

# ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



**SEASON 2009**

## ASO MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Adelaide Symphony Orchestra appoints Concertmaster**

The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra has appointed Natsuko Yoshimoto as Concertmaster. One of Australia's most sought after violin virtuosos, Yoshimoto will take up the five year post in time for the orchestra's Santos Symphony under the Stars in January 2009.

ASO Chief Executive Rainer Jozeps said "The Concertmaster is probably the most important position in the orchestra, and for this reason it is often the most difficult to fill. It requires a violinist with a virtuosic playing technique. Just as the captain of a sporting team provides on – field leadership so, too, the Concertmaster provides authority and leadership to all the musicians on the concert stage".

"Natsuko Yoshimoto possesses all of these qualities and will help the ASO realise its full musical potential under the baton of Chief Conductor Arvo Volmer" he said.

Of learning of her successful appointment to the ASO Natsuko Yoshimoto said, "I'm incredibly excited by this new chapter with the ASO. I feel a special affinity with Adelaide audiences, having had the joy of performing for them over the years. I'm pleased that this relationship will continue. I look forward to working with the ASO musicians and Arvo Volmer".

Born in Japan, Natsuko began playing violin at the age of three and won a full scholarship to study at the Yehudi Menuhin School in England when she was eleven. She received direct guidance and teaching under Lord Menuhin and Wen Zhou Li. She continued her studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester with distinction in 1998.

Natsuko has won many supporters in South Australia. Her performances with the Australian String Quartet, of which she is a former member, in addition to her evolving solo career has earned her much respect from audiences and critics alike.

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ASO Chief Conductor Arvo Volmer is very proud and excited by the fact that the ASO has recruited one of the finest violinists in Australia as their new Concertmaster.

“Natsuko Yoshimoto will be a strong asset in our future development as one of Australia's leading orchestras”, Volmer said.

Since the departure of Canadian Terence Tam in December 2007, the ASO has undertaken an extensive national and international search for a Concertmaster. Candidates were required to lead the orchestra in at least one major concert, each then played a recital to a 'closed room' of ASO musicians, and then was interviewed by ASO players and management.

“With Natsuko Yoshimoto as Concertmaster, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra continues to ride the crest of a wave. The future may judge this period as one of the ASO's 'golden era's”, said Rainer Jozeps.

**For further media information, photo opportunities and interviews please contact:  
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