

# Cellists' Corner

## Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

*prepared by David Johnstone from public information*

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## JOHN SANT'AMBROGIO

John Sant'Ambrogio has enjoyed an incredibly rich lifetime career on the cello with success after success throughout many decades. He first came to notice as the principal cellist with the U.S. Seventh Army Symphony Orchestra (1956 to 1958). He then played with the Boston Symphony Orchestra (1959 to 1968), simultaneously being the cellist with the Boston Piano Trio (1965 to 1968). His longest held position was as principal cellist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (1968 to 2005) under renowned music directors Walter Susskind, Jerzy Semkow, and Leonard Slatkin.

He has always been equally at home in both symphonic and chamber music environments. He played cello with the St. Louis String Quartet, the Giavanni String Quartet, and Washington University's Eliot Trio. He was also principal cellist with the Casals Festival Orchestra (in 1969 and 1970) and with the Grand Teton Music Festival, Jackson Hole, Wyoming (1980 to 1985). John has also been cellist with the Zimblar Sinfonietta and was principal cello with the Boston Ballet Orchestra.

With such a performing biography it's no wonder he has been in so high demand as a professor of cello. He has been a private cello instructor since 1959, and former pupils have obtained positions in major orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He has taught at Boston University (1963 to 1965), Washington University in St. Louis (1970 to 1974), the Grand Teton Music Seminar (1980 to 1985), the St. Louis Conservatory of Music (1985 to 1989), and at the Mountain Team Concepts Music Camp (founder and director, 1992 to 1996).

John is founder (2003) and Artistic Director of the Arts for the Soul Summer Vacation Retreat in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Musical excellence is in abundance in his family too; his daughter, cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio, is best known as a member of the Eroica Trio, and it must be mentioned that she won a coveted bronze medal at the 1986 International Tchaikovsky Violoncello Competition in Moscow. His other daughter Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio worked as concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony, whilst his son Michael Sant'Ambrogio is a professor at Michigan State University College of Law.

Bravo, what a family !!



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