

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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SPECIAL FEATURE on RICARDO DEL CARMEN FORTUNY

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Ricardo del Carmen was born in Guatemala, on October 2, 1969, he comes from a family of musicians. His father was a conductor and recipient of the Dimitri Mitropoulos Prize. His mother is a singer, he studied operatic singing. He studied Cello at the National Conservatory of Music of Guatemala with Eduardo Ortiz Lara (previously featured in this series!). He received courses with Adolfo Odnoposoff and Jeffrey Solow.

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In 1985 he started his concert career, giving a recital in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and the same year he made his debut as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. In 1987 he participated in the I Central American Youth Festival in Costa Rica. In 1988 he participated in the V Festival of Symphonic Orchestras of the Americas in Puerto Rico. Three years later, he represented Guatemala at the 1st Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo and Tokyo, Japan, integrating the International Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leonard Bernstein, Michael Tilson-Thomas, Eiji Oue, Marin Alsop and Lief Bjaland.

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He was a member of the Central American Symphony Orchestra in Honduras and Costa Rica in 1991 and 1992 as well as a member of the Millennium Ensemble since its foundation. With the Millennium Ensemble he participated in the delivery of the General History of Guatemala at the Palacio Linares in Madrid in 1995.

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Currently, he is the assistant principal cello of the Guatemala National Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 1994. He has also had the opportunity to act as guest conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. For Maestro Ricardo del Carmen, the job of a conductor is in his own words: *"First, to give the orchestra its colour, to know how to balance an orchestra - and knowing how to feel that the public is penetrating."*

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In 1996 he participated with Karol Radziwonowicz in the TRIBUTE TO CHOPIN Concert at the Juan Bautista Gutiérrez Auditorium with the honor of being the first national soloist to play in that room.

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He is a member of several important private orchestras in Guatemala and since 1992 he is a professor at the National Conservatory of Music, where he teaches cello, chamber music and choral practice. He was president of the Faculty of the National Conservatory of Music from 1993 to 2000. He was also a member of the Organizing

Committee of the First Swiss-Guatemala Musical Encounter and of the First Guatemala-Venezuela Orchestral Seminar. In 1997 he was at the V Festival of Music of the Past of America in Venezuela.

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In 1997 he published his book "BRIEF REVIEW HISTORICA DEL VIOLONCELLO" which promotes the view that *"For me, music is a Universal language that should know how to reach every human being."*

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As a the teacher has many artistic qualities inherited and enhanced thanks to studies, practice and daily discipline, since for him art *"is one of the most beautiful manifestations in any of the branches, because in all the arts there are outstanding ones: already be it in painting, literature, sculpture. Art, without a doubt, is something that beautifies the human being, in any of the branches and is a complement that we all must have."*

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His heritage is important to him: *"It is a pride to be Guatemalan,"* he says. Currently Ricardo del Carmen Fortuny is a professor at the Galileo University and he does not stop mentioning to his students the importance of perfecting by reasoning everything they do, putting into practice a phrase that Adolfo Odnoposoff, an Argentine teacher, left him in a letter, a phrase that we share all of them since it applies to any discipline in life: *"Cellists can not only be playing, that is, we can do it, but ... a lot of time is wasted if we do not reason what is not right"*.

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A big thanks to Ricardo for his regular activity on Facebook enriching the cello world with his contributions!

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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!