

**Discover
Melbourne
Recital
Centre**

**Written by
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and Bronwyn
Nicholson**

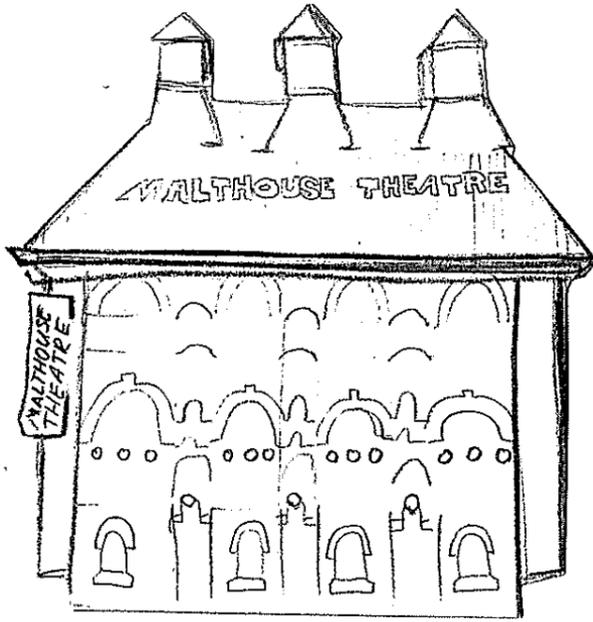
**Illustrated
by Bridget
Healey**

**Don't forget
to colour
me in!**

Melbourne Arts Precinct

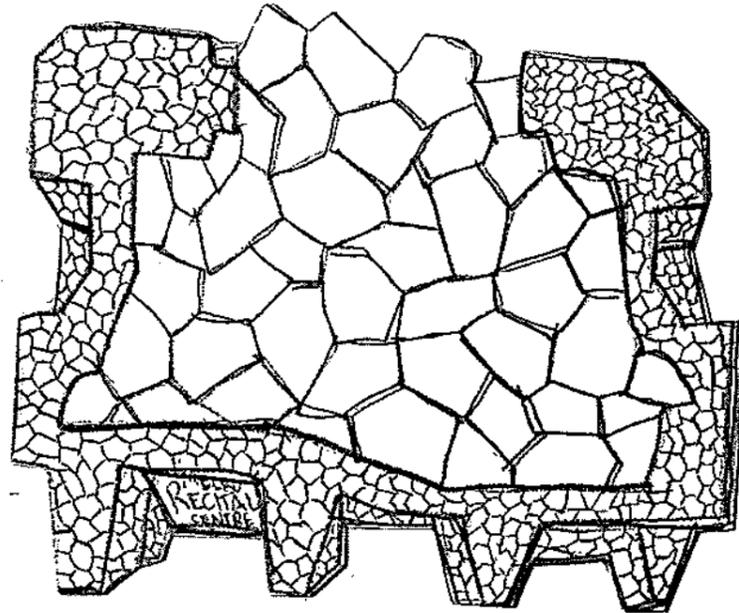
Melbourne Recital Centre lives in the Melbourne Arts Precinct alongside neighbours like the National Gallery of Victoria, ABC, Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts and the Malthouse Theatre.

Can you name all the buildings?



