

## **AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music***

### **ABOUT THE MAIN ARTICLE STARTING ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:**

#### **English**

### **Inspirations – Interviews - Meet the Artist**

These articles and interviews are from distinguished musicians. Here they will reveal their thoughts, especially with regard to the performers in which they have been inspired, and the influences on their style and work.

These presentations can be downloaded directly. We are pleased for you to have a copy of these articles, which you may read, print or save on your computer. You are free to make any number of additional photocopies, for Johnstone-Music seeks no financial gain from these articles (and neither too the writers with their generous contributions); however, please try to credit the name of 'Johnstone-Music' if any document is reproduced. For your comments visit the 'Contact' section of the website and leave a message with the details - we will be delighted to hear from you!

#### **Español**

### **Inspiraciones – Entrevista - Conoce al Artista**

Estos artículos y entrevistas son de distinguidos músicos. Aquí se desvelan sus pensamientos, especialmente acerca de los intérpretes en los que se han inspirado, y las influencias en su estilo y bien hacer.

Estas presentaciones pueden ser descargadas al instante. Nos complace que tengas una copia de estos artículos, que puedes leer, imprimir o guardar en tu ordenador o móvil. Eres libre de hacer cualquier número de fotocopias adicionales, porque no se busca ninguna ganancia financiera con estos artículos (y tampoco de los escritores con sus contribuciones generosas); sin embargo, por favor, intentad acreditar el nombre de 'Johnstone-Music' si se reproduce algún documento. Si quieres enviar un comentario simplemente visita la sección "Contacto" y deja un mensaje con los detalles - ¡estaremos encantados de escucharte!

*In English /En inglés*

## “INSPIRATIONS”

### **Meet the Artist – BRINTON AVRIL SMITH**

*Principal Cello, Houston Symphony Orchestra /  
Associate Professor Cello in Rice University*

"I have been almost as lucky as you can be in this business. I've had countless disappointments of course- some deserved, some not. That is the nature of the business. But I have a good job, a happy reputation, a balance between solo, chamber, orchestral playing and teaching, the good fortune to be friends and colleagues with some of the musicians I admire most in the world, and the respect of some of the peers that I care the most about. I've had the chance to travel, play concerts, enjoy the camaraderie and live some of the enviable life. I haven't had everything, but I've had as much as I could dare ask for a life in music. I have been very lucky, and you will be very fortunate if you are as lucky as I have been.

And I'm telling you that even if you get all that - even if you get all that and more... it isn't enough. It will ultimately feel hollow. In the end, concerts are just concerts, victories are fleeting, fame is shallow, and easy praise dulls the senses. Dark moments will come, and your life in music, no matter how successful, will be empty unless it is about something greater than your career. You must protect your belief that the music is part of something greater than yourself- greater than any of us.

You have to keep studying and improving and trying to understand more deeply. Believe in yourself, but believe also that you can do better- not just in a technical sense, but more beauty, more insight, more heartbreak- more music. As Mr. Heifetz said "There is no top. There are always further heights to reach." We have never before had so many musicians of amazing proficiency, and yet it is rare to hear someone make truly beautiful music.

Whatever you do, whatever comes of your life in music, no matter how celebrated or ignored your role is, you must know why you have chosen to spend your life on this. As you face the harsh and humiliating aspects of our industry you must protect your belief in yourself, and in music and what it means. We live in the world of the automatic standing ovation, where praise is lavish and indiscriminate, and criticism is suspect. But in your internal world you must believe in a right and a wrong way, and that it matters. Make your life about something more than your job, your reputation or your ego. Be an example of what a musician should be. The moments of greatest happiness for me have ultimately not been some career milestone, but the moments when I learned something new, when I got one step closer to the unattainable. Love the details, know that they matter even if they don't change your career, and never stop learning. This is not an easy path, but it is the only way to a meaningful life in music. My wish for all of you is that music will mean more to you at 60 than it did at 16, and that you will know the joy of humility, love and service to the most profound art I know in our world."

## **Cellists' Corner – Biography of BRINTON AVRIL SMITH**

*CC146 - by David Johnstone*

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Cellists\\_Corner-BRINTON\\_AVRIL\\_SMITH.pdf](https://johnstone-music.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CC146-Cellists_Corner-BRINTON_AVRIL_SMITH.pdf)

*In English / en inglés*



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!