

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on RUPERT GILLETT

Rupert is a British musician who specialises in jazz cello, but is adept and experienced at many other styles, from rock and pop to eastern European music styles and beyond.

He is a highly active performer, session musician and educator on the London scene and abroad. In 2018, he was a featured artist and lecturer at the prestigious New Directions Cello Festival in Cologne, Germany. He has also taught Jazz Cello at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department and the Cello Akademie, Rutesheim, Germany. He currently performs with jazz-icon Jacqui Dankworth MBE, jazz violinist Chris Garrick & composer/pianist David Gordon in the chamber-jazz ensemble “Butterfly’s Wing”, as well as in the renowned “Kosmos Ensemble” with Harriet Mackenzie. He also plays in a unique 2 cello and violin jazz-fusion/crossover ensemble called “Arcopia” with renowned jazz cellist Gunther Tiedemann (String Thing) and London-based violinist Chris Haigh (Bob Geldof, Michael Ball). Rupert has performed with Alison Moyet, as well as being featured live on BBC 2 television, BBC Radio London, BBC3 and BBC 6 Music with various ensembles. He has played at large scale events such as the 2012 Paralympics & the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations, and has performed for clients such as Amazon, Boots, Dunhill, Asda, the American Embassy and Buckingham Palace.

On double bass, Rupert regularly performs in a number of ensembles such as Dai & the Ramblers (Ace Records), She’Koyokh, The London Klezmer Quartet, the Boneshaker Band, the London Niche Quartet and many more. He also recently performed on the score of the movie “Tolkien”, starring Nicholas Hoult.

Rupert has also performed to a variety of celebrity clients, including Prince Philip, Brad Pitt, Jeremy Corbyn, Angelina Jolie, Jude Law, Sir Antony Gormley, Charles Dance, Orlando Bloom, Nigel Planer (The Young Ones), Chris O’Dowd (The IT Crowd), Jeremy Clarkson (although he left quite quickly!) and Ray Davies.

As well as regular live work with his own projects, Rupert is a session cellist who has worked with producers such as Henning Schmitz (Kraftwerk) and Liam Watson (The White Stripes).

As an experienced session cellist, Rupert can read, arrange, improvise and think outside the box if required and is skilled at gauging what the artist or track requires. Rupert has played a large variety of albums, and his work has occasionally popped up in the charts (just!). For a full discography, [click here](#).

Rupert is also accustomed to doing “remote sessions” and is an experienced audio engineer. Using his own “Holly Barn Studio”, Rupert can record and transfer high quality audio stems of sessions, enabling efficient international studio work.

The music world loves him, and classical cellists certainly admire him! This is just a snippet of what some producers, organizers etc, say:

“Rupert Gillett’s talent not only lies in his clear, clean precise masterful technique, but also in his ability to interpret and make each song his very own” **BKruman, Producer, Pittsburgh, USA**

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“Rupert is a wonderful session cellist with a firm grasp on what’s needed musically and technically. I’ve recorded with him both in person and remotely, and he is a pleasure to work with.” **Eleni Shaw, Producer, Depicted Studio Ltd., London**

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“...a sharp-dressed, cheerful and irreverent diversifier who uses the instrument to explore jazz, rock, folk, pop and various other genres... anything as long as it isn’t classical. Notably for a contemporary solo performer, Rupert eschews loops and effects. When you hear him live, it’s just him, the necessary techniques and a dose of imagination.” **Misfitcity.org**

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“...mesmerizing lines played on cello by Rupert Gillett...” **The Green Man Review**

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A BIG STAR on YOU TUBE:

On his channel, he released a long series of versions of a jazz standard every Sunday in the playlist "Jazz Cello Tunes", including improvised solos, chords, chopping, walking bass and other extended techniques in an attempt to explore how the cello can be used in different jazz settings. The other videos on his channel include his own compositions ensembles that he's involved with - professionally and creatively - on cello, double bass and other instruments.

So do have a look around and please enjoy his music!

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RupertGillettCello/featured>



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documenting the cello' 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!