

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on DRAGAN 'SUZUKI' DJORDJEVIC

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Dragan Djordjević, DMA, started with playing violin at the age of six at the School for Musically Gifted Children in Čuprija. In the artistic world he is often called 'Suzuki', and he got his nickname thanks to the famous Suzuki method which helped him make these first music steps when he was six. However, two years later chose cello and received first lessons from Relja Četković. He graduated from Faculty of Music in Belgrade in the class of prof. Sandra Belić.

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From the year 2000 he continued his master studies in London, at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Professor Stefan Popov. During his studies in England he was acknowledged as already of high professional standard; he played in the London Symphony Orchestra and was even a guest principal cellist in the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

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In 2002 Dragan met Young Chang Cho and continued studies in his class at the Hochschule fur Musik in Germany where in 2005 he received Concert Diploma with distinction and special honour. Additionally he attended the master classes of Misha Maisky, Boris Pergamenschikow, Aleksandar Fedorchenko, David Grigorian, Thobias Kuhne, David Takeno, Stanislav Apolin and also the chamber music classes of Welinger, Takacs, Melos and Alban Berg Quartets.

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He has been a prize-winner at the Antonio Janigro International Competition, the Orpheus Laureates competition, the Markneukirchen Competition, the Jeunesses Musicales Competition in Belgrade, the International Petar Konjović Competition, the Città di Stresa Competition and the Charver Soveoures Competition and has received numerous other special awards.

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As a soloist and chamber musician he has now performed in Holland, Sweden, Russia, Belgium, Korea, Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, and France, and at prestigious international music festivals such as the BBC PROMS, City of London Festival, Ohrid Summer, BEMUS, Cello-Fest-Belgrade etc. In April 2011 he was honoured to receive an invitation from maestro Valery Gergiev to play on several tours as a guest principal cellist with the Mariinsky Symphony Orchestra.

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As concerto soloist he has performed with the Bergische Symphoniker, Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Kammer Philharmonie Amade, Belgrade Radio Symphony Orchestra, “Camerata Serbica”, Bamberg Chamber Orchestra, VSO Symphony Orchestra, St. George Strings, Macedonian Symphony Orchestra, and the Symphony Orchestra of RTV Slovenia. He has collaborated with international artists such as Shlomo Mintz, Itamar Golan, Mikhail Shcherbakov, Mincho Minchev, Jon Adams, Peter Sculthorpe, Roman Simović, Leslie Howard, Tan Dun, Nemanja Radulović, and many others.

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At the present time Dragan Đorđević is principal cellist with the Symphony Orchestra of RTV Slovenia, a professor of cello at the Faculty of Music in Belgrade, and artistic director of School for Musically Gifted Children in Čuprija. In the International Cello Fest of Belgrade he is a member of the Artistic Board and a programme selector. Press and critics have described him as one of the most original performers of his generation.



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