

11 January 2012

VIVA ITALIA! ITALY'S LEGENDARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE COMES TO QPAC

Italy's famous baroque string ensemble, **I Musici**, will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its foundation and debut at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC's) Concert Hall, for one night only, on Thursday 23 February.

From the ensemble's first performance in 1952, **I Musici** broke all the rules, playing baroque concerti with a tight-knit ensemble of just twelve players and no conductor. Its exemplary style, celebrated energy, discipline and spontaneity was noted by the great Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini who, after hearing **I Musici** perform labelled the group "twelve individual instrumental masters, and together the finest chamber orchestra in the world".

I Musici was the first chamber group to record Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, introducing Italian 18th Century music to the world. The recording sold more than 25 million copies to become one of the most famous compositions in classical music.

Since this historic first recording, **I Musici's** disc production has won numerous awards including: the Grand Prix de l'Academie Charles Cros, Grand Prix International du Disque, the Edison Award, Deutsche Schallplattenpreis and the Grand Prix des Discophiles, with their production of the *Four Seasons* by Vivaldi winning the Platinum Disc with inset diamond.

Many important compositions have been dedicated to the ensemble by composers such as Nino Rota, Valentino Bucchi, Louis Bacalov and Ennio Morricone.

With critically acclaimed performances at Carnegie Hall, the Musikverein in Vienna and the Philharmonie in Berlin, QPAC is thrilled to welcome **I Musici** to the Concert Hall stage as they pay homage to their musical heritage performing works by Italian masters **Rossini**, **Donizetti** and **Paganini**.

The evening will culminate with a performance of **I Musici's** historic and superlative interpretation of **Vivaldi's** magnificent *Four Seasons*; unmatched for its vigour, dynamism, sensitivity and sheer muscular energy.

Don't miss your chance to see Italy's oldest continuously active chamber ensemble, live on stage for one night only. Help us celebrate with **I Musici** 60 years of vibrant and virtuosic music-making.

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Program

Rossini

Sonata a quattro n.1 in G major

Une Larme - Theme and variations for cello and strings

Soloist: **Pietro Bosna**, cello

Paganini

Il Mosè - Theme and variations on the 4th string, for violin and strings

Soloist: **Ettore Pellegrino**, violin

Donizetti

Allegro in Do Magg. per archi

Vivaldi

The Four Seasons

Soloist: **Antonio Anselmi**, violin

QPAC presents

I Musici

Viva Italia 60th Anniversary Tour

When: Thursday 23 February 2012

Where: Concert Hall, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank

Tickets: \$59 to \$109

Booking: www.qpac.com.au or call 136 246

*Ticket price includes GST and Booking Fee. Please note transaction fees will apply

For further media information, interviews and images for Brisbane performance please contact: Cindy Ullrich, Publicity Manager, QPAC ~ 07 3840 7589 ~ cindy.ullrich@qpac.com.au or Inga Tracey, Publicity Coordinator, QPAC ~ 07 3840 7948 ~ inga.tracey@qpac.com.au