



MEDIA RELEASE
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NEAL AND DANNY ARE BACH WITH SPELLBINDING CD

When it comes to Johann Sebastian Bach, few musicians in the world play his sonatas better than **Neal Peres Da Costa** and **Daniel Yeadon**.

The pair proved that last year when they joined with Con alumnus and Australian Living Treasure **Richard Tognetti** to produce the Aria Award-winning album, *Bach Sonatas for Violin and Keyboard*.

The Baroque masters' affinity is again to the fore with their new CD homage to Bach's three sonatas for gamba and harpsichord.

Released by **ABC Classics**, the CD features the slow movement of the third sonata – music known broadly as a result of the hit movie "Truly, Madly, Deeply" starring Alan Rickman and Juliet Stevenson.

According to a reviewer "These inspired performances, recorded with extraordinary aural quality during sessions of almost mystical intensity, traverse an emotional range that leaves the listener spellbound."

"Our journey with these extraordinary works started many years ago when Danny decided to take up the bass viol, also known as the viola da gamba. It is likely that the viol developed during the 15th century in Spain out of the vihuela or guitar, rather than the violin family," comments Neal.

"The viol's heyday was roughly between the 16th and the early 18th century and it was revered throughout Europe. By Bach's era (1685-1750) the viol's popularity had waned somewhat, but he certainly loved and exploited it not only in these sonatas, but also in a host of other works including the *St John* and *St Matthew Passions* and various cantatas."

Peres Da Costa and Yeadon were part of a "team" of faculty and students from The Con which played in Musicathlon, the pre-Olympic Games cultural festival in Beijing last July.

Peres Da Costa is Chair and Senior Lecturer at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he teaches early keyboards, directs the Conservatorium Early Music Ensemble and lectures in the area of historical performance.

He is a performing scholar who has given concerts around the world with distinguished soloists and ensembles. He is currently revising his doctoral thesis for publication by Oxford University Press as a performing-practice text on Romantic piano playing.

Yeadon, a lecturer at The Con in early music, has a worldwide career as a cellist and viola da gamba player; his repertoire ranges from renaissance to contemporary. He has a regular association with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Pinchgut Opera and ABC Classics.

He continues to be guest principal cellist and viola da gamba player with many of the period instrument ensembles based in London, including the English Baroque Soloists and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

"Neal and Danny are two of the leading international exponents of Bach's music and bring a vitality, a quickening to every situation, whether performing or teaching. We are very lucky they are involved at the Conservatorium and have brought forward a wonderful and evolving Early Music Program," said the Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor Kim Walker.

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