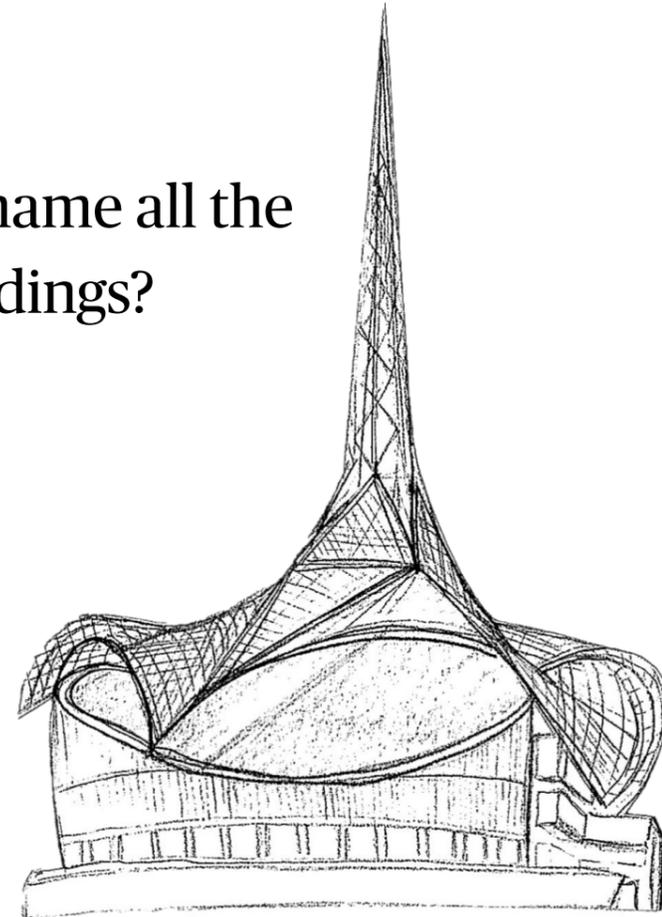
[Dashed box for labeling the Malthouse Theatre]

The Melbourne Arts Precinct sits on the land of the people of the Kulin Nation. These people have been living in this area for many thousands of years.

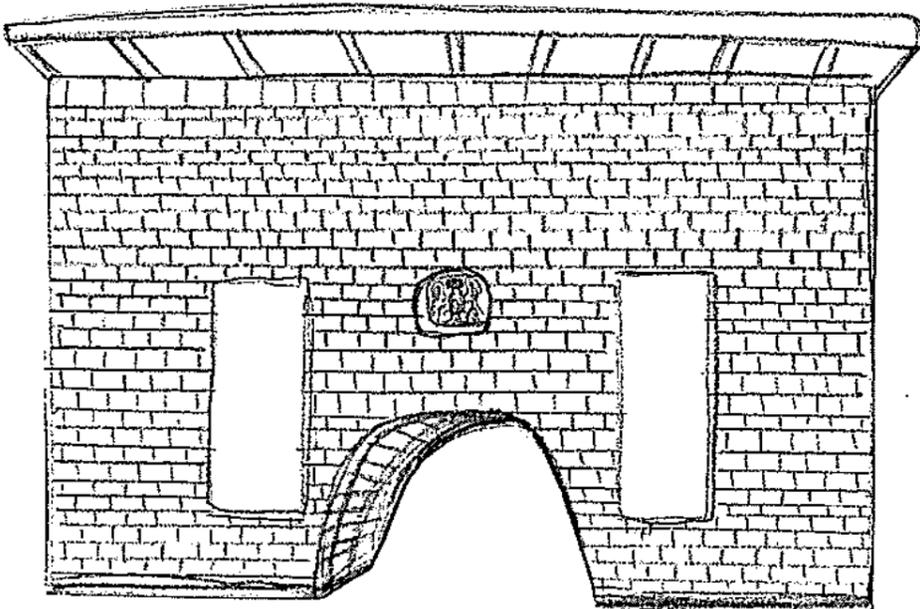


