

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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FEATURE ON
MICHAEL GREBANIER

cellist, orchestra principal cello & chamber musician

Birth: 1937 - New York

Death: 2020

Michael Grebanier began his musical studies in his native New York City, later attending the Curtis Institute of Music. His teachers included Carl Ziegler of the NBC Symphony, Orlando Cole of the Curtis String Quartet, and Leonard Rose. While still at Curtis he won the prestigious Walter Naumberg Award and made his recital debut in New York City at the age of nineteen.

He was the principal cellist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for fourteen years (when he joined, he was the youngest musician appointed to the post in the history of that orchestra). Before going to Pittsburgh, he spent four seasons as a member of the Cleveland Orchestra, where he also appeared as a soloist.

Michael Grebanier joined the San Francisco Symphony as Philip S. Boone Principal Cellist in 1977. Alongside his duties as principal at the SFS he was also a frequent soloist, appearing in the cello concertos of Barber, Dvorak, Elgar, Hindemith, Walton, Haydn, Finzi and Shostakovich, Saint-Saens' A minor Cello Concerto, Bloch's Schelomo, Strauss' Don Quixote, William Schuman's A Song of Orpheus and Brahms' Double Concerto for Violin and Cello with violinist Chee-Yun.

He has been affiliated with such notable festivals as the Marlboro Festival in Vermont and the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico.

With violinist Jorja Fleezanis and pianist Garrick Ohlsson, he was a member of the acclaimed FOG trio making numerous appearances in chamber concerts.

He recorded the Prokofiev cello sonatas and the complete music for cello and piano by Rachmaninoff for Naxos.

Grebanier played a 1698 cello by Francesco Ruggeri.

He passed away in 2020

AUDIO example: Schumann Concerto 1997 performed by Michael Grebanier and the San Francisco Symphony 1997 Edo de Waart conducting.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG_Z57HUuKE





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