

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

ABOUT THE MAIN ARTICLE STARTING

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

We are pleased for you to have a copy of this article, which you may read, print or saved on your computer. These presentations can be downloaded directly.

You are free to make any number of additional photocopies, for Johnstone-Music seeks no direct financial gain whatsoever from these articles (and neither too the writers with their generous contributions); however, we ask that the name of Johnstone-Music be mentioned if any document is reproduced.

If you feel like sending any (hopefully favourable!) comment visit the 'Contact' section of the site and leave a message with the details - we will be delighted to hear from you!

## SPECIAL FEATURE on RAFAEL RAMOS

..

Birth: 18th December 1947 - Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

..

..

He began his musical studies at the Conservatoire of the Canary Islands 'Las Palmas Philharmonic Society' studying cello with an important regional cellist Rafael Jámez Medina. Rafael Ramos, even in his student days, was given the role of principal cellist of the conservatoire orchestra. He then took the bold step of moving to France, and to the National Superior Conservatoire of Music in Paris, where his teachers were Pierre Pasquier and Bernard Michelin, as well as with the pianist Monique Deschaussès. He was there during seven years, and was able to receive additional guidance from R. Jáimez, R. Flachot, A. Navarra, M. Cervera and R. Aldulescu. Reine Flachot exerted a lasting influence on his musical style. In 1967 he won the first Prize for Chamber Music at the Paris Conservatory, and two years later the prize for the cello. In 1970 he obtained the 'License de Concert', the highest award from the Ecole Normale de Musique, prepared by the great cellist Reine Flachot. With such an exalted studentship it should not come of surprise that in that same year - 1970 - he gained the position of principal cello in the Spanish National Orchestra in Madrid.

..

From this moment, he came to prominence on the Spanish national scene. Among the many awards with which Rafael Ramos has been distinguished with, I could mention the first medal of the Chamber Music Competition 'María Canals de Barcelona (1972) and the first prize ' Memorial López Chavarri-Marcos 'of Valencia (1975) .

..

He has given recitals and concerts with orchestras in Europe, Asia and America, among which are those in Athens, Paris, Beirut, Amsterdam, Madrid, Hong-Kong, Bombay, Osaka, Sydney, etc. On his first tour of the US with the pianist Josep Colom (1982) he achieved resounding successes, highlighted by critics in New York, San Francisco and New Orleans.

..

His important duo recital album, the first worldwide recording in 1985 dedicated to the work of the great Spanish cellist Gaspar Cassadó, has been valued by specialized critics as one of the great record contributions to the current cello. Naturally it was a national award winner. Later he recorded for the RACBA, accompanied by the also Corresponding Academician of our corporation Pedro Espinosa, an LP with the great sonata for cello and piano by the Tenerife composer Manuel Bonín.

..

In more recent times, Rafael Ramos has appeared as a soloist and as a member of small chamber groups in numerous public concerts. He was for many years a cello professor in the Madrid Superior Conservatoire and principal cello of the Madrid Symphony Orchestra. So many musicians gladly criticize other musicians but I would like to tell you all about my special experience with Rafael. In the late 1980s I had a girlfriend in Salamanca, so in the early 1990s I decided to take a sabbatical year in Spain. On arriving, and contacting with various cellists and pianists - I knew hardly anybody - most, well nearly all, were “too busy” to even meet me or even requested money for meetings! There were two great exceptions; the cellist Rafael Ramos and the pianist Jesús Amigo (later better known as a conductor). Both of them most willingly gave me their time so freely and both tried to advise me the best way to move in Spain. If it weren't for these two artists I probably would not even be in Spain now! So thanks very much, dear Rafael!!



The image linked here is claimed to be used under fair use as:  
# the photo is only being used for informational purposes.

*'documenting the cello'* - [www.johnstone-music.com](http://www.johnstone-music.com)

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!