

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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WILHELM JERAL

Birth: Prague, October 2, 1861

Death: Vienna, December 17, 1935

Wilhelm Jeral was an Austrian cellist of Czech origin. In 1873-1879 he studied at the Prague Conservatory with František Gegenbart.

From 1880-1886, he was principal cellist with the Graz Opera Orchestra and a professor at the "Styrian Musical Society". In 1887 he became principal cello at the Deutsche Oper in Rotterdam, where he also worked as an opera director. In 1896 he settled in Vienna, preferring for some time to work as a freelance soloist.

However, in 1899 he became principal cellist in the orchestra of the Vienna opera at the court of Vienna, combining this in 1901 as the cellist in Karl Prill's string quartet. In 1904, Gustav Mahler considered Jeral one of the candidates for a soloist position in the Vienna Philharmonic.

In the post-World War I war years, he accepted teaching appointments in Vienna, and among his students was Konstantin Popov. He was also a competent pianist.

He is the composer of a concerto for cello and orchestra (1899, published 1906, and recorded by Orfeo Mandozzi) and other works for his instrument, of which the most famous piece is "Gypsy Dance" (German Zigeunertanz; 1904).

Under Jéral's direction, compositions for cello by Richard Strauss, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and others were published. Jéral kept the only copy of the Polonaise for cello and piano by Antonín Dvořák, which he received in 1879 from the premiere performance by Alois Neruda and which was finally published in 1925.

FREE interesting sheet music:

JERAL – Cello Concerto, Op.10 -

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Cello_Concerto%2C_Op.10_\(Jeral%2C_Wilhelm\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Cello_Concerto%2C_Op.10_(Jeral%2C_Wilhelm))

JERAL - Zigeunertanz, Op.6 – for cello and piano, or cello and orchestra

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[https://imslp.org/wiki/Berceuse_und_Zigeunertanz%2C_Op.6_\(Jeral%2C_Wilhelm\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Berceuse_und_Zigeunertanz%2C_Op.6_(Jeral%2C_Wilhelm)) (a great alternative to the ‘Sarasate’ for cellists!) ...



Please do see original works for many different instruments and groupings (virtually all of the orchestral instruments, plus keyboard, accordion, txistu etc.). There are countless transcriptions of all kinds for cellists, and for cello with other instruments on the [Johnstone-Music](#) web page. General music and cello-based articles and biographies abound, plus directories of famous historical cellists, and many other historical and present-day items of interest...

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