



Natsuko's
\$1.4m gift
has strings

RARE AND PRECIOUS: Adelaide Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Natsuko Yoshimoto is the next custodian of the Guaragnini violin. Picture: CLAUDIO RASCHELLA

REBECCA BAKER

A VIOLIN crafted more than 2½ centuries ago and worth about \$1.4 million will be placed in the hands of Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's lead violinist.

ASO concertmaster Natsuko Yoshimoto has been named the next custodian of the Guaragnini violin.

The rare and important instrument, crafted in Milan between 1753 and 1757, was bought by the people of South Australia in 1955.

The announcement coincides with the renewal of Yoshimoto's contract as concertmaster of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra until the end of 2020.

"The ASO is absolutely thrilled to have secured the services of our much-loved concertmaster, Natsuko Yoshimoto, for another two years," ASO managing director Vincent Ciccarello said.

"We look forward to hearing the influence it has on her own playing and on the sound of the orchestra. Putting such rare and precious instruments in the hands of fine musicians is a wonderful gift."

ASO principal conductor Nicholas Carter agreed, describing Natsuko as one of the finest violinists in Australia.