

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0950

## Gell, Heather

(1896 - 1988)

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**Born** 1 January, 1896, Glenelg South Australia Australia

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**Died** 31 December, 1988, South Australia Australia

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**Occupation** Educator

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### Summary

Heather Gell was a pioneer of eurhythmics and a dance teacher. After obtaining the Diploma of the Kindergarten Training College, Adelaide, in 1918, she studied at the London School of Dalcroze Eurhythmics for two years. Gell returned to Adelaide to set up her own studio in 1923. She became a specialist in Eurhythmics and taught at the Kindergarten Training College. In 1930 Gell returned to London to study for the Licentiate degree at the Royal Academy of Music. On her return she was appointed to the Elder Conservatorium.

In 1934 Gell directed the Girl Guides' farewell to Lady Zara Hore-Ruthven and in 1936 the 'Heritage' pageant for the State's Centenary celebrations. She returned to London in 1937 before settling in Sydney where she established the School of Music and Movement. From 1938 she began presenting "Music Through Movement", a weekly radio broadcast for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, which lasted 27 years. Gell stayed in Sydney until her retirement, establishing the Dalcroze Society of Australia and the Dalcroze Teachers' Union.

Heather Gell was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire services to music on 31 December 1977. She returned to Adelaide in 1982 and died in 1988. In her Will, she left a bequest to be used to establish, assist, and promote Dalcroze Eurhythmics in Australia. The Heather Gell Dalcroze Foundation is the result.

### Published resources

#### Book

The eurhythmics of Emile Jaques-Dalcroze : music, movement, drama : its origins and its purpose, 1865-1996, Dalcroze Society of South Australia and Cox, Lesley M, [1996]

Heather Gell's lessons in music through movement for four to six year olds, Pope, Joan, 1935- (selected and annotated by ), 1997

Recollections : a tribute to Heather Gell by those who remember ... : Dalcroze eurhythmics, broadcasts in music through movement for children, the great pageants and spectacles, her early children's television, Cox, Lesley M; Holmes, Patricia L ; Pope, Joan, 1935- (collated by) and Follett, David (illustrated by), 1995

Music, movement, and the young child, Gell, Heather, 1959

Music through movement : broadcasts to schools 1941, Gell, Heather, 1941

#### Edited Book

Heather Gell's thoughts on Dalcroze eurhythmics and music through movement, Pope, Joan, 1935-

#### Theatre program

The Blue Bird, an adaption of the play by Maurice Maeterlinck, by the students of Miss Heather Gell

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **State Library of South Australia**

[Heather Gell : SUMMARY RECORD](#)

[Interview with Heather Gell and ABC Radio school broadcast \[sound recording\]](#)

### **National Library of Australia**

[\[Biographical cuttings on Heather Gell, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood

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