

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on CAROLINE DALE

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Caroline Dale (born 1965) is a widely recorded British cellist who has performed music for numerous films, including Truly, Madly, Deeply, Hilary and Jackie, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, as well as the 2005 adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and 2007's Academy Award winner Atonement. She played on U2's latest album and currently plays Principal Cello for the English Chamber Orchestra and London Metropolitan Orchestra.

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Dale won the String Final of the BBC's Young Musician of the Year in 1978 at the age of 13 and has two sisters. Caroline Dale ('cello) studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and later with the legendary Pierre Fournier in Geneva. At 15 she was the youngest ever recipient of the Isserlis Scholarship

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She has appeared as a soloist with a number of orchestras including the London Philharmonic and Royal Philharmonic orchestras. Caroline was a member of the Nigel Kennedy Quartet and the Balanescu Quartet, as well as founder member of the American-based Apollo Piano Trio. Prior to her appointment as Principal Cellist of the English Chamber Orchestra she was principal of the BT Scottish Ensemble and the London Chamber Orchestra.

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She has performed with Jimmy Page and Robert Plant during their 1994 tour promoting the album No Quarter. She plays in the 1994 video for "Whatever" by Oasis. In 2002, Dale released Such Sweet Thunder, an album of classical music with performances of Handel's Sarabande from the D-minor harpsichord suite, and the Largo from Vivaldi's E minor Cello Sonata. She played with David Gilmour during his 2002 solo tour dates, and on his album On an Island. She appears on the David Gilmour in Concert DVD which was recorded at Robert Wyatt's Meltdown concert and the Royal Festival Hall concert, both in 2002. In 2008, she appeared, playing solo cello, at Ron Geesin's 2 performances of the "Atom Heart Mother Suite", with Pink Floyd tribute band Mun Floyd, the Royal College Brass Ensemble, and the choral group Canticum. David Gilmour made a guest appearance on the second night.

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She performed with David Gray during the "Live in Slow Motion" tour and again in 2014. She plays the solo cello part in "Elegy for Dunkirk", written by Dario Marianelli for the film Atonement. Since the mid-1990s for almost two decades she was Sinéad O'Connor's touring cellist. She often sang with O'Connor and her band on the song "In This Heart", from the 1994 album Universal Mother. Dale plays cello on a number of tracks on U2's 2009 album No Line on the Horizon. She often collaborates with film composers Klaus Badelt, Ilan Eshkeri and Dario Marianelli. Marianelli wrote his Atonement Suite for cello and piano, dedicated to Caroline, which was premiered at her Wigmore Hall recital in 2008.

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As a string arranger, she has worked on albums for U2, Joan Armatrading, Sinead O'Connor, David Gray, Belinda Carlisle Squeeze and Simply Red with her latest collaboration being with U2, conducting her arrangements for them at the Hollywood Bowl. She also plays electric cello.
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