

## SPECIAL FEATURE on JOSEPH HOLLMAN

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Birth: 26th October 1852 - Maastricht, Holland

Death: 31st December 1926 or 1st January 1927 (see at end)

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Hollman was born in Maastricht in 1852, and was admitted to the Brussels Conservatory at the age of fourteen. There he studied cello with Adrien-François Servais and music theory with François-Joseph Fétis. He continued his studies with Léon Jacquard in Paris and with Karl Davydov in St. Petersburg.

In the 1880s he played in the Meiningen Court Orchestra. In 1887 he settled in Paris, where he established himself as a leading soloist. His concert travels took him not only through Western Europe but to the United States, Russia, Scandinavia, China and Japan. In Paris, he meets Jules Massenet, Edouard Lalo, Eugène Ysaÿe and Camille Saint-Saëns, among others. He was so well positioned that Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner were in his 'network' of close friends!

During his London debut in 1885, he performed with Camille Saint-Saëns as his duo partner, and they regularly repeated together after that! In fact, Camille dedicated his second Cello Concerto in D minor to him and he also performed the premiere of Saint-Saen's Double Concerto 'La muse et son poète' for the composer's 'silver jubilee' in London in 1910 along with none less than Ysaÿe on violin. Delius wrote for him his Romance for cello and piano in 1896, and Massenet his Fantasy-Concerto, for cello and orchestra in 1897. This gives an idea of his importance in the cello world of that era. I also have noted down from long ago that he was the first cellist to play 'Kol Nidrei' with an orchestra in Britain.

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From 1916 until his death, Paris was his permanent residence. However, according to contemporary reports (and also by Pierre Fournier) his playing in his old age tapered off substantially ...

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Several recordings of Hollman have been preserved, including Le Cygne by Saint-Saëns and of Gavotte no. 2 by David Popper, plus the Chopin example below.

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Joseph Hollman performs - Chopin: Nocturne in F

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uku64KH8lmw>

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Hollman composed a number of short works for his instrument himself!

Joseph Hollman (1852 - 1927) Two works for violoncello and piano - performed by Doris Hochscheid, violoncello and Frans van Ruth, piano - LOVELY playing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0eMuQ-5GCCQ>

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It is known that Joseph Hollman enjoyed playing William Henry Squire's Sérénade, Op.15, written in 1892.

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Here is some of his original sheet music, and arrangements:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Hollman%2C\\_Joseph](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Hollman%2C_Joseph)

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Works with Opus number:

Op.12. Cello Concerto No.2. Schott, 1886.

Op.18. Warum? for cello and Piano. Schott, 1888.

Works without Opus number - For cello and piano:

Adagietto

Andante religioso

Carmen fantaisie

Chanson d'amour (Love Song) or (Liebeslied)

4 Easy Pieces for Cello and Piano (Schott, 1887) - 1. Berceuse 2. Air de ballet

3. Pourquoi? = Warum? 4. Tempo di mazurka.

Extase in G (Schott, 1892)

Intermezzo in G minor (Durand, 1903)

4 Pieces for Cello and Piano (Heugel, 1884) - 1. Romance 2. Mazurka 3.

Rêverie 4. Gavotte.

6 Pieces for Cello and Piano (Novello, 1892) - 1. Legende 2. Pizzicati 3.

Aubade 4. Andante 5. Petite Valse 6. Tarentelle

Le rouet

Mazurka No.1

Mazurka No.2 in D major, published 1894

Souvenir de Berek

Vieille chanson

Sérénade [1890]

Romance sans Paroles [?]

Benedictus de Van Helden [?]

Improvisation [no later than 1898]

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On the grave of Hollman in Maastricht, the date of death is 1 January 1927, but sometimes 31 December 1926 is mentioned. The city of Maastricht honours Hollman with a bust in the hall of the Old Town Hall. Also, on the facade of his birth house in the Spijkstraat one reads: "Birth house of Joseph Hollman 1852-1926"

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‘documenting the cello’

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