THE DIVAS

Melissa Forbes is Lecturer in Contemporary Singing at USQ. Trained in jazz improvisation at the Queensland Conservatorium where she received the University Medal upon graduation, she is versatile vocalist with the ability to seamlessly move between genres. In 2005, Melissa released her debut album No More Mondays to critical and popular acclaim on her own independent record label Kitten Kong Records. She has been a pioneer in the internet marketing of music and won numerous International Online Music Awards. Kitten Kong has also released an EP by jazz and blues artist Lana Martino-Smith. Her love for singing has taken her to Singapore, Japan and to the United States as part of a Churchill Fellowship, and has allowed her to share the stage with such luminaries as Michael Buble, Naturally 7 and David Hobson. She is currently completing a PhD on contemporary vocal pedagogy at the Queensland Conservatorium and regularly performs in concert settings.

Melissa Forbes

Toowoomba-born Melinda Janetzki (nee van der Meulen) graduated with a Bachelor of Music from USQ and a Masters degree from the Queensland Conservatorium. She also studied at the Australian National Academy of Music, Melbourne and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. Melinda was accepted to the Opera Queensland chorus at the age of 19 before moving to London where she performed professionally throughout the United Kingdom and mainland Europe with various opera companies. Melinda has also performed in concert with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra with the Queensland Choir at the QPAC Concert Hall. She has won prizes in some of Australia’s most prestigious singing competitions and been acclaimed by critics as a delight vocally and visually (Opera Opera) and exemplary (The Times, London). In 2007, Melinda returned with her husband from London to raise their young family in Toowoomba. Now a full-time mother, she regularly performs with Brisbane orchestras and choirs and loves to sing at community events across the Toowoomba region where her singing career began.

Melinda van der Meulen

Alison Riethmüller began her early musical education at just four years of age, with Toowoomba teachers Peg and Sharny Russell. She continued on to further her classical piano studies with the late Mary Childe OAM, completing her A.Mus.A at only 15 years of age. She continued to perform and teach while at university in Brisbane, before starting a ten year period of working as resident pianist and vocalist with prestigious appointments such as the Orient-Express company, Hayman Island Resort, and internationally throughout Japan, Thailand and Europe. Since returning to her home town of Toowoomba in 2011, Alison has worked teaching at various schools, and is currently employed as accompanist and piano tutor at Downlands College, and with USQ’s School of Creative Arts. While still having a passion for performing classical repertoire, Alison also brings her experience in contemporary styles, music theatre and original arrangements to each performance.

Alison Riethmüller

23 May 2012
USQ Arts Theatre • Toowoomba
University of Southern Queensland
**THE DUELLING DIVAS**

**PROGRAM**

*Let Me Be Your Star*  **Marc Shaiman**  
Melissa and Melinda

**MEDLEY**

*Stormy Weather*  **Harold Arlen**

*Un bel di vedremo* (‘One Fine Day’)  **Puccini**

*Boulevard of Broken Dreams*  **Harry Warren**

*Summertime*  **George Gershwin**  
Melissa and Melinda

*Duetto Buffo Di Due Gatti*  **Rossini**  
Melissa and Melinda

*Queen of the Night*  **From The Magic Flute**  **W. A. Mozart**  
Melinda

*The Spark of Creation*  **Stephen Schwartz**  
Melissa

*Caro Nome*  **From Rigoletto**  **Verdi**  
Melinda

*Send in the Clowns*  **Sondheim**  
Melissa

*The Last Day on Earth*  **Kate Miller-Heidke**  
Melissa and Melinda

*One Voice*  **Ruth Moody**  
Melissa, Melinda and Alison

*Nella Fantasia*  **Ennio Morricone**

Melissa and Melinda

---

Direction  The Duelling Divas and Emma Dean
Lighting Design & Op  Bob Horstman
Sound Op  Daniel Simpson
ASMs  Brodie Greenhalgh and Brendan O’Leary
Special thanks to:  Jason Myatt and Ben Meares for their sound advice  Monty Kambaran for the loan of chaise lounge