

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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**SPECIAL FEATURE on Dominik Połowski -
a cellist who played against all the odds**

Dominik Połowski was born on 17 June 1977 in Kraków, Poland. He and studied at the Academy of Music in Łódź. Winning a scholarship, he studied in Spain at the Reina Sofía School of Music with Natalia Shakhovskaya, also studying with visiting professor Mstislav Rostropovich.

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He was successful in several competitions, including first place in the competition of the Yamaha Music Foundation in 1998. Another success was second place at the 1999 Lutosławski Competition in Warsaw. He was at that point touring internationally as a member of Krystian Zimerman's Polish Festival Orchestra whilst developing his solo career.

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He started making recordings for a number of recording companies, and performed in many European countries and in the United States. I have heard his recordings of works by Brahms and they are of an AMAZING level, a beauty and presentation of a great maturity of sound!

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He had appeared as a soloist in all the major Polish venues and was making great advances (I am not at all surprised, given his level) when disaster struck...in 2004 he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. He had several operations, and chemo- and radiotherapy, and was afterwards still unable to move the left side of his body.

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Never one to give up, he returned to the concert platform in 2009, playing the cello using his right arm only, performing works specially written for him by Polish composers. These included compositions using percussive components and unusual string tuning. Reading this you will probably first think that possibilities are limited but in fact he brought out a great timbre variety able to capture the attention of an audience! Perhaps the most prominent of these pieces saw Połoński paired with British percussionist Evelyn Glennie for a sinfonia concertante entitle Entelecheia, by Olga Hans. Glennie remembers it well: "I was and remain deeply humbled by Dominik's tenacity and determination and performing with him will always be one of my proudest moments ...no talent could shine brighter".

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During his later years he also taught at the Academy of Music in Łódź and the Academy of Music in Kraków. However, so sadly, Połoński died on 20 June 2018, aged only 41 after the disease returned, 14 years after first being diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour.

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Do hear!!

Evelyn Glennie and Dominik Połoński play Olga Hans's Entelecheia":
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCq7GUAjE68&feature=emb_logo

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IDFA 2016 | Trailer | Right Side of Cello - International premiere at IDFA 2016 A portrait of the successful young Polish cellist Dominik Polonski, who after several brain surgeries builds a new life around his family and his beloved instrument:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=106&v=baoyD4lCaSA&feature=emb_logo

This is an incredible story....



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