

# Passionate pieces to thrill in any language



**MUSICAL JOURNEY:** Hungarian soprano Judit Molnar and conductor Richard Mills with Canberra Symphony Orchestra trombonist Clayton Fiender and violist Elizabeth Chalker on the lawns at Government House gardens in Yarralumla. The orchestra is hosting a concert with the Hungarian embassy tomorrow night. Photo: LUKAS COCH



## By Jacqueline Williams

Contrasting music will resound from the grounds of Government House tomorrow as conductor Richards Mills waves his baton to epitomise the fiery music of Hungary.

Canberra Symphony Orchestra's first performance of the year, prom concert *Hungarian Rhapsody*, celebrates the universal language of music.

Orchestra spokeswoman Sarah Kimball said music was about sharing cultures.

"It's accessible to everybody whether you speak the language or not, because you can hear the music and appreciate it," she said.

"The surprising thing about a lot of this music is that it is more commonly played than you might think."

Guest conductor Mills described Hungarian music as passionate and evocative, which was often loud and soft, fast and slow.

"It's got a lot of personality," he said.

"It's very fiery and great fun."

Mills said 2010 marked 200 years since the birth of Hungarian composer Franz Liszt and his work *Hungarian Rhapsody* would be a highlight of the concert.

Johannes Brahms' *Hungarian Dances*, Franz Lehar's *Gold and Silver Waltz* and Vittorio Monti's *Czardas* are also on the concert program.

Mills has been involved in Australian music for four decades and has been an opera

conductor for the past 20 years. Orchestra chief executive officer Henry Laska said it was an honour to have Mills as guest conductor.

The composer is artistic director of the West Australian opera and artistic consultant with Orchestra Victoria.

He has also written three operas, which have had multiple seasons throughout Australia.

"His artistic talents will bring something very special to the concert," Mr Laska said.

Soloists performing at the concert are Hungarian soprano Judit Molnar and violinist Xenia Deviatkina-Loh.

Molnar has returned to Canberra after a recital at the 14th Australian-Hungarian Cultural Convention.

She has performed as a soloist in Hungary and across Europe many times since graduating as an opera singer from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in 2008.

More than 4000 people are expected at tomorrow's concert.

Ms Kimball said, "We are all set to put on a wonderful *Hungarian Rhapsody* unless we experience a major deluge."

Of the 29 CSO Government House Proms, two have been cancelled because of rain.

■ Canberra Symphony Orchestra 2011 Prom: *Hungarian Rhapsody* is at Government House Gardens tomorrow at 5pm.

Website [www.cso.org.au](http://www.cso.org.au) will feature up-to-date weather announcements.