

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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BRIEF NOTES on TESSA SEYMOUR

Seymour was born in Berkeley, California (U.S.A.) on 9th June, 1993, to Norwegian and Russian parents. She started learning to play the cello at the age of six. At age 16, she moved to Philadelphia to study at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, where she was under the tutelage of Carter Brey and Peter Wiley.

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Seymour made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2007 and has performed in numerous other distinguished venues throughout the world, including Davies Symphony Hall and the Kennedy Center. She frequently performs on NPR's radio show From the Top with Christopher O'Riley, as well as the Emmy-nominated PBS television series, Live from Carnegie Hall. In 2009, she attended the Verbier Festival Academy and was awarded the "Prix Jean-Nicolas Firmenich de Violoncelle."

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In March 2014, she performed the U.S. premiere of Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki's Suite for Solo Cello at Carnegie Hall. Seymour is also a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholar.

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In 2016, she embarked on her first major nationwide solo tour of the USA, performing 30 concerts in 60 days, presenting an elaborate and very thoughtfully curated hour-long solo cello program of part classical, part contemporary repertoire that ranged from Bach's Cello Suites to the wonderful music of Kodaly, Sollima, and Ligeti.

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In 2017, she premiered the Australian electronic and acoustic music composer William Gardiner's concerto for cello, a work commissioned for her by composer John Adams and the Berkeley Symphony.

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Tessa is an accomplished young cellist, who has now moved to London from her native California to further her career. She plays on the Carlo Giuseppe Testore "Camilla" cello from 1720.



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