

# Cellists' Corner

## Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

*prepared by David Johnstone from public information*

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## FEATURE on ELEONORE SCHOENFELD

Birth: 6th March, 1925

Death: 1st January, 2007

Born in Maribor, Slovenia to a Polish father and a Russian mother, Schoenfeld moved to Berlin with her family at age six. She proceeded to study ballet, violin, and piano before switching to cello at age eleven. Her first teacher was Karl Niedermeyer, a pupil of Hugo Becker, with whom she studied until age fourteen. From there she entered the prestigious Hochschule für Musik in Berlin - eighteen being the traditional age of entry. She then spent the next four years studying with Adolf Steiner, a well-known soloist.

In 1952, Schoenfeld's parents, wary of the Russian dictatorship, led the Schoenfeld family to flee to the United States. From there, a connection from the Idyllwild Arts Academy led the then-dean of the USC Thornton School of Music to ask her, and her sister Alice, a concert violinist, to join the faculty. The "Schoenfeld Duo" remained there since, serving alongside Gregor Piatigorsky, Jascha Heifetz, and many other distinguished musicians.

Through the span of her career, Schoenfeld produced over 200 recordings, and was frequently recorded by the BBC.

Her students have become top prizewinners in competitions such as Geneva, the Casals Competition (Budapest), Tchaikovsky (Russia), Markneukirchen (Germany), Antonio Janigro (Croatia), and the Concert Artist Guild (U.S.). Her students have also performed as soloists with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Georgian Chamber Orchestra (former Soviet republic of Georgia), Slovenian Philharmonic, and Bamberg Symphony Orchestra (Germany) with such eminent conductors as Zubin Mehta, Horst Stein, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gerard Schwarz and Carl St. Clair.

In 2008, PBS made an hour-long documentary titled "Born to Teach" about Eleonore Schoenfeld's life. She passed away January 1, 2007 at the home she shared with her sister and is interred at the Mountain View Cemetery Mortuary, Altadena, California.

Special Awards:

USC Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2004

USC Ramo Music Faculty Award

Indiana University Grand Dame du Violoncelle Eva Janzer Memorial Award

American String Teachers Association National Distinguished Service Award

Music Teachers National Association Lifetime Achievement Award

ICS exclusive interview - conversation with Eleonore Schoenfeld by Tim Janof:

<http://www.cello.org/Newsletter/Articles/schoenfeld.htm>

Eleonore Schoenfeld is regarded as one of the leading cello pedagogues of the 20th century, and served on the faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music for nearly 50 years. Renowned as an expert teacher in music, Schoenfeld continuously attracted talented students from all over the world. This tribute film traces Eleonore's remarkable life as a performer, sister, and teacher, with interviews from former students and colleagues including Midori Goto, Lynn Harrell, Daniel Pollack, Alice Schoenfeld, and others...a wonderful tribute!

<https://music.usc.edu/eleonore-schoenfeld-a-life-of-elegance>



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