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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian music legends celebrated in inaugural Arts Centre exhibition

31 October 2009 – What do Russell Morris, Dragon, Max Merritt, The Triffids and Rolf Harris have in common? They're all stars of a new exhibition at the Arts Centre in Melbourne.

These greats of Australian music are all 2008 inductees into the ARIA Hall of Fame and the exhibition showcases their diverse careers through memorabilia and music. It's the first in a partnership between the Arts Centre and ARIA, the Australian Recording Industry Association.

"The Arts Centre is delighted to work with ARIA and the Hall of Fame inductees to bring Australia's important music heritage to life through this exhibition series," said Janine Barrand, the Arts Centre's Manager of Collections and Research. "As Australia's largest performing arts centre, the exhibition is sure to be a source of enjoyment for a broad audience."

The exhibition features memorabilia from each of the inductees' careers, from performance photos, posters and gold records, to notebooks, awards and instruments and includes donations from the artists themselves, private collectors and the Arts Centre's Performing Arts Collection.

Ed St John, ARIA Chairman and President & CEO of Warner Music Australasia, is equally enthusiastic about the potential of the exhibition to spread the word about Australia's music heritage. "We're very excited with this opportunity to expand the ARIA Hall of Fame experience to even more music fans with the launch of the Arts Centre exhibition. We expect many fans across the generations to come to the Arts Centre to delve into the careers of these musicians."

The free exhibition opens at the Arts Centre on 8 November and runs through to the Australia Day weekend on January 26.

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