

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Wagga Wagga



November 2009

January comes alive with the 'Sounds of Summer'

Music lovers will be in for a treat when leading Australian musicians travel to Wagga Wagga to perform in the Sounds of Summer Concert Series from the 10th – 16th January 2010. Throughout the week, the renowned performers will take to the stage to entertain audiences with a variety of classical works by composers such as Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart, Brahms and Walton. Thursday evening's concert will feature our tango expert Maggie Ferguson, playing Banboneon with other tutors supporting her on piano, violin and double bass.

President of the Riverina Summer School for Strings, Jeff Donovan says the concert series has built up a strong following as music enthusiasts travel from around the region and beyond to enjoy the classical experience.

"We have 18 of Australia's finest string musicians coming to Wagga Wagga to perform high quality chamber and tango music throughout the week. It's a unique opportunity to hear such music performed by highly skilled musicians in a regional area," Mr Donovan said.

This year will see the return of many well-known regulars as well as some new performers. Among the performers to take the stage will be music director **Carl Pini**, the highly acclaimed violinist and former concert master of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Melbourne Symphony; **Sun Yi** who is currently the Associate Concertmaster of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra; and **Rohan de Korte** who is the former principal cello with Australian Youth Orchestra and has performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra.

"In metropolitan areas, the audience would pay around \$60 a ticket and would be seated quite a distance from the musicians for a concert featuring performers of this calibre. At our Sounds of Summer Concert Series, tickets are only \$20 per person with the close seating in our venue at Joyes Hall providing a much more intimate experience. Series tickets are also available for \$70 per person.

"It's not easy to get this number of high level performers together and this concert series is a fantastic opportunity for classical music enthusiasts to come along and enjoy the exceptional program that will be on offer," Mr Donovan said.

The Sounds of Summer Concert Series began 24 years ago and is run in conjunction with the Riverina Summer School for Strings. The concert performers work as tutors at

the school during the day and pass on their advice, skills and experience to more than one hundred string players from regional and metropolitan areas.

The Sounds of Summer Concert Series runs from the 10th – 16th January 2010 at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. More information is available under 'Concerts' on the Riverina Summer School for Strings website at www.summerstrings.com.au. Tickets will be on sale from December at *Allison Music* located at 114 Baylis St Wagga Wagga, by phone on 69212696, or at the door.

Find out more by phoning the Visitor Information Centre on 1300-100-122 or visit: www.visitwagga.com.au.

Interviews/photographs

*Wagga Wagga City Council Manager Tourism: Sally Nolan, (02) 6926-9620, 0418-218-587.
All other queries: Kate Bright, 0427-728-245*