

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on DAVID GERINGAS

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Birth: 29th July 1946 - Vilnius, Lithuania

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The Lithuanian cellist and conductor David Geringas belongs to the musical elite of today. An unusually broad repertoire from the early Baroque to the contemporary is testament to the flexibility and curiosity of the artist. His intellectual rigor, his stylistic versatility, his melodic feeling, and the sensuousness of his tone have brought him praise the world over.

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The Rostropovich pupil and gold-medal winner of the 1970 Tchaikovsky Competition can now look back on a career that has spanned decades. David Geringas has performed world-wide with some of the leading orchestras, and important conductors of our time. His discography, which now approaches 100 CDs, includes many that have been honored with important prizes, including the Grand Prix du Disque for his recording of the 12 cello concertos of Luigi Boccherini, the Diapason d'Or d'Année for the chamber music of Henri Dutilleux, and the prize of the year from the Deutschen Schallplattenkritik for his recording of the cello concertos of Hans Pfitzner as well as for his recording of the works for cello and piano by Alfred Schnittke. David Geringas has been awarded in the years 2013 and 2014 with the "Echo Klassik".

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In 2013 he received the award for best chamber music recording of the 20th/21st Century (Braunfels/Strauss, Profil Edition Günter Hänssler) and in 2014 for the best chamber music recording of the 19th century ("Pohádka", C2 Hamburg / ES DUR). Prominent in his career as an artist are the regular releases of outstanding CDs. Between 2008 and 2011, eight new CDs were released. Among them are two world-premieres ("David's Song" and "Discorsi", Profil Edition Günter Hänssler), the works for piano and cello by Sergei Rachmaninoff (Hänssler Classics), of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (Profil Edition Günter Hänssler) and Frederic Chopin (Sony Music Entertainment, as well as the complete works Violoncello and Piano by Ludwig van Beethoven (Hänssler Classic) with the pianist Ian Fountain - a recording that has been awarded the "Editor's Choice" by GRAMOPHONE. The CD of the cycle "Bach Plus", that includes all the six Bach Suites for violoncello, introduced with fragments from various contemporary composers was released in October 2011 and was hailed by the critic.

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Well-known contemporary composers such as Sofia Gubaidulina, Ned Rorem, Peteris Vasks and Erkki-Sven TÜR have dedicated cello concertos to him. He has premiered many works of the Russian and Lithuanian avant-garde in the West. In 2002, he gave the world premiere of the Concerto in DO by Anatolijus Senderovas which was dedicated to him, and won the European Composers Prize in Berlin.

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In 2012, David Geringas performed three world premieres, Arvydas Malcys' Concerto "In Memoriam" in Kaunas, the Concerto per Violoncello by Silvia Colasanti in Milan, and the Cello Concerto by Alexander Raskatov in Amsterdam.

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As conductor, David Geringas appears regularly in Germany and abroad, and appears frequently in a dual role as cellist and conductor. Besides the invitations from the citadels of West and East European music centers (Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Auditorium Parco della musica Roma, Wiener Musikverein, Tonhalle Zürich, Berliner Philharmonie), among others, he has received invitations from Asia and the USA. From 2005 to 2008, he was chief guest conductor for the Kyushu Philharmonic Orchestra and in 2007 he had his debut at the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and the China Philharmonic Orchestra. In February 2009, he made his debut as conductor with the Moscow Philharmonic in Moscow and in 2015 with the Mariinsky Theater Orchestra in St. Petersburg. His opera conducting debut followed in 2010 with Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin in Klaipeda, Lithuania. In 2015 David Geringas gave a successful debut as a music director/conductor of the ballet "Egle, the Queen of Grass Snakes" by Eduardas Balsys in Vilnius.

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David Geringas has for decades taught a world-famous cello class from which have come such cello stars as Gustav Rivinius, Jens Peter Maintz, Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt, Monika Leskova, Tatiana Vassiljeva, Jing Zhao, Johannes Moser, Maximilian Hornung and Sol Gabetta. For his championing of Lithuanian music and composers, David Geringas has won the highest awards of his homeland. He was awarded the Verdienstkreuz 1. Klasse of Germany for his achievements as musician and cultural ambassador for the country on the international musical scene. David Geringas is honorary professor at the Moscow Conservatory, St. Petersburg Rimski-Korsakov Conservatory and at the Central Conservatory in Beijing, as well as having received an honorary doctorate from the Lithuanian Music and Theater Academy. In the winter semester 2014/2015 David Geringas was visiting professor at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and at the Manhattan School of Music in New York.