[Dashed box for labeling the Melbourne Recital Centre]

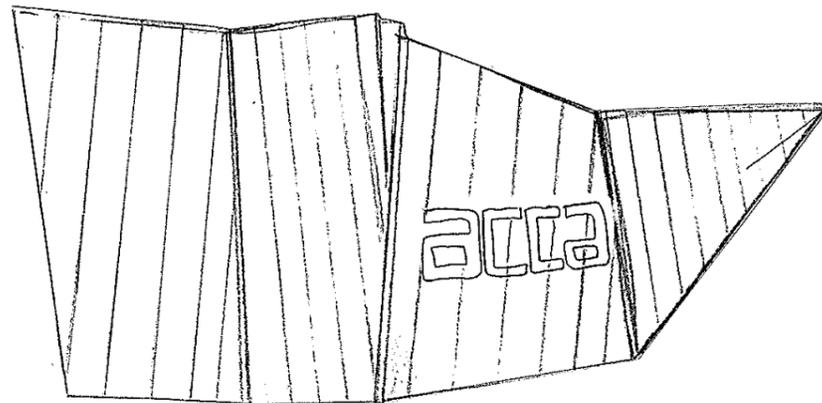
Port Phillip Bay was a large flat plain where the People of the Kulin Nation hunted kangaroos and cultivated their yam daisies, an important food source. What is your favourite food?



