



MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2009

RICHARD IS A FRIEND INDEED OF THE CON – AND FUTURE MUSICIANS

Internationally renowned violinist and conductor Richard Tognetti has been named the inaugural *Friend of The Con*, broadening his commitment to furthering the development of Australia's next generation of musicians.

Tognetti, three time Aria Award winner and longtime Artistic Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, said he was "thrilled" with the honour and looked forward to continuing his spirited support of the The Con's leadership in performing arts education.

"As a proud Alumnus of the Sydney Conservatorium I'm already a friend, but if in being inducted into this new program means assisting the creative energy of music students, then I'm all for it," said Richard.

"The Con has been acknowledged as a member of the top 10 music conservatoriums in the world, and like all people who support excellence in music making and music education, that is an achievement that I, of course, want to help maintain."

Announcing the introduction of the Friends of The Con program as part of the Conservatorium's public Open Day this Sunday, the Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor Kim Walker, said:

"The initiative aims to bring together people from all walks of life who value music and its benefits and seek to learn more through gatherings, concerts masterclasses and lectures as well as direct interface with many of Sydney's superstars of performance, composition and conducting and the nation's next generation of artists.

"Richard's acceptance as the inaugural Friend is a wonderful start to the program and augurs well for its growth and outcomes in the years ahead.

"Sir Charles Mackerras, Dr Roger Woodward and Dame Janet Ritterman, all Alumnus, are to be included in the next round of inductions for the Friends program."

Professor Walker said Sunday's Open Day would be paying special homage to the scores of students and scholars who have passed through The Con's doors and gone onto to achieve national and international status in their fields.

Twenty four Alumnus are being highlighted on the day as representatives of a pantheon of highly acclaimed performers and teachers. They are:

Jeremy Barnett, Richard Bonyng, Claire Edwardes, Amelia Farrugia, Joan Foreman, David Hansen, Daniel Herscovitch, Matthew Hindson, Elena Kats-Chernin, Hakuei Kim, Christina Leonard, Kevin Man, Dominica Matthews, Matthew McDonald, Matt McMahon, James Morrison, Guy Noble, Neal Peres da Costa, Damien Ricketson, Barry Ryan, Richard Tognetti, Caroline Wenborne, Roger Woodward and Simone Young.





SYDNEY
CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC

“The connectivity between The Con and its Alumni is extremely important and integral to nurturing excellence,” said Professor Walker.

“The depth of talent that has emerged from this institution over many decades is truly amazing. Their achievements inspire and resonate.

“Our tribute on Sunday is a small way of saying we savour the impacts they have had, and go on having, and that we value their continued contribution to the world of music and their support of The Con.”

Media inquiries to Scott Saunders, at The Con, on 02 9351 1298, or Graham Cassidy, Cato Counsel, 0419 202317

