

03 March 2010

## **Australian Exclusive The Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Joshua Bell**

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) announces two Australian exclusive performances by **The Academy of St Martin in the Fields** on **19 and 20 June**.

One of the world's most revered chamber orchestras, The Academy of St Martin in the Fields will be joined by **Joshua Bell** –one of the finest violinists of his generation, for two programmes of outstanding music, in QPAC's Concert Hall.

QPAC Chief Executive John Kotzas said QPAC was the only venue in Australia to be presenting the prestigious and internationally acclaimed orchestra, Academy of St Martins in the Field and violinist, Joshua Bell.

"The concerts will be a highlight of the rich program of contemporary and classical live performance on offer as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said Kotzas.

Founded in 1958 by Sir Neville Marriner, The Academy of St Martin in the Fields, was formed from a group of leading London musicians working without a conductor. At the time Marriner stated that the Academy '*had no intention of giving any concerts or continuing forever*'. 50 years later the Academy is firmly established as one of the great chamber orchestras, known for its superlative performances, award-winning recordings and collaborations with some of the world's most exciting soloists.

For more than two decades, Joshua Bell has enchanted audiences worldwide with his breathtaking virtuosity and tone of rare beauty. Known for his breadth and daring choices of repertoire, Bell has created a richly varied catalogue of over 30 recordings. Bell holds a Gramophone Award, a Grammy Award, the prestigious Mercury Music Prize and the 2008 Academy of Achievement Award for exceptional accomplishment in the arts.

Bell has been profiled in publications ranging from USA Today, Newsweek and Gramophone and was featured as one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People, adding to his status as a classical music superstar.

*Bell turns the clock back to an older, more romantic era. He sings with his violin in a rounded, golden tone. Behind him is the plump presence of 18 string players from the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, playing as if the "authentic" movement had never happened. The Academy members prove more than polished antiques. Their plucked strings are an ear-tingling joy; and though they're heavy in sound, they can move nimbly when asked."*

**Geoff Brown, The Times**

*"...the playing, from both soloist and orchestra, is full of verve without succumbing to mania. A musical intelligence, a maturity, always governs this playing. [The Four Seasons] is really a masterpiece — and Mr. Bell and the Academy remind us of that, which is high praise. And there are few recordings of the work as good as this one."*

**Jay Nordlinger, New York Sun**

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*"Bell is one of the more consistently tasteful, sensitive, anti-self-indulgent violin virtuosos on the scene today, and as such he delivers these inherently flashy concertos with a refreshingly straightforward approach that scorches and sizzles without ever falling prey to pyrotechnic vulgarity. Bell and his first-rate partners--bravo to harpsichordist John Constable!--just make beautiful music out of Vivaldi's conceptions, and their efforts are as gripping as we expect from musicians of this caliber."*

**David Vernier, Classics Today**

*"Joshua Bell and The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields have gone beyond making just one more version of what may be the most recorded set of concertos in history. Their performance is very personal. You can hear the special connection between soloist and ensemble. The emotions feel stronger, and there's a sense of playfulness that sweeps up the listener and pulls us right into the drama and the fun of "The Four Seasons."*

**Lindsay Kemp, Gramophone Magazine**

*The roar of the applause that filled Davies Symphony Hall at the conclusion of Sunday night's concert had almost physical power, rushing forth like a river that had suddenly been undammed...the audience had just heard the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, led from the concertmaster's chair by violinist Joshua Bell, tear through Mahler's arrangement of Schubert's D-Minor String Quartet, "Death of a Maiden." It was a superb performance--dark, capacious and dramatically urgent...the music emerged with a glorious intensity that never ebbed.*

**The San Francisco Chronicle**

*Joshua Bell, without a doubt the violinist of the century...a modern Paganini, bewitched the audience with the Chaconne, which sounds as if it were being played on a multitude of instruments simultaneously, not just one. The remarkable dark penetrating tone of the low register had immediacy and warmth, and the upper registers couldn't have been sweeter and fuller. Bell played the incredibly intricate work with consummate control and no caution--he made it entirely his own.*

**Evansville Courier & Press**

## **QPAC Presents**

### **The Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Joshua Bell (Violin)**

#### **PROGRAM**

##### **Sat 19 June, 8pm**

Short Opener TBA (6')

Beethoven Violin Concerto in D, Op 61 (42')

Beethoven Symphony No 4 in B flat, Op 60 (34')

##### **Sun 20<sup>th</sup> June, 3pm**

Beethoven Coriolan Overture, Op 62 (8')

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, Op 64 (26')

Beethoven Symphony No 7 in A, Op 92 (36')

#### **WHERE**

Concert Hall, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank

#### **TICKETS**

Premium Reserve \$179.50

A Reserve Adult \$149.50

A Reserve Conc \$139.50

B Reserve Adult \$119.50

B Reserve Conc \$109.50

#### **BOOKINGS**

[www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au) or 136 246

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