

Judith Bailey OAM

The honorary degree of Doctor of Music was conferred upon Judith Bailey by the Pro-Chancellor, Ms Dorothy Hoddinott AO at a graduation ceremony at 9.30am on 7 December 2017.

Citation

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Judith Bailey OAM to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Music (honoris causa).

Judy Bailey was born in Auckland, New Zealand and grew up in the small town of Whangarei. From the age of 10 she studied the piano and completed her Associate Trinity College London (Performance) qualification at the age of 16.

Upon arriving in Sydney in 1960 Judy quickly became prominent in the Australian jazz scene, performing regularly at the famous El Rocco Jazz club. She has maintained a busy performance schedule ever since, performing in jazz clubs and jazz festivals both nationally and internationally.

Judy is a prolific composer and has produced works in a wide variety of genres. She has recorded many CDs of her own compositions, and several CDs of "jazz standards". Perhaps most notably it is within her output in cross-genre composition that her distinguished reputation is most emphasised. As recently as August this year a double cd was released of live music recordings that Judy has written for symphony orchestra and jazz orchestra.

Judy has written several large works for soloists and jazz ensembles and orchestra, which have been performed at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Sydney Opera House. Some of the most notable are: "Four Reasons: for Jazz soloist and Symphony Orchestra" which was commissioned by the SBS Youth Orchestra and performed by James Morrison as featured soloist, "Two Minds, One Music" which was written for orchestra and jazz orchestra and "Unity" which was written for multiple soloists and orchestra. In addition to these major works Judy was also commissioned by Chamber Music New Zealand to write a work for the NZ Trio which she completed in 2010: "So Many Rivers: piano trio".

As an educator Judy has exerted considerable influence over generations of young musicians. She commenced teaching at the (then) NSW Conservatorium of Music in 1973 when the jazz program was first being implemented and has been continuously involved at the Conservatorium ever since, teaching at both Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels.

In addition to her work at the Conservatorium, Judy has also been active in youth music programs. She was the founding musical director for the Sydney Youth Jazz Ensemble Association and is currently musical director and conductor for the Judy Bailey Jazz Connection Big Band. The personnel in the band are largely drawn from both past and present students of the Sydney Conservatorium Jazz program, and they represent a cross section of the most talented and dedicated young men and women in jazz in Australia. This is in no small part thanks to the dedication and direction that they receive from Judy.

It is important to note that she has also been involved in endeavours that have educated and enhanced the wider community. In 1973 Judy became resident pianist for the ABC radio program Kindergarten, which introduced music in a unique way to many young people. She also introduced 'music and movement' programs to children at several primary schools in the inner west.

Judy is a tireless advocate for women in music and is an active contributor to that cause. One notable example among many is the March 1975 'Baroque to Rock' Concert which was staged at the Canberra Theatre as a centrepiece for Australia's celebration of International Women's Day. Judy was pianist and musical director for this important event. The concert was built around Judy and her quartet plus an all female string orchestra, and featured such notable performers as Marcia Hines and Margaret Roadknight. On three separate occasions Judy's quartet travelled in south east Asia as musical ambassadors for the Australian government on tours organised by Musica Viva.

Judy has received many accolades and awards including the award for "Distinguished Services to Australian Music" at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Australian Classical Music Awards. This represented the first time a jazz musician has received this award.

She was inducted into the Graeme Bell Jazz Hall of Fame, an annual award given by Jazz Australia, in recognition of her long and distinguished career as a jazz performer and artist.

Judy has received the Order of Australia for services to music and education and was chosen as one of Sydney's 'top 100 most influential people' in the Sydney Morning Herald Sydney magazine.

Pro-Chancellor, I present to you Judy Bailey OAM for admission to the degree of Doctor of Music (honoris causa) and I invite you to confer the degree upon her.