

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE ON KIAN SOLTANI - CAREER DETAILS

Kian Soltani (born 3 June 1992) is an Iranian cellist, born in Bregenz to a family of Persian musicians from Iran. He has held the post of principal cellist in Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where he came to prominence performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto on the orchestra's 2015 tour.

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He began playing the cello at the age of four and, at age 12 he began his studies with Ivan Monighetti at Basel Music Academy. He completed his studies as a member of the Young Soloist Programme at the Kronberg Academy in Taunus, Germany, and the International Music Academy in Liechtenstein. He was artist in residence at the Residentie Orchestra in The Hague for the 2018-2019 season, and in 2019 he was the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Artist in Residence - and he also started a multi-year residency with Junge Wilde at Konzerthaus Dortmund from Autumn 2018.

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Soltani has performed as a soloist with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Orchestre de Paris, Oslo Philharmonic, Residentie Orchestra and Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra and at the Salzburg Festival, Lucerne Festival, Aix en Provence Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and the BBC Proms. On 25 August 2018 Soltani performed Meditation No. 3 from "Mass" by Leonard Bernstein as part of the celebration concert in honor of the composer's 100th birthday at the Tanglewood Festival.

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Kian Soltani signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 2017. His debut album Home was released in February 2018, and pairs works by Schubert and Schumann with folk song settings by Reza Vali and Soltani himself.

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Hailed by The Times as a “remarkable cellist” and described by Gramophone as “sheer perfection”, Kian Soltani’s playing is characterised by a depth of expression, sense of individuality and technical mastery, alongside a charismatic stage presence and ability to create an immediate emotional connection with his audience.

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In 2019/20 Soltani makes debuts with orchestras including the Munich Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Filarmonica della Scala, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Hallé, KBS Symphony and Orchestra of the National Centre for the Performing Arts Beijing. Recent orchestral highlights include the Vienna Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Berlin Staatskapelle, Boston Symphony and Tonhalle Orchestras.

Hear him here:

Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major - Haydn:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDRVwhDoHJw>

Antonín Dvořák Cello Concerto - extract and interview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGUrFpIJW_8

Kian Soltani performs his energetic composition 'Persian Fire Dance':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e4q7sxuvik>



Please do see other original works for many different instruments and groupings, and also special transcriptions for cellists, and cellists with other instruments on the *Johnstone-Music* web page

Also both general musical and cello based articles, directories of famous historical cellists, and many other items of interest

DOWNLOADS - Many downloads on *Johnstone-Music* are now available, for those that are interested, at a *symbolic* payment, which is to help cover the costs of this web site. Some scores/parts are presented in musical edition programmes but generally they are found here in a most “clear” hand-written manuscript copy (the majority to almost a professional copyist standard) and transferred to a PDF file.

As far as *Johnstone-Music* is concerned you are welcome to publicly perform or record any work or piece found in the web; however you DO need to make mention of the name of the composer and the arranger on any printed information (hand programmes, disc covers etc.).

FREE PUBLICITY - If you care to inform us of any public performance (no matter how formal or informal the event is), recording or other uses of the original music or arrangements of David Johnstone or of other musical colleagues included in this web, we are happy to give your event free publicity on the *Johnstone-Music* web.

To take advantage of this, try to write to us three weeks or more in advance with any information. Last-minute entries are certainly better than not writing at all - however, understandably, once we have past the calendar month of the event it is not usually possible to add old items to the calendar. It is very interesting for the promoters of *Johnstone-Music* to have knowledge of your activity - and so in return for your information you will be entitled to a free gift of a work/s for every diary addition you tell us about. To find out more about this, please visit the “*Cello Club*” section in the web!