

AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MUSIC

CITATION

Sir Alan Charles Maclaurin Mackerras

Born in 1925 and educated at the Sydney Conservatorium, of Music and the Prague Academy of Music, Charles Mackerras was principal oboe in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra before launching on a major conducting career in Europe in 1947. A conductor of great colour and flair, he achieved early acclaim for his interpretations of operas by Puccini, Verdi and Mozart. He has always shown an uncommonly learned concern for the interpretative style and textual accuracy in the works he was to perform. He edited Handel and Janáček works for performance, and he made many pioneering recordings, including those of Handel oratorios and rare works of Cavaleri. His 1965 version of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* at Sadlers Wells was a major force in the development of the authentic performance practice movement.

He has appeared as conductor at Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, the Paris Opera, the Australian Opera, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, with many other major orchestras and most major opera companies throughout the world. He has been musical director of the Welsh National Opera and the English National Opera, Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Chief Guest Conductor of the BBC Symphony, and First Conductor of the Hamburg State Opera and Principal Guest Conductor of the San Francisco Opera.

For his outstanding contribution to music as a conductor, particularly in the revival and performance of neglected operatic repertoire. I present Charles Mackerras, Commander of the British Empire, Knight Bachelor, Fellow of the Royal College of Music, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, Doctor of Music of the University of Hull and Doctor of Music of the University of Nottingham. for admission to the degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*