

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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SPECIAL FEATURE on NINA KOTOVA

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Born: 1st January, 1981 in Moscow

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Nina Kotova is a Russian-American cellist. She is a very versatile artist - she performs, composes, arranges and has also worked as a model around the world! Kotova, daughter of a first-class Russian double bass player, studied at the Moscow Conservatory and the Musikhochschule in Cologne, giving her first performance as a soloist with orchestra at the tender age of 11 and graduating 'summa cum laude'.

She was already well known in some countries when she made her Western debut at the Wigmore Hall (London) in 1996, and performed at the Barbican Centre in London in the same year. Another important year for her development was 1999, when released her chart-topping debut album for Philips Classics, and made her New York Carnegie Hall debut.

In addition to her debut album for Philips Classics, she has recorded the Bloch Schelomo, her very own Cello Concerto, the Dvorak Cello Concerto with the Philharmonia Orchestra for Sony, and the Deutsche Grammophon compilation Masters of the Bow, paying homage to the greatest cellists of the last 50 years. She released a recording of the Bach Cello Suites, a recording of Russian sonatas with pianist Fabio Bidini for Warner Classics and Nina Kotova Plays Tchaikovsky recording for Delos Productions with the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev.

Blessed with the looks of an actress or a model, she has been the subject of numerous features in Vogue, Elle, Hello!, Harper's Bazaar, Newsweek, The Sunday Telegraph, and the Wall Street Journal. So it is not surprising that she has appeared on the covers of Classic FM, Classical Music magazine, Gramophone China, Il Venerdì Italia, Record Forum, and Reader's Digest - a lucky lady!

However, Nina Kotova is a serious artist and has a keen interest in expanding the repertoire available for cello. As mentioned, her Cello Concerto was premiered in San Francisco with the Women's

Philharmonic with Kotova as soloist in the 2000 to rave reviews. Octavio Roca of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote:

"Kotova in 2000 stands in defiance of last century's modernism and the new simplicity of so much recent music. Her cello concerto is a complex, gripping affair. Kotova is destined for greatness."

She continued to stride out. In 2005 Kotova premiered her newly written "The Tuscan" [2nd] Cello Concerto, on an eighteen city tour of the USA, which included a Carnegie Hall performance in New York.

Kotova has also commissioned several leading composers to write cello works for her. One such example is Christopher Theofanidis - in 2009 she performed the world premiere of the Theofanidis Cello Concerto with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, following with Asian premiere of the work in Singapore with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Jaap Van Zweden.

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She has taught as an Artist in Residence at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas. Nina Kotova plays the 1673 du Pré Stradivarius. She is currently living in Los Angeles, California, USA.



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'documenting the cello'

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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!