

CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR K. R. McKINNON, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF ROGER ROBERT WOODWARD TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF CREATIVE ARTS, HONORIS CAUSA, ON 9 OCTOBER 1992.

Chancellor, I present to you Roger Robert Woodward.

Roger Woodward was born just before Christmas in 1942. So, this is his 50th year; a very appropriate time for celebrating achievements.

Roger's formative education was completed at the NSW Conservatorium of Music where he studied piano with Winifred Pope. His other mentors as a young man were the legendary Kenneth Long and Sir Eugene Goosens with whom he studied the layered and precise art of organ and church music.

After graduation from the Conservatorium and then the Sydney Teachers College, Roger Woodward spent a short time as a teacher in the New South Wales Department of Education. In 1964, he won the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition Commonwealth Finals and, by 1965, he was enrolled in postgraduate studies in the Warsaw Academy of Music.

In 1968, he won the 23rd International Chopin Festival in the composer's native Poland. His relationship with the works of Chopin was to be a long and loving one. Twenty years later, he performed Chopin's complete works from memory and his latest recording is devoted to Chopin. Artur Rubinstein has called Roger Woodward "one of the finest Chopin performers....of our time". In 1976 he was appointed a Fellow of the Frederic Chopin Institute, Warsaw.

The two nodes in Roger Woodward's remarkable history as performer and composer could be represented, on one side, by the European classical and romantic tradition and, on the other, by the "new world" of avant garde artists and composers. His devotion to the work of contemporary artists is evident in the list of world premieres he has given to the works of composers like John Cage, Richard Meale, Morton Feldman, Iannis Xenakis and our own Barry Conyngham. In the 1970s, he founded and directed the London Music Digest - the unique music festival series at the Round House, London. The concerts from this celebrated series have been recorded and released internationally by the BBC, EMI and Decca. Woodward's overall recording achievement is currently 30 discs, many of which have received awards.

In 1990, Roger Woodward founded and continues to be the inspiration of the Sydney International Festival of New Music. This unique showcase for new Australian work is typical of Woodward's commitment to heightening awareness of the quality of Australian composing and performance. As well as being an international figure, he is a genuine Australian patriot. No cultural critic for him!

Roger Woodward's career demonstrates the wonderful variety in the musical continuum and his great ability to appreciate it and to use so many of its forms. He has performed in nine seasons of the London Proms and has been acclaimed for his interpretation of the full cycle of Beethoven's thirty-two piano sonatas and five piano concertos. He has also worked with Frank Zappa and has frequently collaborated with great jazz artists like Cecil Taylor. Back in Sydney in 1988 he directed a specially collected 23 piece orchestra for the ballet "Kraanerg" composed by Iannis Xenakis and performed by Graeme Murphy and the Sydney Dance Company. That orchestra has remained together under Roger's artistic direction as the Alpha Centauri Ensemble which has received outstanding reviews internationally for its recordings and performances.

As a pianist, Roger Woodward has earned the accolades of the famous. Sir Yehudi Menuhin remarked that "magical sounds came from every part of the instrument". As a composer, he has received the honour of being commissioned to write a celebratory work for the Bicentennial of the French Revolution.

Awarded an OBE in 1980, Roger Woodward was this year admitted as a Companion of the Order of Australia. The University is very proud today to make its own special award and to welcome him into its community. He has given us the pleasure of hearing him play in Wollongong on a number of occasions and recently in our new Hope Theatre. He has also taken a keen interest in our School of Creative Arts.

We honour Roger Woodward as a person who has scaled the heights of excellence and stands now as an example for others to emulate. He has done this with passionate commitment and unswerving dedication. Impresarios occasionally accuse him of temperament, but none of apathy or lack of zest for

Amidst his hectic schedule, he finds time each year to tour dozens of Australian country towns giving concerts and gratis workshops and masterclasses. A complex and talented man who has been called a genius, Woodward has retained the enthusiasm to teach and the desire to learn. These qualities are cherished and applauded in this, as in any, university.

Chancellor, in acknowledgement of his international musical accomplishments, his outstanding work in the development of new Australian artists and in bringing the highest standards of music to a wide cross-section of Australians, I present to you Roger Robert Woodward for the award of Doctor of Creative Arts Honoris Causa.