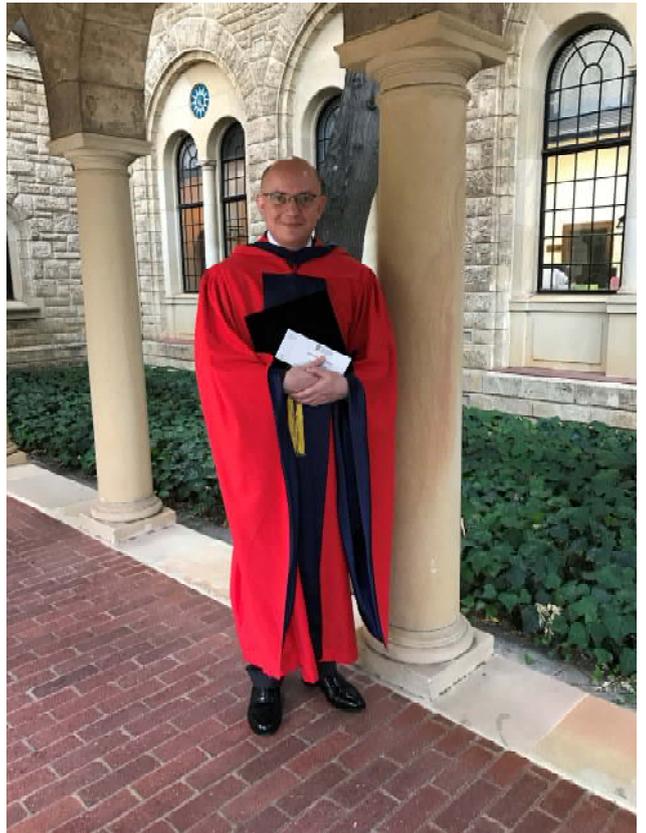


## Joseph Nolan awarded Doctor of Letters

The Doctor of Letters degree is awarded by the University of Western Australia “...to a candidate whose submitted body of work makes a substantial and distinguished contribution to the subject area.” The candidate must also have a connection to UWA; in this Joseph has a long standing as an Honorary Research Fellow of the Conservatorium of Music at UWA.

We at the Conservatorium are delighted that this was awarded to Joseph, whose contribution to the field is considerable, and whose impact on the Musical Life of Western Australia has been equally outstanding.

The works submitted by Dr. Nolan for examination were a commercially released recording of the Organ Symphonies of Charles Marie Widor, recorded in Paris and Lyon, using a new critical edition by Dr John Near. This set is titled **The complete organ works of Charles Marie Widor Joseph Nolan** and is released from Signum Records United Kingdom.



The published critical reaction to these recordings has been unanimous, worldwide, in its praise in the pursuit of this ideal in recreating historically informed performances that fully capture Widor’s symphonic sense of scale and arc. The disks have won innumerable five star reviews, and Editor’s Choices in Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine and Limelight Magazine.

Combining these new critical editions with recordings that utilise the very organs and churches that Widor would have played, Dr Nolan has sought to use this new research to recreate, as closely as is possible, Widor’s historical performance practice to life on record.

These recordings are published by Signum Records UK, winners of the Gramophone Label of the Year at the 2017 Classical Music Awards, and are amongst the most praised recordings ever released for organ.

Gramophone and The Australian newspaper have hailed the recordings as ‘utterly authoritative’ and MusicWeb International ‘as the best set available’. Very notably Gramophone awarded the final disc in the cycle a Critics Choice 2017.

The disks have been broadcast worldwide, with BBC Radio 3 Record Review hailing the cycle as ‘Magnificent’.

A truly profound set of recordings that will impact the place of the Widor Symphonies in the canon of organ music for generations.

*Professor Alan Lourens, FRSA, D.Mus, M.Mus, PerfCert (Indiana) BEd (WACAE)  
Head, Conservatorium of Music  
The University of Western Australia*