



Media Release
September 1, 2014

Australian String Quartet set to take the sounds of Australia to China

The Australian String Quartet (ASQ) will embark on a fourteen-day tour of China on September 10 promoting the quality and excellence of Australian chamber music.

Partnering with Rio Tinto and the University of Adelaide, the Quartet will present musical performances and masterclasses in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenyang.

The ASQ's fourth foray to China and the first for the current line-up comprising violinists Kristian Winther and Ioana Tache, violist Stephen King and cellist Sharon Draper, the tour showcases uniquely Australian works, including Stephen Whittington's *Windmill* and the late Peter Sculthorpe's String Quartet no 11, *Jabiru Dreaming*.

As a national chamber group of excellence, the ASQ strives to be international ambassadors for the quality of Australian music making and to promote Australian composition abroad. The Quartet's forthcoming China tour marks the beginning of broader commitment to build key partnerships in China.

In conjunction with the University of Adelaide, the Quartet will deliver masterclasses and mentoring sessions at two of China's most distinguished music schools, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the Shenyang Conservatory of Music, with the view to establish cultural links for the future.

ASQ Executive Director Angelina Zucco said "audiences in China have an appetite for classical music and are privileged to experience performances from the world's finest musicians".

"The tour will provide an opportunity to showcase the ASQ's fresh and dynamic approach to string quartet playing and the unified sound of its rare set of Guadagnini instruments," Ms Zucco said.

"We look forward to showcasing Australia's cultural excellence and continuing a musical dialogue with our counterparts in China."

The ASQ's China tour commences with a prestigious performance at the Australian Embassy in Beijing, where the Quartet will be joined by leading Australian guitarist, Slava Grigoryan.

About the Australian String Quartet

Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Adelaide, the ASQ was established in 1985 and has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia. The members of the ASQ are privileged to perform on a matched set of Guadagnini instruments. Hand crafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini between c.1743-1784 in Turin and Piacenza, Italy, the instruments are on loan to the Australian String Quartet for their exclusive use through the generosity of Ulrike Klein, Maria Myers and a group of donors who have supported Ngeringa Arts to acquire the viola.

For more information, please visit www.asq.com.au.

Media Contact:

Jeff Smith, 0402 677 389, jeff@jpmedia.com.au