

# Top ten concerts hit all the high notes

By W. L. Hoffmann

**M**y top 10 music performances in Canberra during 2007 would include Richard Tognetti with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. The performance of Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* early in the year that was glowingly expressive, with playing of notable beauty of tone from both soloist and orchestra.

Paul Jacobs, visiting organist from the United States, played a solo recital on the organ at Wesley

Uniting Church which was stunning in its sheer virtuosity while also offering rich musical rewards.

Former Canberra tenor Kent McIntosh, with pianist Andrew Greene, gave a recital for Artsong Canberra titled *Romance in Song* that displayed lieder singing of a high quality, constantly pleasing in its interpretative understanding.

Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, performed by former and current students from the ANU School of Music vocal department, professionally directed and conduc-

ted, was continually enjoyable, highlighted by some notable individual performances.

Cellist David Pereira and pianist Marcela Fiorillo in a duo-recital was the concert of the year, with superb performances in a program that was widely varied in style and content and was a total delight.

Selby and Friends – Chinese-Australian cellist Li-Wei and pianist Kathryn Selby – was a memorable duo-recital distinguished by performances combining arresting vitality and great musicality.

Marcela Fiorillo performed a

notable solo piano recital in which the program was devoted to three of Beethoven's greatest and most demanding piano sonatas, these confidently realised in playing that beautifully matched power of delivery with beauty of expression.

The Canberra Symphony Orchestra played a program *From Russia with Love*, conducted by its new music director Nicholas Milton, which ended with a brilliantly shaped, powerfully realised and constantly exciting performance of Tchaikovsky's *Fifth Symphony*.

The Brentano String Quartet

from the US presented an evening of highly distinguished chamber music at a Musica Viva concert in which the playing was both elegant and passionate, and completely satisfying.

The Oriana Chorale, conducted by former Canberran Tobias Cole, provided a concert of superior unaccompanied choral singing, titled *An Australian Summer*, which most effectively matched music by Australian composers with readings of poems by Australian poets.