stable building in the centre of Sydney and met six of the seven Heritage Council criteria for listing on the State Heritage Register including historical values, associations with people or groups of people, aesthetic values, community esteem, research potential and rarity,” Mr Kelly said.

“Today’s listing means the Conservatorium will be required to be maintained to minimum standards of repair and be subject to decisions or advice from the Heritage Council of NSW and City of Sydney Council in the event of any future building works.”

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How the conservatorium met State heritage criteria:

*Historical values* - as it was a key element in Governor Lachlan Macquarie's vision for making Sydney an attractive, well designed city as opposed to the raw colonial outpost he found when he took up governorship of the Colony in 1810. The construction of the stables was the first stage in a plan for a new government house. The building’s historic values are enhanced through its later conversion and use as the State’s premium seat of musical education, the Conservatorium of Music.

*Associations with people or groups of people* - through its close association with Governor and Mrs Macquarie and colonial architect Francis Greenway. Its significance at a State level is confirmed through association with many nationally and internationally recognised musicians and other figures important in the history and development of music education in NSW.

*Aesthetic values* - as a fine and rare example of Francis Greenway’s design in the Old Colonial Gothic architectural style and a notable exemplar of this style in the State. Situated as it is on the edge of the area originally known as the Governor’s Domain, it was and remains a landmark building demonstrating Macquarie’s ambition to create style, order and civilising influence in the colonial town of Sydney.

*Community esteem* - for its association with generations of noted Australian musicians. It was and continues to be a focus for musical activity attracting visiting performers to perform in the auditorium.

*Research potential* - for its rich archaeological resource which provides a unique insight into the way of life of those historically associated with the site from pre-Macquarie period through its time as the governor’s stables and then as a Conservatorium. The original stables building remains intact and displays evidence of 19th Century building techniques, materials and architectural design.

*Rarity* - the original stables building is a rare example of Francis Greenway’s architectural design in the Old Colonial Gothic style being the only example still existing. It’s also the only Macquarie-era stables of its substantial type remaining in inner Sydney.