At a conferring of degrees ceremony held in 1989, the honorary degree of Doctor of Music was conferred upon Gerald (Alfred) English.

Mr English, a tenor and head of the opera school in the Victorian College of the Arts, moved to Sydney from England in 1975 and had several posts as a singing and opera teacher in Australian institutions. His association with the University of Sydney included singing with the Pro Musica Orchestra, the Sydney University Chamber Choir and the Renaissance Players; giving solo recitals, tutorials and master classes; and participating in productions, e.g. Idomineo.