

MEDIA RELEASE

## Niseko Winter Music Festival

ACO's Festival in Japan's Premier Ski Village  
12 – 14 January, 2013



*"Richard Tognetti is one of the most characterful, incisive and impassioned violinists to be heard today."*  
**The Daily Telegraph, UK**

*"If there's a better chamber orchestra in the world today, I haven't heard it."* **The Guardian**

In 2010, **Richard Tognetti**, Artistic Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and roving international festival director, created a music festival in Niseko, renowned as one of the world's lightest and driest powder skiing destinations. Each year since then, the three-day Niseko Winter Music Festival has perfectly combined Tognetti's love of eclectic programming, curating festivals in off-the-beaten-track locales, and skiing.

In January 2013, Tognetti and members of the ACO return for another series of evening concerts in intimate venues surrounding the Niseko Ski Fields. Tognetti has curated three programs that range from the beauty of Mozart to a dazzling concert of duelling strings and an unlikely combination of classics and edgy contemporary works.

Adventurous young Japanese guitarist **Yasuji Ohagi**, who wowed audiences when he appeared with the ACO at the 2012 Niseko festival, joins the orchestra again to perform works by Piazzola, among others.

### **Romance and drama**

In the first concert, Richard Tognetti takes centre stage to perform a special arrangement of Mozart's Violin Concerto No.3 and a movement from Vivaldi's enchanting *The Four Seasons*. International critics have hailed Richard's Mozart recordings as some of the best around, so the opportunity to hear him perform one of Mozart's theatrical violin concertos is not to be missed.

Musicians from "the finest string ensemble on the planet" (*The Telegraph, UK*) also perform a movement from Schubert's dramatic *Death and the Maiden* quartet and a suite of balletic music from their recent ground-breaking collaboration with Sydney Dance Company, *Project Rameau*.

### **Bach meets Bowie**

Renowned for the breadth of its programming, the ACO brings to Niseko an eclectic, genre-bending performance that interweaves music by Bach, Ravel and Shostakovich with exotic Middle Eastern folk, American pop, music from 1920s Berlin and an edgy selection of works written by Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood.

ACO violinist and singer **Satu Vänskä** sings tunes by David Bowie, Pete Seeger and a cabaret number made famous by Marlene Dietrich. Magnetic Egyptian-born musician **Joseph Tawadros** thrills in his exotic fast-paced works.

### **Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky**

ACO's virtuosic musicians spar with one another in dazzling Vivaldi concertos written for two soloists. Richard Tognetti and Satu Vänskä go head-to-head in Vivaldi's concerto for two violins, performing this luscious Baroque work on rare and precious instruments handcrafted in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Italy.

Then cellists **Julian Thompson** and **Sharon Draper** step into the spotlight for a dynamic display of technique in Vivaldi's concerto for two cellos.

Joseph Tawadros performs an original work for oud, and Richard stars in a violin concerto from Vivaldi's enchanting *The Four Seasons*.

The program concludes with a movement from Tchaikovsky's exuberant *Souvenir de Florence*. "The ACO ... set the audience in a spin with its heady version of Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. Richard Tognetti was intent on making the most of the Russian nostalgia, romancing his violins, sending the audience into a clapping frenzy." (*Herald Sun*)

#### **PERFORMANCES & REPERTOIRE**

**Saturday, 12 January – Hanazono 308**

**MOZART** Violin Concerto No.3

**VIVALDI** *The Four Seasons*, Summer: Presto

**SCHUBERT** String Quartet No.14, "Death and the Maiden": Presto

**BACH** Gavotte en rondeau

and works by **RAMEAU**, **SCHUBERT** and **BARTÓK**

**Richard Tognetti** Director and Violin

**Yasuji Ohagi** Guitar

**Sunday, 13 January – Grand Hirafu**

**DAVID BOWIE** *The Man Who Sold The World*

**BACH** Sonata No.1 in G minor BWV1001: Fugue

**PETE SEEGER** *Where Have All The Flowers Gone*

**SHOSTAKOVICH** Chamber Symphony Op.110a: Allegro molto

**HOLLÄNDER** *Wenn ich mir was wünschen dürfte*

And works by **RAVEL**, **WEBERN**, **GREENWOOD** and **TAWADROS**

**Richard Tognetti** Director and Violin

**Satu Vänskä** Violin and Vocals

**Yasuji Ohagi** Guitar

**Joseph Tawadros** Oud

**Monday, 14 January – Hilton Niseko Village**

**VIVALDI** Concerto for 2 Violins in A minor RV522

**VIVALDI** Concerto for 2 Cellos in G minor RV531

**VIVALDI** La verità in cimento: Sinfonia

**VIVALDI** *The Four Seasons*, Autumn

**TCHAIKOVSKY** *Souvenir de Florence*: final movement

**GABRIELI** Canzona for double string orchestra

**TAWADROS** Solo oud works

**Richard Tognetti** Director and Violin

**Satu Vänskä** Violin and Vocals

**Julian Thompson** Cello

**Sharon Draper** Cello

**Yasuji Ohagi** Guitar

**Joseph Tawadros** Oud