



Mr Olivier Messiaen

At a conferring of degrees ceremony held in the Great Hall on 25 May 1988, the honorary degree of Doctor of Music was conferred upon French composer Olivier Messiaen, one of the most important composers of the 20th century.

Report

As part of the French gift of music to Australia for the Bicentenary, in May 1988 Messiaen came to Australia for almost a month, accompanied by his wife, the pianist Yvonne Loriod, and her sister Jeanne, master of the ondes martenot.

Also in the party was the conductor Marc Soustrot and several eminent French instrumentalists who joined the Australian Chamber Orchestra to perform a work inspired by Messiaen's visit to Utah in 1971, *Des Canyons aux Etoiles* (From the Canyons to the Stars).

From 'The Age', 19 August 2008