

NICHOLAS LA FEUILLADE

Nicholas La Feuillade is believed to have first arrived in Australia in 1865 as a violinist with the Christy Minstrels. The company had previously toured through the United Kingdom, Egypt, India and Java. Having decided to remain in the county he later toured as music director with La Feuillade, Peel and Western's Christy Minstrels (1869), Western and La Feuillade's Minstrels (1870-71), the Royal Magnet Variety Troupe (1872), Harry Rickards's London Star Company (ca. 1874), La Feuillade and Buckley's Minstrels (1875) and the Nighingale Serenaders (1881). Between 1883 and 1886, he was music director for Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels. Managed by F. E. Hiscocks and starring comedian W. Horace Bent, the troupe was arguably the most successful minstrel show to operate in Australia during the late nineteenth century.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.			
Proprietor and Manager		F. E. HISCOCKS.	
TODAY, BOXING NIGHT. Dec. 26, and until further notice.			
HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS, and Specialty Union.			
Programme for This Evening.			
Bones	{ W. Horace Bent. Alf. Moynham.	Tambos	{ W. B. Warner. Sam Keevan.
Interlocutor—W. A. Ball.			
Overture—"Xmas-time"	...	Federals	...
Song—"First in the Field"	...	J. S. Porter	...
Comic—"The Man with the Seal-skin Pants"	...	Sam Keevan	...
Ballad—"A Light in the Window"	...	Beaumont Read	...
Comic—"Uncle Mick"	...	W. B. Warner	...
Song—"I'll Await my Love"	...	E. Amery	...
Comic—"The Giddy Old Owl"	...	W. Horace Bent	...
Ballad—"Golden Love"	...	E. C. Dunbar.	...
Ensemble—Der Deutscher Jubilee Concert.			
Herr Schultzbrach (solo pianist)	...	W. Horace Bent	...
Herr Stomachache (solo trombone)	...	Sam Keevan	...
Herr Teufelsdröckh (solo ophicleide)	...	W. A. Ball	...
Herr Leiberworst (solo violin)	...	Alf. Moynham	...
Horn Quartette	Messrs. Braham, Read, Amery, and Porter		
Madame Swartz (soprano)	...	G. Turner	...
Maestro D'Orchestra	...	N. La Feuillade	...
"Grand March Campaign"	...	N. La Feuillade and Orchestra.	...

After briefly working for Charles and Harry Cogill in 1887, La Feuillade returned to Hiscocks's management the following year. His last known engagements were in Melbourne during the 1890s, when he appeared on the bill of such variety shows as the Peoples' Concerts (Temperance Hall) and the St George's Hall Minstrel, Variety and Specialty Company (1898).

La Feuillade's symphony *Irish Patrol*, which represents 'the gradual approach, passing and disappearance of the Enni Killen Brigade', is believed to have been first performed in Melbourne at the People's Concerts (Temperance Hall) on 17 April 1897 (A: 17 Apr. 1897, 10). La Feuillade died in Melbourne on 5 July 1915.

With Hiscocks Federal Minstrels
Sydney Morning Herald 26 Dec. (1885), 2.

SEE ALSO

- [Weston & La Feuillade](#)
- [Hiscocks Federal Minstrels](#)
- [Western and La Feuillade's Minstrels](#)
- [La Feuillade, Peel and Western's Christy Minstrels](#)

Mr. Nicholas La Feuillade, who died on Monday in Melbourne; was the last survivor of the Christy Minstrel troupe which toured the world under an agreement with the late John Washington Smith. The company was formed in 1863, and a five years' agreement was signed. The first performance was given in Bombay. Later the company travelled through Great Britain, Egypt, India, and Java, and finally arrived in Sydney, where Mr. La Feuillade made his first appearance as a violinist on February 20, 1865. Afterwards he was proprietor and part proprietor of several companies. He made his last public appearance with the late Fred Hiscock's troupe of minstrels. He also appeared under the management of the late Mr. Harry Rickards. Before travelling as a violinist Mr. La Feuillade served four years in the British navy.