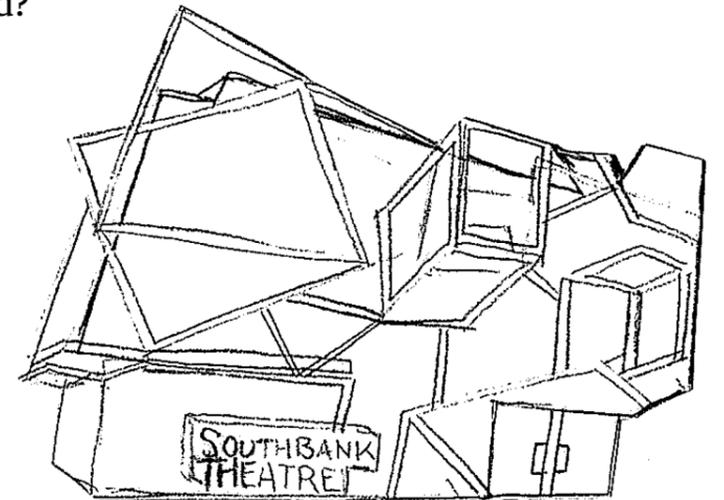
[Dashed box for labeling the National Gallery of Victoria]



[Dashed box for labeling the Southbank Theatre]



[Dashed box for labeling the Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts]



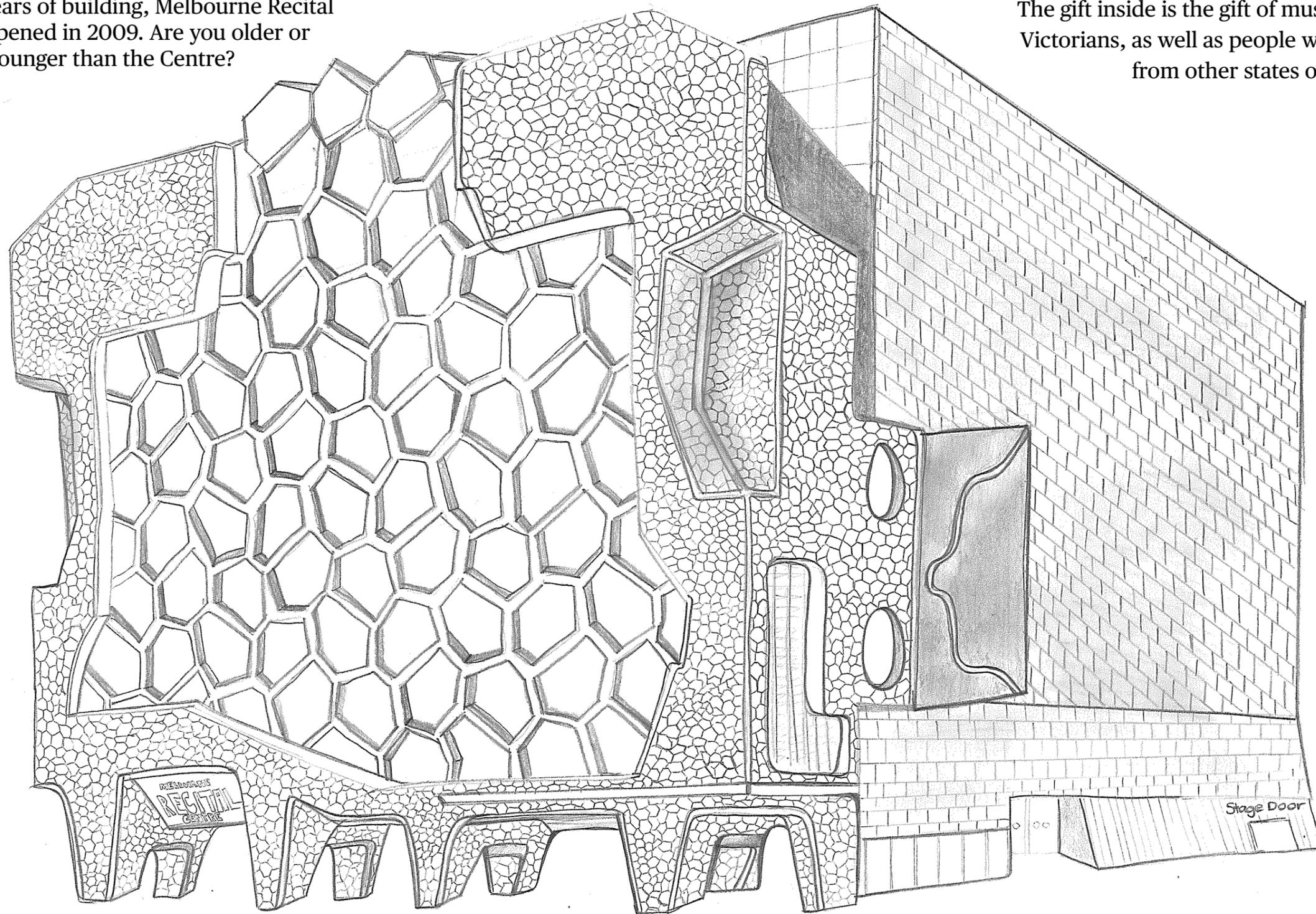
[Dashed box for labeling the ABC building]

