

Chancellor,

It is my great honour to present Mrs Nora Lewis AM, who has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*.

Mrs Lewis is one of Northern Australia's most respected leaders in music education and community music-making, with a career spanning more than four decades.

After completing degrees in music and teaching in New Zealand, she moved to Darwin in 1978 to teach music at high school level. After hours, she formed an acapella chamber choir – the Orlando Singers – then the Darwin Concert Band, which grew to 50 students and adults.

Mrs Lewis went on to hold senior leadership roles with the Northern Territory Department of Education, including as Senior Education Officer for Music, and later as Principal of the Northern Territory Music School from 1994 to 2010.

In these positions, she shaped music education across the Territory, providing instrumental and choral tuition, professional development for teachers, and outreach to remote Indigenous

communities.

Beyond schools, Mrs Lewis has been central to the cultural life of the Northern Territory. She has had several commissioned compositions performed in Darwin for both choral and instrumental ensembles. As Music Director of the Darwin Chorale for more than two decades, and now as Conductor Emeritus, she has led countless performances - from major concerts to civic ceremonies such as Anzac Day, Australia Day citizenship events, and the annual Bombing of Darwin commemoration. She has also nurtured generations of young singers through youth choirs, fostering both technical skill and a lifelong love of music.

Her influence extends internationally, including through choral exchanges with Timor-Leste, reflecting her belief in music as a bridge for understanding across cultures.

In recognition of her service, Mrs Lewis was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2011, and has received numerous awards for her leadership and contribution to music and education.

Chancellor,

In recognition of her significant contributions to music education, community engagement and cultural life in the Northern Territory, Charles Darwin University Council awards Nora Lewis AM an Honorary Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*.