

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on OLEG KOTZAREW

One of the most influential and versatile musicians in South America, Oleg Kotzarew was born on 22nd June 1931 in Piatigorsk , in the Caucasus part of the ex-U.S.S.R. but was a naturalized Argentina citizen. It seems his father left Russia during the civil war. He started cello playing under the guidance of his father (Teodoro Kotzarew, a well-known player who had studied with the father of Mstislav Rostropovich, and who also had connections with Daniil Shafran!), and Oleg spent the major part of his life in Tucumán and Buenos Aires, where he passed away in October 2002. He was primarily a cellist and composer with a long list of works in many genres.

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He was a cellist in the Orquesta Sinfónica del Teatro Argentino de La Plata (principal cello), la Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires (PK) y la Camerata Bariloche (principal cello). But this not enough! He was a man of ENORMOUS creative and organizational strength - for example:

** he created a music school - el Conservatorio Nocturno de Música de la Provincia de Tucumán, Argentina (1960)

** He was an investigative professor of the Fundación Bariloche

** He was cello profesor, also teaching chamber music, in the Fundación Bariloche

** he created several music festivals, and helped organize orchestral and musical tours in some 20 countries (over 500 concerts in Argentina and over 700 internationally!)

** he served as Music Director of the “Secretaría de Cultura de la Nación” (Argentina) and previously ‘Director Nacional de Música’ in the same..

** a Jury member in competitions

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As a composer he produced works for symphony orchestra, chamber music, piano, violin, voice, and theatre. Mention for us cellists is his Cello Sonata, composed in 1962 and published by “Editorial Argentina de la Música”

As you can see, a truly prolific musician in almost every sense!



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