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ITALIAN OFFICIAL VISITS TO ARRANGE
LOAN FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

VERMILLION, SD – Paolo Bodini, a physician and former mayor of Cremona, Italy, met over the weekend with officials at the National Music Museum on the University of South Dakota campus about borrowing some of the NMM's rare violins, violas, and cellos that were built in Cremona in the 16th century by Andrea Amati, whose 500th birthday (1505-2005) is being celebrated this year.

Dr. Bodini is currently serving as President of the Triennale Degli Strumenti ad Arco, an Italian organization that honors the 500-year-old tradition of great violin making for which Cremona is still known today.

According to Arian Sheets, Curator of Stringed Instruments, the NMM has agreed to loan two instruments for the October exhibition in Cremona.

One is a cello, built soon after Andrea Amati established his workshop in Cremona in 1538. It is known as "The King" because the back and sides were decorated later in the century for King Charles IX of France, whose Italian mother, Catherine de Medici, served as regent until Charles was old enough to ascend to the throne in 1562.

The second is a viola that was decorated for an, as yet, unidentified Italian marquis.
As noted by Jayson Dobney, NMM Associate Director, "The King", which is the earliest known surviving cello, "is an icon of Western civilization." As such, it is difficult to expose it to the risks inherent in international travel. However, the NMM also needs to share its treasures with the rest of the world; and, we do so, when we are confident that adequate climate-control and security measures will be in place."

The two instruments, along with other great Italian stringed instruments by Antonio Stradivari, Andrea Guarneri, and three generations of the Amati family, are currently on exhibit in the Rawlins Gallery at the National Music Museum.

The NMM is open daily, Monday-Saturday, 9:00-5:00, and Sunday, 2:00-5:00.

For graphics by email or on disc, contact aplarson@usd.edu.

About the National Music Museum: The National Music Museum and Center for Study of the History of Musical Instruments, located on the campus of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, is one of the great institutions of its kind in the world. Its renowned collections include more than, 10,500 American, European, and non-Western instruments from virtually all cultures and historical periods. Visit www.usd.edu/smm.

About the University of South Dakota: Founded in 1862, The University of South Dakota is designated as the only public liberal arts university in the state and is home to a large College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Education and the state’s only Law School, Medical School, accredited Business School, and College of Fine Arts. It has an enrollment of approximately 8,700 students taught by 400 faculty members. More information is available at www.usd.edu/urelations/news.

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