

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on WILL HAYES

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Will Hayes, an avid American freelance cellist based in Upstate New York, was born on September 10th, 1968, 8 minutes ahead of his twin Sister Catherine, to Metropolitan Opera mezzo soprano Rosalind Hupp and U.S. Marine and business entrepreneur William Hayes, Sr. Will is a University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM) graduate and past student artist at Chautauqua Institution, NY, and the Aspen Music Festival, CO.

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Over decades of public performances in various venues, on TV, radio, and internet, he's been a Cello Instructor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, Guest Lecturer at public schools across the country, The University at Albany (SUNY), The College of Saint Rose and Siena College, and an AFM Albany, NY Local 14 member and Schenectady Local 85-133 Executive Board Member.

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Via his teaching studio, Will enjoys sharing all the best techniques, practices and concepts from the Suzuki method and the conventional western approach of the world's top performers and teachers he has studied with/learned from in person: Yo Yo Ma, Lev Aronson, Richard Kay, Chaim Zemach, Jeff Szabo, David Sabee, Jack Kirstein, Lee Fiser, Paul Katz, Richard Aaron, Zara Nelsova, Yehuda Hanani, and Sara Sant'ambrogio, as well as in coaching sessions from members of the Metropolitan Opera and renowned chamber ensembles, including the Tokyo, Emerson, Cleveland and LaSalle String Quartets. The highest credit goes to his earliest private teachers, Eleanor Sandblade, Arlene Conn, and Dr. Lou Richardson, SUNY Fredonia.

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Will has connected with audiences in the U.S. and abroad, performing live on stage with rock legend Rod Stewart; vocal legend Johnny Mathis; "the Jimi Hendrix" of the violin Eileen Ivers, of Riverdance fiddling fame, and the operatic vocal quartet sensation "Il Divo."

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Will has held positions, regular and substitute, in orchestras across the country, including the Allegheny College Baroque Ensemble (PA); Middletown Symphony, OH; Richmond Symphony, IN; Lawton Philharmonic, and Enid Symphony, OK; Wyoming Symphony; Las Cruces Symphony, NM; Tri-County Orchestra, AL (viola and cello); and, in NY, in the Schenectady Symphony, Catskill Symphony, Clinton Symphony, Woodstock Symphony, Northern Dutchess Symphony, Greater Newburgh Symphony, Colgate University Orchestra, Richmond County Orchestra (Staten Island), UAlbany Symphony, Siena Chamber Orchestra, Albany Pro Musica, Cathedral of All Saints Orchestra, ensembles for nationally touring shows at the Palace Theater and Proctor's Theater, Hubbard Hall Opera, Schenectady Light Opera Company, Park Playhouse, Not So Common Players, Guilderland Players, Theater Barn, C-R Kids, University at Albany Theater, and Union College Theatre, Timothy Murphy Playhouse; as well as with Capitol Chamber Artists, and Sage City Symphony, VT.

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You can catch him in action at a concert association performance near you (or, available streaming online in the time of COVID-19), appearing on such concert series as held at the NY State Museum, Troy Music Hall, Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, Hudson Valley Community College Cultural Affairs, Guilderland Public Library, Bethlehem Public Library, Saugerties Pro Musica, Emmanuel Baptist Church, First Fridays at First Presbyterian Church of Albany, and beyond.

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Venturing beyond the standard fare of Classical music, Will frequently blazes new trails in recording studio gigs, which have been very fun collaborations for him to invent and capture ample sound tracks to enhance composing colleagues' sounds. Past work includes sessions for a recorded orchestral accompaniment for a production of The Sound of Music in Cinti, OH; and, in New York, sessions for: Sandy McKnight and the Idea (band), composer Brian Fitzgerald, Justin Metz studio, Josh Pechette studio, composer Mark LaRose, Niki Kaos and Curious Comet (band), and Glass Pony (band) at Blue Sky Studio, Delmar, NY.

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Will's students love learning insights that have led to their fine achievements, including in Suburban Council, All-County Orchestra, many top scores in the NYSSMA rating system in NY (www.nyssma.org), concert master/first chair/high rankings in their school orchestras and youth orchestras, performing at Carnegie Hall in NYC, playing with Yo Yo Ma at SPAC, and selection for NPR and PBS shows. Several students have gone into careers in music, including on scholarships to music schools around the country. Will has been a certified public school music educator, guest clinician, math and language arts tutor, youth orchestra conductor, or private lesson teacher in PA, OH, OK, SC, WY, CO, NM, AL, and NY over three decades.

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For more information about Will, see www.willthecellist.com



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