

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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SPECIAL FEATURE on GAUTIER CAPUÇON

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Birth: 3rd September, 1981 (Chambéry, Savoie, France)

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Gautier Capuçon is the youngest of three siblings. His brother is the well-known violinist Renaud Capuçon. Gautier started learning the cello when he was just four years old. He began his formal musical education in his hometown at the Ecole Nationale de Musique de Chambéry, where he graduated with first prizes in cello and in piano.

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He then moved to Paris, where he studied the cello with Annie Cochet-Zakine - she had heard him in Chambéry and helped arrange his studies with her at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris (CNR), where he was to graduate in 1997 with the first prize in cello. Between 1997 and 1998 he was a cellist in the European Community Youth Orchestra (now the European Union Youth Orchestra) and also in the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, playing under conductors including Bernard Haitink, Pierre Boulez and Claudio Abbado. He then began advanced studies under cello pedagogue Philippe Muller at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris (CNSMP), where he graduated in 2000, also with first prizes in cello and chamber music. After that, he polished off his studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, with Heinrich Schiff.

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The winner of various first prizes in leading international competitions, including the International André Navarra Prize, Capuçon was named 'New Talent of the Year' by Victoires de la Musique (the French equivalent of a Grammy) in 2001; in 2004 he received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award since which time he has received several Echo Klassik awards, including his recording with Gergiev and for his recording of Fauré's complete chamber music in October 2012.

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Committed to exploring and expanding the cello repertoire, Capuçon performs an extensive array of works each season and regularly premieres new commissions. He has collaborated with contemporary composers including Lera Auerbach, Karol Beffa, Esteban Benzecry, Nicola Campogrande, Qigang Chen, Bryce Dessner, Jerome Ducros, Henry Dutilleux, Thierry Escaich, Philippe Manoury, Bruno Mantovani, Krzysztof Penderecki, Wolfgang Rihm, Danny Elfman, and Jörg Widmann. One of his current projects include performing the world premiere of Tabachnik's cello concerto "Summer".

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In the 19/20 season Capuçon appears with, amongst others, the philharmonic orchestras of Los Angeles/Philippe Jordan, Czech Republic/Semyon Bychkov, and Rotterdam/Valery Gergiev; the symphony orchestras of St. Louis/Stephen Deneve, Singapore/Vladimir Ashkenazy, and Bavarian Radio/Gianandrea Noseda; and hr-Sinfonieorchester/Alain Altinoglu. He tours Europe and the USA with Leipzig Gewandhausorchester/Andris Nelsons and San Francisco/Michael Tilson Thomas, and is this season's Artist-in-Residence with the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano.

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Capuçon has been featured on DVD in live performances with the Berliner Philharmoniker/Gustavo Dudamel (Haydn Cello Concerto No.1) and with Lisa Batiashvili, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden and Christian Thielemann (Brahm's Concerto for Violin and Cello). A household name in his native France, he also appears on screen and online in shows such as Prodiges, Now Hear This, and The Artist Academy, and from Autumn 2019 will be a guest presenter on Radio Classique.

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As mentioned earlier he is also an accomplished pianist; it was his second instrument at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris under Christophe Egiziano. He still enjoys playing jazz piano for fun.

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Apart from his vigorous activity as a soloist he now teaches at the 'Classe d'Excellence de Fondation Louis Vuitton' with aspiring young students. In fact, SEE HIM here with advanced students playing a David Johnstone arrangement of Saint-Saëns!:

Allegro Appassionato Op 43, Saint Saëns - with soloist Javier Martínez Campos, Classe d' Excellence Louis Vuitton
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAdwDrtjuKE>

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Capuçon's principal instrument is a 1701 Matteo Goffriller cello which he has on loan. He also has a 1746 Joseph Contreras cello on loan from BSI (Banca della Svizzera Italiana). Speaking about his Goffriller cello in April 2008, he said:

"I am very lucky to be playing this cello for ten, nearly eleven, years now. It is a Matteo Goffriller, of the Venetian school, from 1701. All the Goffriller cellos that I have tried are not easy to play. For each note you need to know how much bow pressure, how much vibrato and how much bow speed you can put on it. It is an instrument that you really need to know to be able to play; it is not like a Montagnana or a Stradivarius. Montagnana, for example - most of them are really easy to play. So in a way, on the Goffriller, I probably search more and look more for different things." Describing a Montagnana cello as his "dream" instrument of choice, he said: "I hope one day to be able to play on a Montagnana."

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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

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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!