

Nicola backs Italian scholarship

By **CATRIONA STEWART**

VIOLINIST Nicola Benedetti is backing a scholarship that will help a student further her study of Italian literature.

The Ayrshire-born classical music star, who is proud of her Italian heritage, is a patron of a University of Edinburgh scheme to provide scholarships for postgraduate Italian Studies students.

Susanna Grazzini, from Siena in Italy, is coming to Edinburgh

this month to study the work of the writer Carlo Emilio Gadda.

The Nicola Benedetti Scholarship Fund supports students who otherwise might not have the chance to take part in Italian Studies at Edinburgh.

Susanna, 22, is the fourth student to receive a scholarship.

The University of Siena graduate will collect her scholarship award at a ceremony in the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh on Saturday.

The Traverse event

will also see the award of a £40,000 grant from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland to help set up a research centre – the first of its kind – for the study of Italian migration to Scotland.

The centre, based at the University of Edinburgh, will explore Italian migration to Scotland through projects, including a documentary about the last surviving Scottish-Italians to have lived through the Second World War.



■ Nicola Benedetti is patron of the scheme