Thousands of years ago, this land that is now called Melbourne, extended right out to the ocean.

Melbourne Recital Centre Architecture

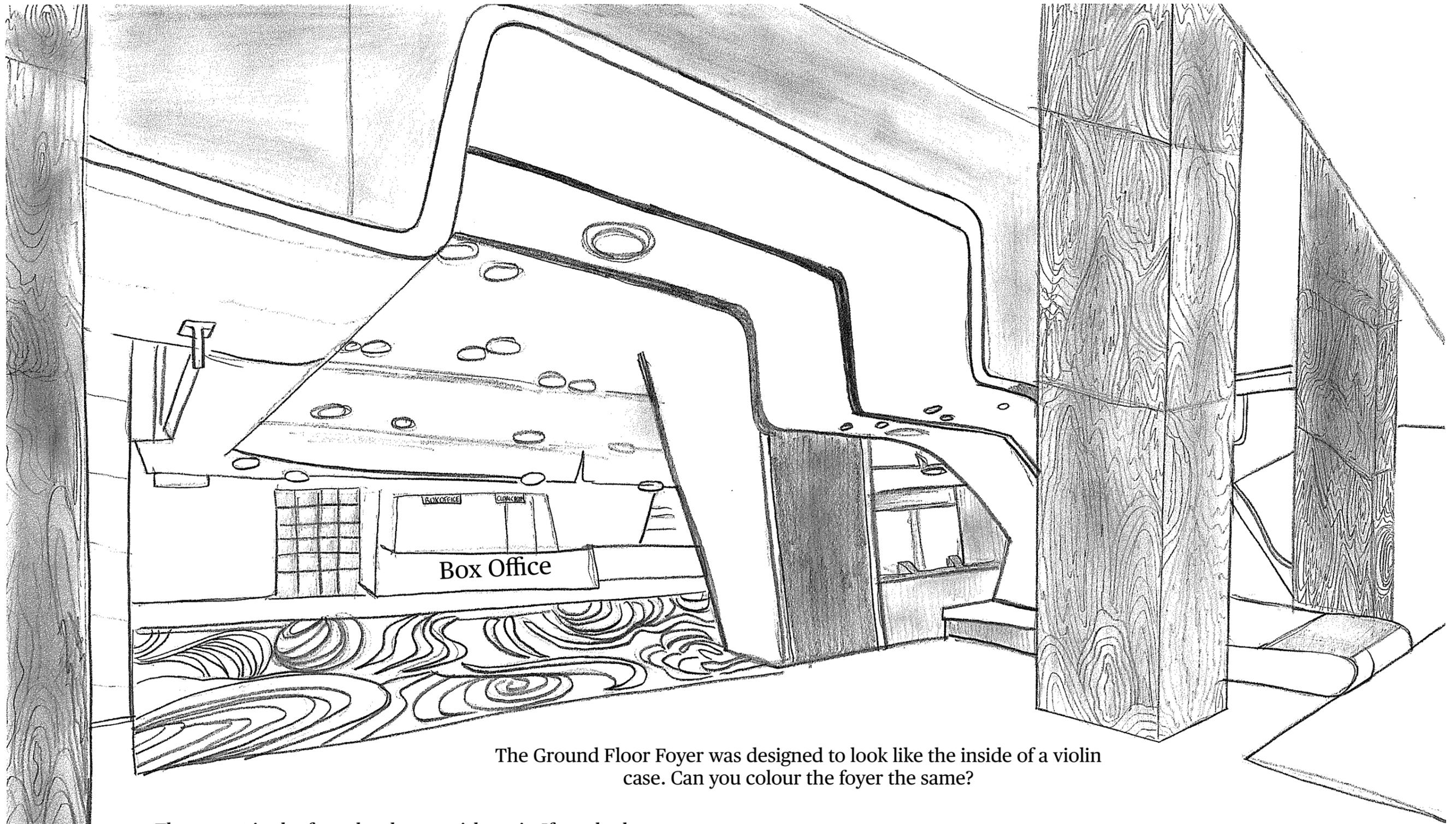
After seven years of designing, planning and over two years of building, Melbourne Recital Centre opened in 2009. Are you older or younger than the Centre?

