

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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SPECIAL FEATURE on RUDOLF MATZ

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Birth: 19th September 1901 - Zagreb, Croatia

Death: 22nd March 1988 - Zagreb, Croatia

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Rudolf Matz was a Croatian cellist and composer who wrote about 500 instrumental and vocal compositions. Matz lived in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia (Yugoslavia during much of his life). He was born in Zagreb, 1901 and died in that same city in 1988. Matz studied violoncello, composition and conducting at the Zagreb Academy of Music, from which he graduated in 1926. He soon became an important figure in the musical life of Zagreb. In addition to working as a composer, he was a cellist, teacher, conductor and choirmaster. He worked in music for more than six decades – from 1920 right up to his death. He performed with eminent professional musicians as well as with skilled amateurs. His wife Margita was a pianist, harpsichordist and keyboard teacher.

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He became Professor of Cello at the Zagreb Music Academy briefly during the Second World War and then from 1950 until his retirement in 1972). As a proven successful professor he was invited to take part in the work of juries of cello competitions, such as in Moscow and Florence.

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Leonard Rose called Matz, "*perhaps the greatest cello theoretician in the world.*" Perhaps this was in part worthy praise for the fact that Matz wrote a monumental 32 volume compendium titled "First Years of Violoncello". These achieved international fame; a masterwork which he gradually worked on during nearly 25 years starting in 1948!

Janos Starker also highly valued them and said, "*Rudolph Matz's dedication and expertise has produced much needed material for the young cellist.*"

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Rudolf and Margita Matz donated their long-time home in the second floor flat at 15 Mesnicka Street to Zagreb City Museum, together with their invaluable effects. This apartment was once famed for its encounters with musicians and with its intimate house concerts. In 1967 Matz was even visited at his home by the celebrated cellist Mstislav Rostropovich!

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His original music is impressive, rich, and individual. For an example, well worth hearing:

Rudolf Matz - Cello Quartet, a big 25-minute work!

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

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Here is a link to a collection of many of his compositions

http://go.uncg.edu/rudolf_matz

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And finally, something lovely!

Rudolph Matz: A Life in Music // this exhibit explores the life of Rudolph Matz (1901-1988), a renowned cellist, music teacher, composer, and conductor. It is based on the Rudolph Matz Collection in the Cello Music Collections at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/rudolph-matz-a-life-in-music/GQISKNxywQf8JQ>

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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!