

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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SPECIAL FEATURE on LUKA ŠULIĆ

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Luka Sulic is quickly establishing an international reputation both as a classical cellist and as a unique, versatile musician who is always looking for innovative approaches towards music and performing.

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Šulić was born in Maribor, Slovenia, Yugoslavia. Šulić's father, Božo (through whom Šulić has Croatian citizenship in addition to Slovenian), is from Dubrovnik, Croatia, and his mother, Alja, is from Izola, Slovenia. His father is also a cellist, and many members of his family are associated with music. Šulić began his musical education in Maribor when he was five years old. When he was fifteen, he became one of the youngest students ever to enter the Music Academy in Zagreb in the class of Professor Valter Dešpalj. At only 18 years of age, Luka graduated at the Zagreb Academy of Music under Valter Despalj and continued his studies in Vienna with Reinhard Latzko. In 2009, Luka was accepted at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he completed his master's degree in only one year (2010-11) with the highest distinction, under the guidance of Mats Lidstrom .

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He won series of top prizes at the prestigious international music competitions including first and special prize at the VII Lutosławski International Cello Competition in Warsaw (2009), first prize at the European Broadcasting Union "New Talent" Competition (2006) and first prize at the Royal Academy of Music Patron's Award in Wigmore Hall (2011).

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He has given a number of solo and chamber music appearances in Europe, South America and Japan in major venues such as Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Vienna Musikverein and Konzerthaus. As a soloist he appeared with orchestras such as Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, Russian Symphony Orchestra and others. Despite a growing classical reputation he felt the need to experiment....

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Luka's worldwide recognition started in 2011 when he joined forces with his fellow cellist Stjepan Hauser and formed the 2Cellos. Their first attempt at taking the cello to a new level and breaking the boundaries between different genres of music was their unique cello version of "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson. Within only a week, this YouTube video became a huge viral sensation leading to a record deal with Sony Masterworks and an invitation to join Sir Elton John on his worldwide tour. Since then, the duo has appeared on major TV shows such as The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (1992), Ellen: The Ellen DeGeneres Show (2003)(multiple times), Lopez

Tonight (2009), TV Total with Stefan Raab and many others. 2Cellos were also the first instrumental act to ever perform on the hugely popular TV series Glee (2009), where they appeared as special guests in the Michael Jackson tribute episode performing Smooth Criminal. The 2Cellos' arrangement of the song, which featured Naya Rivera, debuted at #10 on the Billboard Hot 100 Digital Songs Chart and landed the 2Cellos debut album in the Top 100.

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Luka and Stjepan's successes extend far beyond YouTube and their fan base continues to grow around the world. 2Cellos recently performed with the Red Hot Chili Peppers and are releasing their second album IN2ITION in January 2013. The album was produced by the legendary Robert Ezrin (Pink Floyd, Alice Cooper, Kiss, Deep Purple) and features an eclectic group of vocal and instrumental guests including Elton John, Steve Vai, Láng Lang, Naya Rivera and Zucherro.

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In 2017, the 29-year-old Luka Šulić married Tamara Zagoranski in an intimate ceremony in Slovenia. The pair had been together since 2015 and in December 2016 got engaged whilst on holiday in New Zealand. After the 2Cellos big tour ended in 2018, Luka Šulić took a break from the duo to work on independent projects. He released an album Vivaldi: 4 Seasons which peaked at #1 in November 2019. 2Cellos are scheduled to reunite in 2021.

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‘documenting the cello’

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!