The gift inside is the gift of music. It is a present for all Victorians, as well as people who travel to Melbourne from other states or countries.



The windows of the building are designed to look like bubble wrap - something that protects a precious gift.

The building is a large blue stone box, designed to look like a gift. What was the best gift you have received in a box?



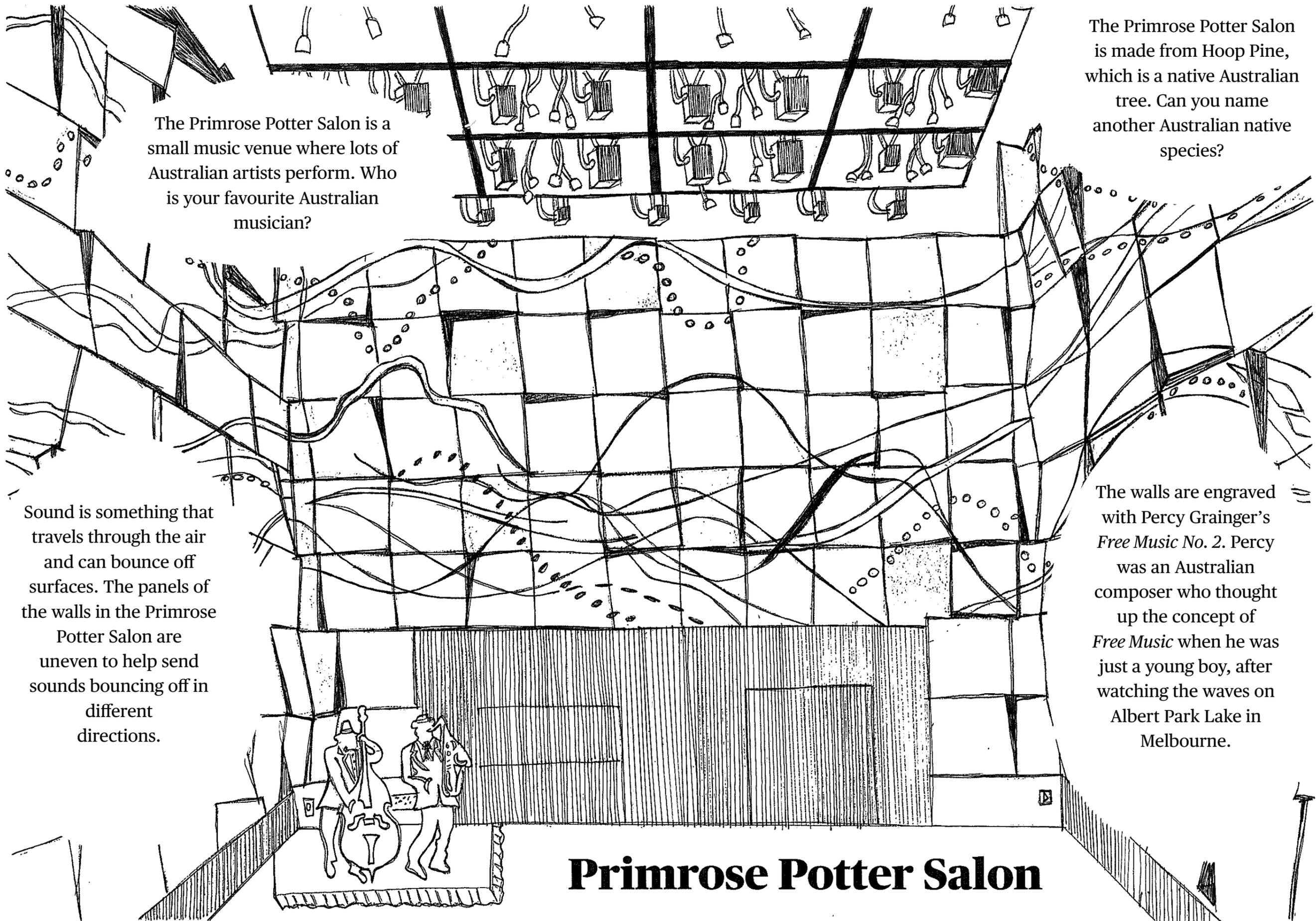
The Ground Floor Foyer was designed to look like the inside of a violin case. Can you colour the foyer the same?

The carpet in the foyer has large swirls on it. If you look closely, you will also see the same swirls on the walls throughout the building.

The Box Office is where you can buy or collect concert tickets.

The Ground Level Foyer has several large screens for you to watch and listen to concerts that are happening in Elisabeth Murdoch Hall and Primrose Potter Salon.

Ground Floor Foyer



The Primrose Potter Salon is a small music venue where lots of Australian artists perform. Who is your favourite Australian musician?

The Primrose Potter Salon is made from Hoop Pine, which is a native Australian tree. Can you name another Australian native species?

