

# Cellists' Corner

## Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

*prepared by David Johnstone from public information*

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## **SPECIAL FEATURE ON KIAN SOLTANI - CAREER DETAILS**

Kian Soltani (born 3 June 1992) is an Iranian cellist, born in Bregenz to a family of Persian musicians from Iran. He has held the post of principal cellist in Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where he came to prominence performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto on the orchestra's 2015 tour.

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He began playing the cello at the age of four and, at age 12 he began his studies with Ivan Monighetti at Basel Music Academy. He completed his studies as a member of the Young Soloist Programme at the Kronberg Academy in Taunus, Germany, and the International Music Academy in Liechtenstein. He was artist in residence at the Residentie Orchestra in The Hague for the 2018-2019 season, and in 2019 he was the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Artist in Residence - and he also started a multi-year residency with Junge Wilde at Konzerthaus Dortmund from Autumn 2018.

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Soltani has performed as a soloist with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Orchestre de Paris, Oslo Philharmonic, Residentie Orchestra and Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra and at the Salzburg Festival, Lucerne Festival, Aix en Provence Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and the BBC Proms. On 25 August 2018 Soltani performed Meditation No. 3 from "Mass" by Leonard Bernstein as part of the celebration concert in honor of the composer's 100th birthday at the Tanglewood Festival.

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Kian Soltani signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 2017. His debut album Home was released in February 2018, and pairs works by Schubert and Schumann with folk song settings by Reza Vali and Soltani himself.

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Hailed by The Times as a “remarkable cellist” and described by Gramophone as “sheer perfection”, Kian Soltani’s playing is characterised by a depth of expression, sense of individuality and technical mastery, alongside a charismatic stage presence and ability to create an immediate emotional connection with his audience.

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In 2019/20 Soltani makes debuts with orchestras including the Munich Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Filarmonica della Scala, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Hallé, KBS Symphony and Orchestra of the National Centre for the Performing Arts Beijing. Recent orchestral highlights include the Vienna Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Berlin Staatskapelle, Boston Symphony and Tonhalle Orchestras.

Hear him here:

Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major - Haydn:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDRVwhDoHJw>

Antonín Dvořák Cello Concerto - extract and interview:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGUrFpIJW\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGUrFpIJW_8)

Kian Soltani performs his energetic composition 'Persian Fire Dance':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e4q7sxuvik>





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