Advertiser (Adelaide) 10 July (1915), 6

MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Music theatre productions known to have included original music by Nicholas La Feuillade are:

- 1884:** **The Trip to Manly and the Soapboilers' Picnic** [burlesque]
1886: **All Black** (1886) [burlesque] • **The Japanese District** (1886) [burlesque]

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

All dates and venues above are first known performances.

- "**Australians on Parade**" [march] (People's Concerts, Melb; 27 Nov. 1897).
"Banquet Polka" (Victoria Hall, Melbourne 30 June 1883).
"Cora Dean Quadrille" (Victoria Hall, Melb 16 June 1883).
"For the Old Land's Sake" [words by Beaumont Read] (Academy of Music, Syd; 14 Mar. 1885).
"Franco-Prussian Galop" (Victoria Hall, Melb; 26 May 1883).
"Schottiache de Concert" (Victoria Hall, Melb; 18 Aug. 1883).
"Violin Symphony" (Victoria Hall, Melb; 14 July 1883).

NB: The *Argus* records that "The Banquet Polka" was "composed and dedicated to the Hon. James G. Beancey" (30 June 1883, 16).

ENGAGEMENTS CHRONOLOGY

- 1865:** CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS (Haymarket Th, Melb; 21 Oct.)
1866: CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS (Varieties Th, Melb; 24 Dec.)
1868: WOODROFFE'S AMERICAN GLASSBLOWERS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 14 Aug.)
1869: LA FEUILLADE, PEEL AND WESTON'S CHRISTY MINSTRELS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 3 May)
1870: WESTON AND LA FEUILLADE'S MINSTRELS (Op House, Melb; 18 June)
1871: WESTON AND LA FEUILLADE'S MINSTRELS (Haymarket Th, Melb; 10 Apr.)
1874: HARRY RICKARDS LONDON STAR Co (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 16 May)
1875: LA FEUILLADE & BUCKLEY (St James Hall, Bendigo; 26-31 Dec. > La Feuillade & Buckley's Minstrels)
1876: LA FEUILLADE & BUCKLEY (St James Hall, Bendigo; 1 Jan. - > La Feuillade & Buckley's Minstrels)
1881: KELLY & LEON (Royal Princess Th, Sandhurst; 5-6 Feb. > Kelly & Leon's Minstrels) • (A of M, Ballarat; 8-10 Feb. > Kelly & Leon's Minstrels) • (Mechanic's Institute, Geelong; 11-12 Feb. > Kelly & Leon's Minstrels)
1883: HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS (Vic Hall, Melb; 21 Apr.) • (Masonic Hall, Syd; 15 Sept.) • (Gaiety Th, Syd; 13 Oct.)
1884: HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS (A of M, Syd; 5 Apr.)
1885: F.E. HISCOCKS FEDERAL MINSTRELS (A of M, Syd; 14 Mar.) • (Gaiety Th, Syd; 12 Oct.) ► GRAND CONCERT & ORATION (Th Royal, Syd; 15 Aug.) ► F.E. HISCOCKS FEDERAL MINSTRELS (Vic Hall, Melb; 31 Oct.) • (A of M, Syd) 19 Sept. - 31 Dec.)
1886: HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS (A of M, Syd; 1 Jan. -) • (A of M, Bris; 14 May) • (A of M, Syd; 5 June) • (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 16 Oct.) • (A of M, Syd; 18 Dec.)
1887: COGILL BROS MINSTRELS (Gaiety Th, Syd; 2 Apr.)
1888: HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS (A of M, Syd; 12 Jan.) • (Vic Th, Newcastle; 9 Apr.) • (Gaiety Th, Bris; 21 Apr.)
1892: PEOPLE'S CONCERTS (Temp Hall, Melb; 12 Mar.)
1897: PEOPLE'S CONCERTS (Temp Hall, Melb; 8 May)
1898: PEOPLE'S CONCERTS (Temp Hall, Melb; 22 Jan.) ► RICHARDS & Co (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 24 Sept. > St George's Hall Minstrels Variety & Specialty Co / Popular Concerts)

FURTHER REFERENCE

Djubal, Clay. "[La Feuillade, Nicholas](#)." *AustLit* (2007).

See also:

EP: 31 July (1915), 11

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