



Solti Academy alumni give concert

Ten alumni of the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto, based in Castiglione della Pescaia, Tuscany, will demonstrate their command of Italian repertoire at the Wigmore Hall on 20 January in a 'celebration' of Georg Solti, who died just over ten years ago, in September 1997. Each of the singers is of a different nationality; among them are the Romanian soprano Eliana Pretorian, currently with Glyndebourne Touring Opera, New Zealand-born soprano Ana James, known to London audiences from the Jette Parker programme at the Royal Opera House, and Mexican tenor Jesús León, an inaugural member of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program at Los Angeles Opera. At the piano will be Jonathan Papp, the

accademia's artistic director.

Castiglione della Pescaia has been part of the Solti life for over 45 years, and was the first home the maestro ever owned. The accademia was established by Papp in 2004 to provide an opportunity for singers of 'full immersion' in Italian life and traditions as well as a course in bel canto technique. Lady Solti said: 'The accademia takes a holistic approach, covering technique, interpretation, presentation and movement. We want the singers to be able to achieve their best, which will enable them to have more to offer in an already overcrowded profession.'

Tickets to the concert cost £10 - £16. To book tel 0207 935 2141 or visit www.wigmore-hall.org.uk