

## SPECIAL FEATURE on OLA KARLSSON

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Birth: 25th September 1962

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Ola Karlsson, born in 1952, began studying the cello at the age of 10 with Bertil Jernbom in Nyköping, town located about an hour's drive south of Stockholm. In 1969 he became a student of Erling Blöndal Bengtsson at the Swedish Radio Music School at Edsberg Castle near Stockholm. After receiving his solo diploma he continued his studies at the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen, where he received the Carl Nielsen Prize. This, plus a scholarship from the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm made further studies possible with the legendary virtuoso Gregor Piatigorsky at his master class in Los Angeles.

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In 1981 Ola Karlsson won the Medborgarskolan Music Scholarship and in 1985 he earned the position of principal cellist of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. Besides his concerts in Sweden and abroad, Ola Karlsson is also head of the cello department at the Academy of Music in Stockholm, as well as being the director of the school string orchestra. He has also given important master classes during Umeå's International Chamber music Festival and has been a visiting professor in Canada, Denmark, Hungary, and Italy.

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In 1986 Ola Karlsson began his conducting career and has since appeared with acclaim as guest conductor with most of the major symphony orchestras in Sweden. He appears often as a soloist and a conductor, sometimes in both roles with cello and winds, where he has cultivated a unique repertoire. Among his recordings are Hilding Rosenberg's 2nd Cello Concerto, several Piatigorsky cello transcriptions, plus numerous chamber works. He has twice been awarded the Swedish recording prize, "Grammy". Ola Karlsson plays often and with great pleasure the so-called standard repertoire of the cello literature, for example the Bach's suites for cello solo, Beethoven's sonatas, the Dvorák Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations, but he also has a very extensive knowledge of the repertoire that is not so often performed, but can be an interesting acquaintance for the new listener.

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"Ola Karlsson is not a cellist, he is a force of nature", exclaimed the critic of Svenska Dagbladet after a concert in Stockholm. "Molding and illuminating, magnificent tranquillity in deep contemplation", are some other opinions given this versatile and ingenious musician.



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‘documenting the cello’

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