

## BRIEF NOTES on SEBASTIAN LEE

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Birth: 24th December 1805 - Hamburg, Germany

Death: 4th January 1887 (Hamburg ?)

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Sebastian Lee was a talented musician but one whose performing style was called 'classical' even by his contemporaries. He was a pupil of the Hamburg cellist Johann Prell (1773-1849), who in turn had studied with Romberg. In 1837-1843, Lee was soloist in the Grand Opera orchestra in Paris; he then taught there until 1868, before later returning to Hamburg.

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In both his playing and the violoncello Method that he edited in 1845, the interesting concept is that Lee combined features of the German and French trends. His Method was accepted as a manual at the Paris Conservatoire and was dedicated to Louis Pierre Norblin, a professor there. As it contains both praiseworthy pedagogic material and melodious music, it was republished in different countries, including Russia. In the Soviet Union, the Method was published in Andrey Borisjak's edition (1940).

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He is most notable for the composition of an anthology of 40 cello études faciles (40 Easy Etudes for Violoncello, Opus 70). He wrote a series of studies for cello, of which one in particular; Thema mit Variationen (theme with variations), has been called, 'a study with a memorable melody'.

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Lee's etudes and cello duets have continued to be used in teaching in more modern times. Luckily for cellists, much of his music is now available for FREE download from the IMSLP. See here:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Lee,\\_Sebastian](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Lee,_Sebastian)

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Lee

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