

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on ALEXANDER BAILLIE

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Alexander Baillie was born in Stockport (near Manchester), England, on 6th January, 1956. He is an English cellist, internationally recognized as one of the finest of his generation. He is currently professor of cello at the Bremen Hochschule and previously taught at Birmingham Conservatoire. He has taught at various summer schools in the UK and Europe, and is one of the main cello professors at the Cadenza Summer School, and also runs an annual cello summer course in Bryanston.

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He began playing the cello aged twelve inspired by the late Jacqueline du Pré then studied at London's Royal College of Music and with André Navarra in Vienna.

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He has appeared with many British orchestras and has worked with Sir Simon Rattle, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and has appeared regularly as cello soloist in concertos, recitals and festivals throughout the world. He has given notable first performances at the BBC "Proms" of works by Hans Werner Henze, Takemitsu and Colin Matthews. Recordings include the Tippett Triple Concerto with the composer conducting and the Shostakovich First Concerto with Benjamin Zander and the Boston Philharmonic. His version of the Britten Cello Suites achieved the highest acclaim in the New York press. Together with pianist partner James Lisney he has been promoting their "Beethoven Project" in England and Germany.

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He features in the film « Dvorak...who? » about the motivation for young people falling in love with classical music. He is Professor of Cello at the Hochschule für Künste, Bremen, founder member of « Gathering of the Clans » Cello School and Honorary Doctor of Music at Hertfordshire University.

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Recent recordings include the complete cello/piano music of Thomas Schmidt-Kowalski on NAXOS and a double album "Jewels in the Crown" of British cello sonatas (Bridge, Ireland, Delius, Rubbra, Rebecca Clarke etc) on the SOMM label.

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VIDEOS of interest:

Baillie Duo play part of Ravel Sonata (Violin and Cello):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Rs2KAlmgk>

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Baillie and Hodgkinson play Franck's Sonata in A Major, Movement IV:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgmM6ZIt4xU>

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Beethoven Op. 69 by Alexander Baillie and Ian Brown:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kY56E4kB_bw



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'documenting the cello' www.johnstone-music.com

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