



Jul 09, 2014 00:00 BST

AC/DC rock singer becomes Doctor of Music

Legendary lead singer of AC/DC, Brian Johnson, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Music by Northumbria University today (Wednesday 9 July).



[Watch video on YouTube here](#)

The honorary degree recognises the significant contribution he has made to the music industry as lead singer of one of the world's most successful rock bands for the past three decades.

The singer with one of the rock world's most instantly recognisable voices was born along the river from the University at Dunston and performed with a series of bands before finding Top 20 success with Geordie during the Glam Rock era of the 1970s.

Brian joined AC/DC in 1980 as lead vocalist and his first album with the group, Back in Black, is one of the most successful albums of all time, selling over 22 million copies in the US alone.

AC/DC have sold an estimated 200 million albums worldwide and their most recent tour, "Black Ice" is claimed to be the fourth highest grossing concert tour of all time.

AC/DC's enduring excellence was recognised last year by The Recording Academy, when they inducted the group's 1980's hit Back in Black into the GRAMMY Hall of Fame, taking its place alongside recordings that have inspired and influenced fans and music makers for generations.

One of Brian's heroes is WO Bentley, founder of the eponymous motor company whose vision was "To build a fast car, a good car, the best in its class". As a self-styled "incurable, certifiable petrolhead" Brian shares the

same appreciation of and passion for excellent design and engineering, and so he received his degree alongside students from Northumbria's Engineering and Environment programmes.

Professor Andrew Wathey, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Northumbria University, said: "It is fitting that we honour one of the most distinctive voices in rock music, who is also a native of the North East.

"Northumbria University has a strong tradition of partnership working in the region's cultural and creative sectors, and our Students' Union has long been a focus for key bands who have gone on to achieve worldwide success.

"It is interesting to reflect on the importance of culture to collective life of the North East and of the cultural industries as a major UK export: Brian Johnson symbolises both of these things and, moreover, has been an inspiration to generations of young musicians over several decades."

The recipients of honorary degrees are nominated by the University's staff for their achievements, their links to the University – and for their sheer inspirational qualities. Vera Baird QC and Baroness Howells of St Davids, OBE are also receiving honorary degrees from Northumbria University this month.



[Watch video on YouTube here](#)

Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focussed, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. To find out more about our

courses go to www.northumbria.ac.uk

If you have a media enquiry please contact our Media and Communications team at media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk or call [0191 227 4571](tel:01912274571).

Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact
PR and Media Manager
Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences
rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk
07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact
PR and Media Manager
Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences
andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk
07708 509436



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact
PR and Media Manager
rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk
07377422415



James Fox

Press Contact
Student Communications Manager
james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk