

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on CHRISTIAN KELLERMAN

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Birth: 27th January 1815 - Randers (Jutland), Denmark

Death: 3rd December 1866 - Copenhagen, Denmark

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Christian Kellerman was born in North East Denmark, near the Baltic Sea. His father was planning that his son enter the 'business world' but young Christian was called by 'art'. At only 15 years old he moved to Vienna, in order to study with Joseph Merk (1795-1852). Merk was one of the top European professors of that generation, and Christian was a student with him between 1880 and 1835.

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After having finished his formal studies he performed in Vienna with success, and as a result he was able to play in the other large cities of Austria and Hungary. An inspiring career beckoned. In the year 1837 he gave concerts as far away as St. Petersburg. Further tours were increasing his reputation and, after his return to Denmark, became the principal cellist of the Royal Danish orchestra.

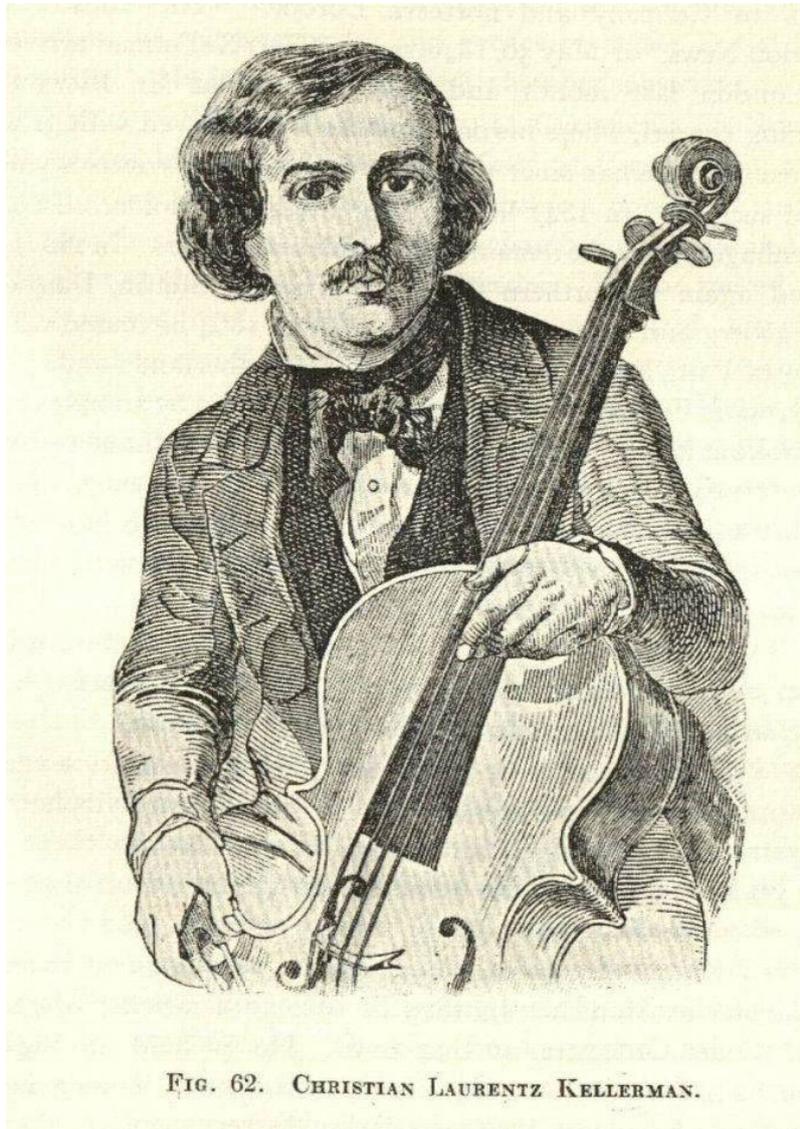
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He continued to work as a soloist, and in 1861 he made a journey which took him into North Italy and then into Germany, where he remained until 1864. However, in Mainz disaster struck... he became victim of a paralysis. He returned - still unrecovered - to Copenhagen, but he died there only two years later, aged still only 51.

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Kellerman did compose some music for the cello, but we are told it was nothing of much importance.





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