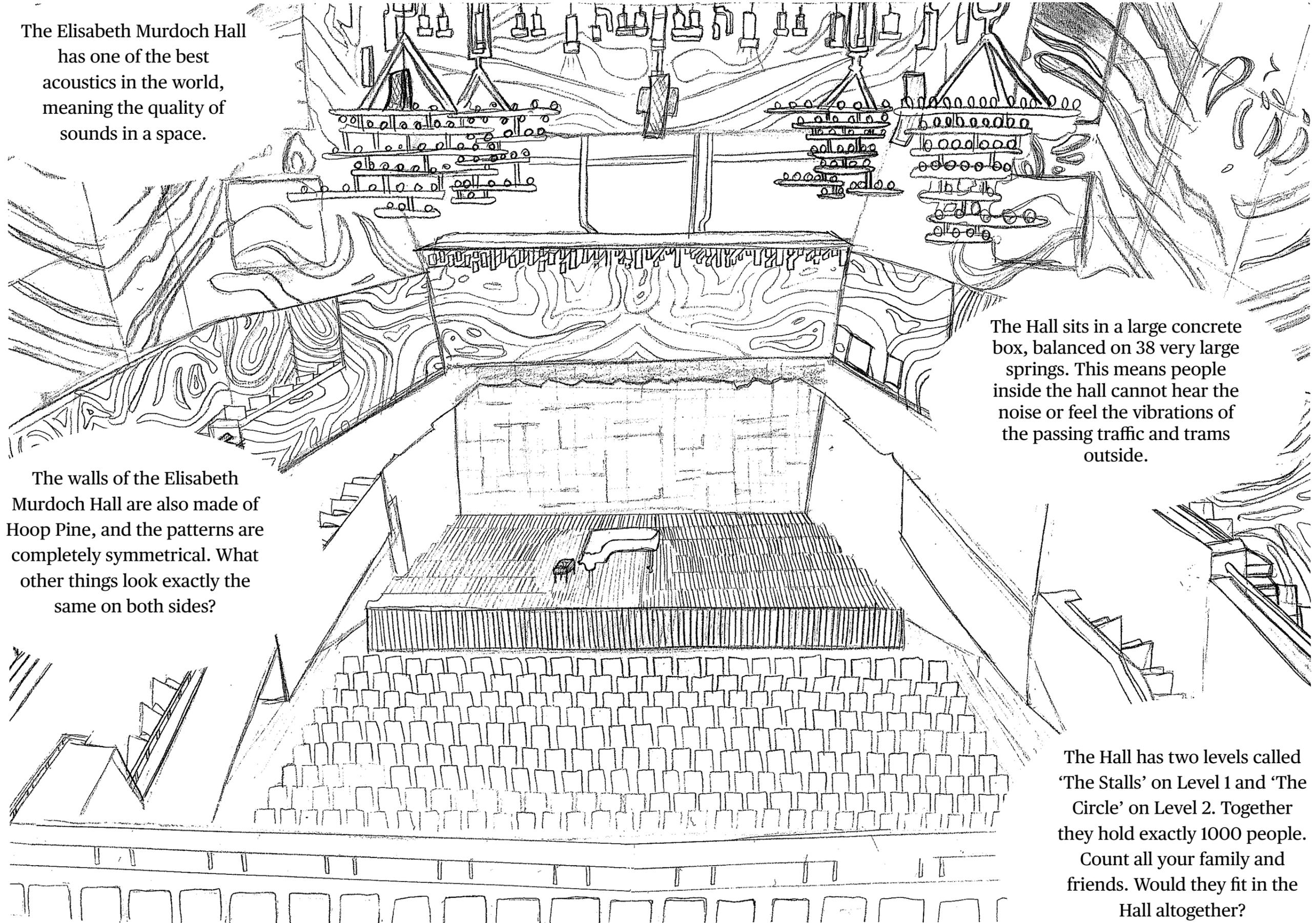
Sound is something that travels through the air and can bounce off surfaces. The panels of the walls in the Primrose Potter Salon are uneven to help send sounds bouncing off in different directions.

The walls are engraved with Percy Grainger's *Free Music No. 2*. Percy was an Australian composer who thought up the concept of *Free Music* when he was just a young boy, after watching the waves on Albert Park Lake in Melbourne.

Primrose Potter Salon

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall

The Elisabeth Murdoch Hall has one of the best acoustics in the world, meaning the quality of sounds in a space.

