



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

26 NOVEMBER 1987

Yvonne Kenny and Julie Anthony have accepted my invitation to sing the Royal Anthem and the National Anthem respectively at the opening of the new Parliament House by The Queen on 9th May next year.

Yvonne Kenny was born in Sydney. At the age of 22 she took up an opera scholarship at La Scala in Milan, and later continued her studies in London.

She was encouraged to return to Australia in 1972 by the Victoria State Opera and has maintained a close association with the Victoria State Opera and the Australian Opera since then.

Yvonne's most recent engagement was in Brussels, at a festival commemorating the 100th anniversary of Dame Nellie Melba's first opera performance, which is an appropriate coincidence in view of the fact that Melba sang the Royal Anthem at the opening of the Provisional Parliament House in 1927.

Julie Anthony was born in the Mallee country south of the River Murray in South Australia.

She transferred to Sydney in 1972 and has lived there ever since except for a number of professional engagements overseas, especially in Los Angeles and London, where she is regarded as an outstanding international artist.

Julie was awarded the O.B.E. in 1980, and has won numerous awards in the Australian entertainment industry since 1972.

On Australia Day, 1987, she recorded Advance Australia Fair in what is becoming the definitive arrangement of our National Anthem.

002838