

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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## SPECIAL FEATURE on SARAH HOHSTADT

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Birth: 18th September 1994 - Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

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Sarah Hohstadt is a classically trained cellist who also enjoys singing, songwriting, composing, and above all - performance. And she can also be said to be an educator. The name of her professional enterprise is Sarah Joy Music. She has become an impressive multi-instrumentalist and this across many different fields of music, but one who is predominantly known for playing the cello.

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Sarah is the daughter of a professional music director father and a violin instructor mother. She began taking music lessons at age two (is that possible?!) and received her first cello at age five (starting with her grandmother who was an Eastman School of Music Graduate). At age sixteen, she left home to continue classical studies with Professor Jeffrey Lastrapes at Texas Tech University and graduated summa cum laude 4 years later. In fact during her college years, she had gained a contract position in the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra and won the Texas Tech's Presser Award.

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However, she was open to all influences! Even from about 10 years old, she started learning how to use recording software and, naturally, soon became obsessed with writing and capturing music. After college she taught at the local schools, and kept writing/recording songs in her spare time. And she is a FANTASTIC arranger, and I give that praise as a fellow arranger!

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She began building a social media presence, blessed by good looks and an actress-like 'femme fatal' appearance which certainly has done her no harm! She has gained in time some generous sponsors. I believe one of the first 'hits' was in 2014 when she released a popular cover of Andy Williams' "Moon River." With a growing social media presence she then built a cello studio, connected to other musicians which have given her the artistic freedom to create virtually whatever content she desired. Her music is now chiefly distributed by the Italian label Halidon Music. Meanwhile her cello studio receives hard-working and dedicated students from around the world. Over the past four years, she has created a number of tutorials.

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She really is a big talent with music in her blood -

For example she is also a fantastic (popular styles) singer, I'd like to show you this example -

"Currency of Words" - Sarah Joy:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVs\\_-J4IGZM7XXi4p5mOczA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVs_-J4IGZM7XXi4p5mOczA)

and not only that, check out -

"Moon River" (Cover) - Sarah Joy, here as a singer and pianist, and also playing a deep cello solo melody in the second half, remarkable feeling she portrays!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU0N0HkUnXA>

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She is now transitioning into sharing primarily classical, original, and collaborative works. Her songs and compositions are 'wholesome' with the idea of being thought-provoking. She gains inspiration from topics of religion, philosophy, psychology, and social commentary. This she somehow tries to blend with classical, jazz, and folk elements.

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She developed a fan base by posting vlogs, music videos, and music tutorials to her sarahjoyrecordings YouTube channel. This YouTube channel has over 50,000 followers which is certainly not bad for a 'classical' string instrumentalist!

She is receiving comments like:

*"Much like fellow digital stars 2Cellos, Piano Guys, Kevin Olusola of Pentatonix, and That Viola Kid, Joy is evolving our idea of classical music."* - The Daily Dot. And many prefer HER as number one out of this select list!

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Few youngsters have done so much in a short time!

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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!