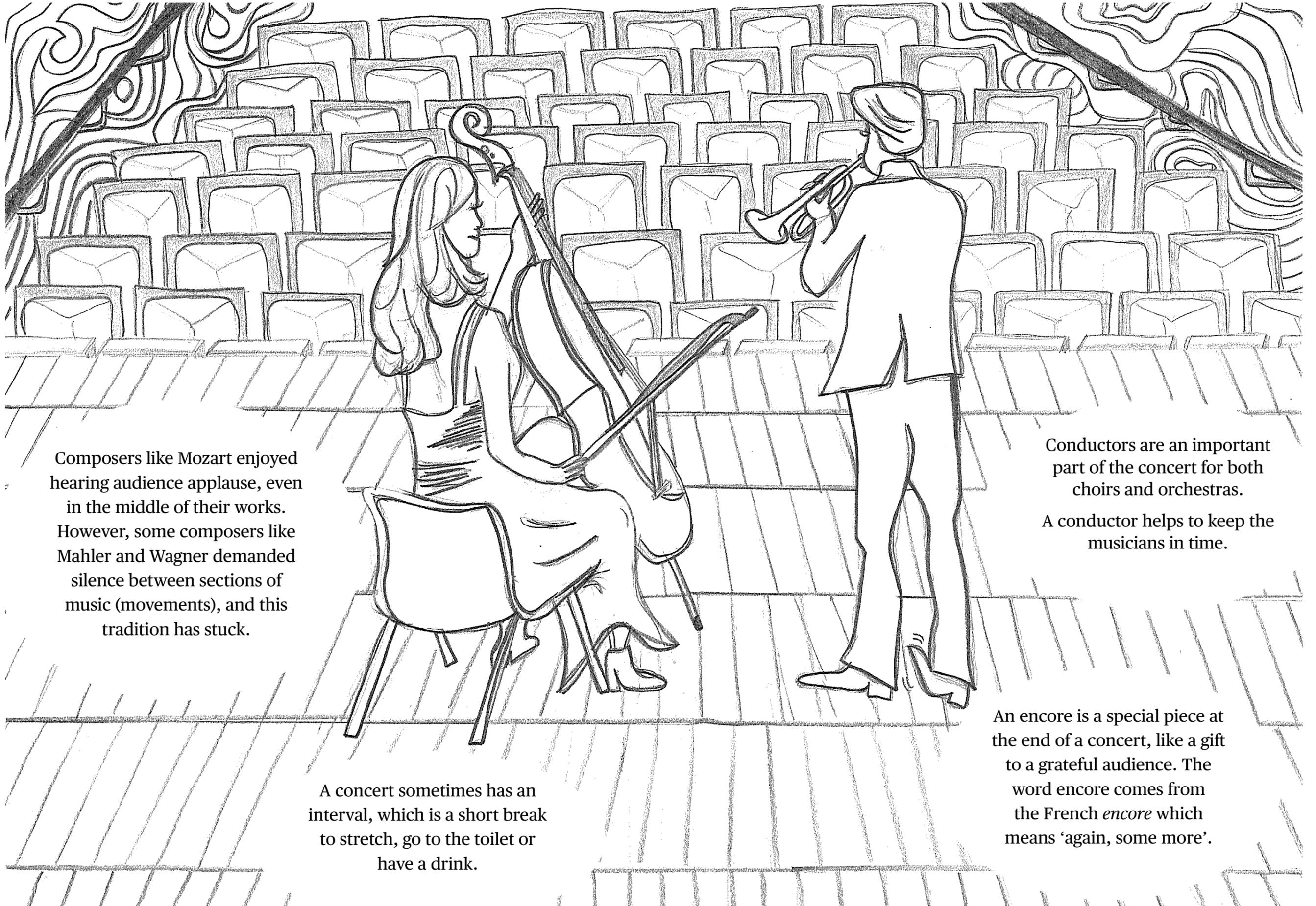


The walls of the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall are also made of Hoop Pine, and the patterns are completely symmetrical. What other things look exactly the same on both sides?

The Hall sits in a large concrete box, balanced on 38 very large springs. This means people inside the hall cannot hear the noise or feel the vibrations of the passing traffic and trams outside.

The Hall has two levels called 'The Stalls' on Level 1 and 'The Circle' on Level 2. Together they hold exactly 1000 people. Count all your family and friends. Would they fit in the Hall altogether?

Concert Etiquette



Composers like Mozart enjoyed hearing audience applause, even in the middle of their works. However, some composers like Mahler and Wagner demanded silence between sections of music (movements), and this tradition has stuck.

A concert sometimes has an interval, which is a short break to stretch, go to the toilet or have a drink.

Conductors are an important part of the concert for both choirs and orchestras. A conductor helps to keep the musicians in time.

An encore is a special piece at the end of a concert, like a gift to a grateful audience. The word *encore* comes from the French *encore* which means 'again, some more'.