

SPECIAL FEATURE on MARK KOSOWER

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Birth: 17th December 1976 - Eau Claire, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

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Universally admired by critics, audiences and fellow musicians, the North American cellist **Mark Kosower** has earned an extraordinary international reputation for his instrumental mastery, musical integrity and powerfully expressive performances as soloist with orchestras, recitals, chamber music and as an orchestral principal cellist. Mark Kosower is principal cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra and is on the faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He was previously solo cellist of the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra in Germany from 2006 to 2010 and was a Professor of Cello and Chamber Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from 2005 to 2007.

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Kosower is the son of Paul and Janet Kosower. His father was a professor of cello and organ and his mother was an elementary school teacher. He was introduced to the cello at the age of one-and-a-half by his father, who continued to be his primary teacher throughout his youth. His father, in fact, had studied with Ernst Silberstein, then principal cello of The Cleveland Orchestra under George Szell. Along with his father and his sister, Kosower has toured the United States and Europe as a member of the Dolce Cello Trio when he was a child (and I believe during a whole decade of activity)! Kosower later went on to study with János Starker at Indiana University and Joel Krosnick at the Juilliard School.

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Kosower has been a top prize winner in both the Rostropovich and Pablo Casals International Cello competitions, including a special prize in both competitions for best interpretation of the newly commissioned works by Marco Stroppa and Cristóbal Halffter. He has also been the grand prize winner of both the Irving Klein International String Competition and the WAMSO Competition of the Minnesota Orchestra. In addition, Kosower has been the recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant and a Sony Grant.

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Kosower has appeared as soloist with the symphony orchestras of Detroit, Florida, Houston, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Phoenix, and Seattle; the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, among others.

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International appearances include the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the China National Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, the Kansai Philharmonic, the Orchestre de Paris, the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra.

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As a recitalist Kosower has performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Aspen Music Festival, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and on the Great Performer's Series at Lincoln Center. He has also given solo performances in sat the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Frankfurt's Alte Oper, Berlin's Komische Oper, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the Theatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro, and in New York's Avery Fisher Hall. He has recorded for Ambitus, Delos, Naxos, and VAI including a 2011 Naxos release of the Ginastera Cello Concertos with Lothar Zagrosek and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra.

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A dedicated teacher, Mr. Kosower is currently a member of the faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Kent Blossom Music Festival. He also teaches a week of classes at California's Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley each summer and served as a visiting distinguished professor at the University of Oregon during the 2017-18 academic year. He has given masterclasses around the world. His previous posts included that of professor of cello and chamber music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (2005-07).

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Yo Yo Ma some years ago called Kosower a most "remarkable young cellist" He continues to receive constant compliments by the musical critics; this headline by the Cleveland Plain Dealer takes the eye: "a virtuoso of staggering prowess"



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