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On the occasion of his 70th birthday in 2016 David Geringas was celebrating his anniversary year with concerts in Siena, Rheingau Festival, Enescu Festival, Usedom Festival, Berlin Philharmonie, Vilnius, Moscow and St.Petersburg. In 2018, several jury presidencies in prestigious competitions such as Schoenfeld International Cello Competition in Harbin or George Enescu Cello Competition in Bucharest and the appointment as Meritorious Artist of the Musical Arts of the International Union of Musical Arts of Russia by the Rector of the Moscow Conservatory and President of the the International Union of Musical Arts of Russia - Alexander Sokolov. Professor David Geringas teaches exclusive at the Blackmore International Music Academy in Berlin.

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David Geringas with Rostropovich in 1976



David Geringas in 1986



David Geringas in 1996



David Geringas, again with Rostropovich, this time in 2001



David Geringas, the famed teacher

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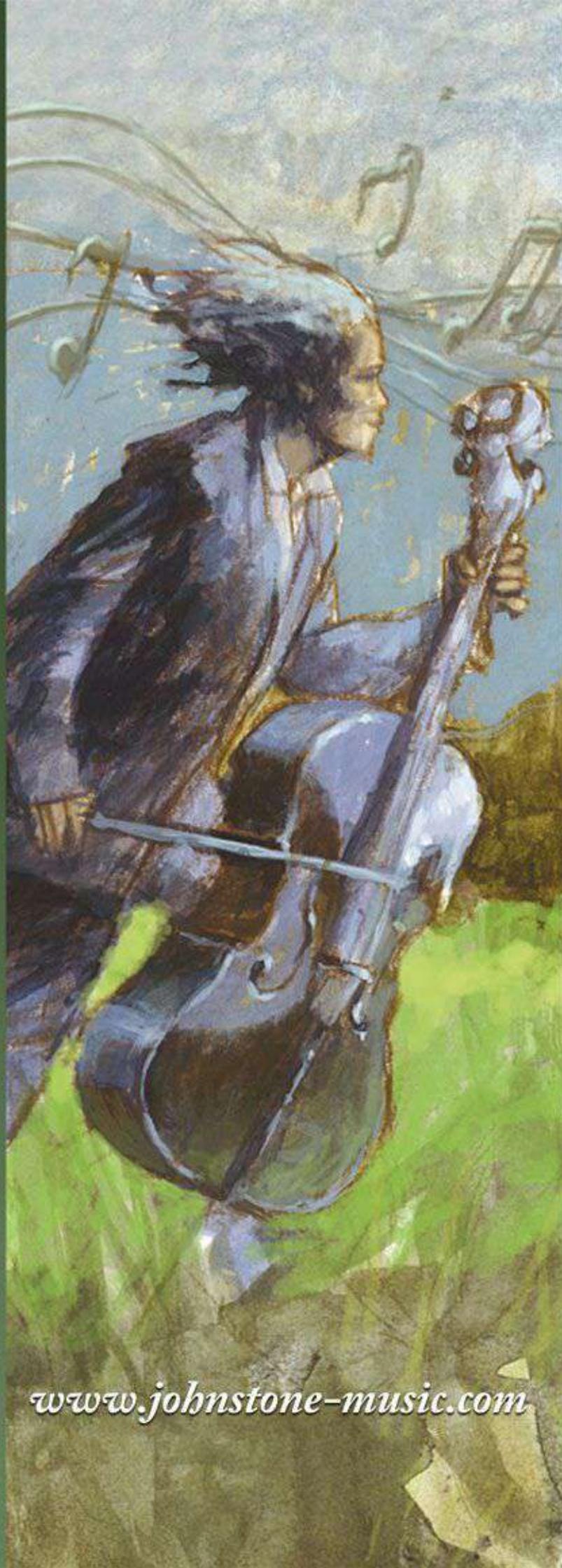
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