

Mr James Morrison AM

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Music (honoris causa) Ceremony 10, Monday 4 May 2015, 11:00am

Chancellor, I present to you James Morrison.

The Degree of Doctor of Music (*honoris causa*) is being awarded to Mr Morrison to acknowledge his exceptionally distinguished service to jazz performance and teaching, and for his mentoring of jazz students in Australia.

James Morrison was born in 1962 into a musical family and attended Pittwater High School before enrolling at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he completed his tertiary studies in Jazz. He has performed with many of the jazz 'greats' including Dizzy Gillespie, Don Burrows, Ray Charles and B B King, Ray Brown, Wynton Marsalis, Frank Sinatra, Cab Calloway, Woody Shaw, Whitney Houston, Arturo Sandoval, Phil Stack, George Benson, Mark Nightingale and Red Rodney. He has also had a long association with composer and pianist Lalo Schifrin and has recorded a number of CDs for Schifrin's "Jazz Meets the Symphony" series with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Czech National Symphony.

James Morrison actively mentors up and coming jazz musicians. His association with the Generations of Jazz annual festival at Mt Gambier has led to the formation of a new tertiary jazz program in South Australia this year.

In 1997 James Morrison was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to music, particularly jazz, and the sponsorship of young musicians. He has made many commercial recordings and, in 2013, was inducted into the Graeme Bell Hall of Fame.

James has a busy teaching and performing schedule but has always generously given of his time and expertise to Adelaide students and audiences. For example, in 2012, with jazz staff of the Elder Conservatorium of Music at The University of Adelaide and the Elder Conservatorium Big Band, he played in two sell-out benefit concerts that raised funds for the restoration of the University's Elder Hall. In December 2013 he appeared in a Christmas concert at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and in February 2014 he appeared again in the Adelaide Town Hall with the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, performing *High Art* by Elder Conservatorium's new Director, Professor Graeme Koehne. He will again be appearing with our students at the Helpmann Foundation jazz awards dinner this month.

James has been a valuable and inspirational mentor for many of this University's jazz and classical music students and staff.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Mr James Morrison, Doctor of Music (Honoris Causa) (Edith Cowan University), Doctor of the University (Griffith University), Member of the Order of Australia, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Music (*honoris causa*).