When Sir Thomas Elder died in 1897 he bequeathed to the University £25,000 which was earmarked for the establishment of a School of Music. In the main the School was opened in 1898, and in 1899 the Conservatorium of Music was opened with an initial enrollment of nearly 100 students. The Conservatorium was housed in a building that had been donated by Sir Thomas Elder. The school continued to grow in popularity and size, and in 1901 the building was extended to accommodate the increasing number of students. The new building was named Elder Conservatorium.

The Elder Conservatorium is one of the oldest and most prestigious music schools in Australia. It is known for its high standards and rigorous training programs. The school offers courses in a variety of disciplines, including opera, voice, and instrumental music. In addition to its undergraduate programs, the Elder Conservatorium also offers postgraduate degrees and continuing education courses. The school is located on the campus of the University of South Australia, and it is open to students from all over the world.

The Elder Conservatorium is known for its commitment to excellence in music education. The school has a long history of producing world-class musicians and musicologists, and it continues to attract top students and faculty from around the world. The Elder Conservatorium is an integral part of the University of South Australia, and it plays a vital role in the cultural life of the city of Adelaide.