

## SPECIAL FEATURE on BEATRIZ BLANCO

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Birth: 15th November 1985 - Valladolid, Castile and Leon, Spain

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Beatriz Blanco studied Cello at 'Musikene' - the Basque Country advanced Music Centre with Asier Polo and María Casado, then a Master "Konzertdiplom" at the Hochschule für Musik in Basel (Switzerland) with Iván Monighetti and later a postgraduate degree at the Mozarteum University of Salzburg (Austria) with Clemens Hagen, and at the Madrid International Chamber Music Institute of the Reina Sofia School of Music, working with maestro Ralf Gothóni. She was a prizewinner at the "Asociacion Suisse des Musiciens", with the Würdigungspreis of the Austrian Government 2013, the Antonio Janigro Competition in Zagreb 2016, and the Rahn Musikpreis in Switzerland.

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The quality and depth of her sound and stage presence have been evident since her debut with the Castilla y León Symphonic Orchestra in 2004. Her solo career includes performances with the Symphonieorchester Basel, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Argovia Philharmonic, Radio and Television Spanish Orchestra (ORTVE), Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra, Castilla y León Symphonic Orchestra (OSCyL), Orchestra Sinfónica del Vallés (OSV). She has performed in major European concert halls including the Theatre des Champs Elysees (Paris), Victoria Hall (Geneva), Stadt Casino (Basel), Solitär (Salzburg), Tonhalle (Zürich), Lingotto (Torino), Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, Palau de la Música and L'Auditori in Barcelona and Palau de las Arts in Valencia.

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Since 2008, she has performed regularly in a cello and piano duo together with Italian pianist Federico Bosco. They received the first prize at the Salieri-Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition 2015, in Verona, Italy, with engagements across Europe during the following seasons.

Her most interesting discography includes "A mon Ami" - cello and piano pieces by F.Chopin and A.Franck, and "Baroque Portrait" - a dedication to the J.S. Bach Cello Suites and J.Barrière Sonatas. Beatriz plays a C.Pierray cello (Paris, 1720), on her property thanks to the help of Fr. Dr. Anne Budde.

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She combines her concert activity with other musical activities. She taught at the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid before joining the Cello Faculty at the Vorarlberger Landeskonservatorium in Feldkirch, Austria. She is often invited to give masterclasses in Festivals and Academies - mention could be made of the Talis Festival in Sarajevo, the Sighisoara Festival in Romania, and the Young Musician Courses in Santa María del Páular in Madrid, Spain. She has also helped in CelloCyL ('Cello Castile and Leon') where she has given classes to small children.

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Beatriz is since 2019 artistic director of the Festival y Academia Ribeira Sacra in Galicia, Spain, bringing musicians all over the world together to perform chamber music in very unique places and to teach young talented musicians from Spain and abroad. As is clear to see, we are before a most intelligent and versatile cellist in the European scene of the twenty-first century. And so, now is a good moment to share a couple of great thoughts directly from Beatriz herself:

*"Don't pigeonhole yourself into anything specific; you are a musician and as such you have many options. Why only Baroque or Contemporary? Why be only a soloist or an orchestral musician? Why do you have to divide everything? For me, a good musician is someone complete, who is capable of playing a Mahler symphony within a section, as well as a Gabrielli Ricercare or a Dvorak concerto".*

and:

*"I hope ... To continue doing what I like and to be able to live from it. To feel fulfilled and proud of my work and have the opportunity to meet the artists I admire. To be able to create more musical culture in our country, to be able to give back a bit of what I am learning. "*

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Praised by critics and audiences alike for her passion, musicality, sensitivity, and technical mastery, here are a couple of examples of her noble interpretations:

Beatriz Blanco. E. Elgar - Cello Concerto in E minor (1º mto, Adagio-Moderato).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5RQtwz3P90&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5RQtwz3P90&feature=emb_logo)

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El chelo aristocrático de Schumann ('Schumann's Aristocratic Cello') | Beatriz Blanco/cello and Federico Bosco/piano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gUqvO0A99U>

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