

Simon Tedeschi & Nick Parnell – “Virtuosi”



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Two of Australia's most celebrated classical music virtuosos will take to the stage together for the first time during the 2012 Adelaide Fringe Festival.

Sparks will fly as acclaimed pianist Simon Tedeschi joins forces with Adelaide percussionist Nick Parnell in a musical celebration of rhythm, colour and vitality. Blurring the lines between classical and jazz, this spectacular show will include Simon's signature work - Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* - and the dazzling, Brazilian-inspired *Bem-Vindo*.

"This collaboration came about after Simon and I met in Sydney more than a year ago. It wasn't long before we realised that we both have a passion for not only classical music, but for jazz as well," Nick explains. "We decided it would be fun to play music together because we both share the same sense of adventure in exploring different styles of music. It's going to be exciting to see what happens in the performance!"

Virtuosi will be the very first time Nick and Simon have collaborated on stage and the performance is set to be explosive! Both artists have recently returned from extended overseas performances tours. Nick is fresh from a performance and research tour of the USA, France and the UK after winning the prestigious "Dame Roma Churchill Fellowship". Simon just recently got back to Australia after spending some time living and performing in the USA.

"Nick Parnell is a complete and utter star. A brilliant and beautiful performer."

Emma Ayres, ABC Radio Classic Breakfast, Australia

"Tedeschi's technique is impressive, and his whole manner shows maturity beyond his years."

Lawrie Strachan, *The Australian*

Simon Tedeschi & Nick Parnell – "Virtuosi"

Elder Hall

7:30pm, Saturday 10 March 2012

Visit www.nickparnell.com for more info.

Tickets via Fringe Tix – www.adelaidefringe.com.au

MEDIA: For interviews and images please contact Chris Bull on 8463 5015



Simon Tedeschi - Piano

Described by pianist Leslie Howard as one of the finest musicians of his generation worldwide, Simon Tedeschi was named the Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year performing Ginastera's *Piano Concerto No 1* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Tedeschi was the subject of an ABC documentary, *Australian Story*, screened nationally in 1999. He released his debut album in May 2000 under the Sony Classical label, and was subsequently nominated for a MO Award as Classical Performer of the Year and for an ARIA award – Classical Record of the Year.

Tedeschi is currently based in the USA and, in July 2007, was awarded the 'Young Jewish Pianist' Award from the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. He returned to Australia to tour with flautist Jane Rutter through Musica Viva, record Mozart's Piano Concerto K488 with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Briger and for performances of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with The Queensland Orchestra.

Nick Parnell – Vibraphone

Celebrated as one of the most exciting vibes players in the world today, Nick Parnell makes old music new again, injecting energy into a repertoire that might be familiar to some, but definitely inspirational to all. With a spirit of recklessness, Parnell takes one of the newest of classical instruments and gives it a genre-bending makeover.

Born in the Australian outback town of Orroroo, Parnell began teaching himself drums in his parents' sheep shearing shed at the age of ten. Such humble beginnings ignited a passion in Parnell that has led to accolades including first place in the International Melbourne Percussion Competition in 2001, a Centenary of Federation Medal awarded by the Australian Government (for contribution to the arts) in 2003 and the Dame Roma Mitchell Churchill Fellowship in 2011.

Parnell underwent formal training at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide, where he completed his PhD. During this period he also studied and undertook master-classes with many of world's great percussionists including Uffe Savary from the famed Safri Duo, Evelyn Glennie and Gary Burton.

Parnell continues to strengthen his performing skills with a cache of international ensembles – including the English National Ballet, Russian Ballet Company, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Australian String Quartet. He has appeared at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Sydney's City Recital Hall, and was the first solo percussionist to play in the Art Gallery of NSW's prestigious *Resonate* concert series.