

# Cellists' Corner

## Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

*prepared by David Johnstone from public information*

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## **SPECIAL FEATURE on ROMAN JABŁOŃSKI**

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Roman JABŁOŃSKI is one of the most distinguished Polish cellists and is considered to be one of the most outstanding performers. Swiss cello player Julius Bächli devoted a chapter to him in his book, *Berühmte Cellisten* (Famous Cellists).

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Jabłoński hails from a musical family. His father, Henryk Hubertus Jabłoński, was a well-known and respected composer. In 1963 he graduated from the Secondary Music School in Gdańsk in the class of Roman Suchecki. In 1964-69, as a scholarship holder of the Minister of Culture and Art, he studied at the Moscow Conservatory under Sergei Syryński. In 1971-73 he studied with Aldo Parisot at Yale University in New Haven in the United States.

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He has won top awards at numerous competitions, such as in Munich in 1968 (distinction), Gdańsk in 1970 (1st prize with Krystyna Borucińska in the chamber music category), Dallas in 1972 (1st prize), and Bordeaux in 1974 (silver medal).

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In 1976 he made his debut in the United States - he performed as a soloist with the Great Symphony Orchestra of Polish Radio and Television in Katowice under the direction of Jerzy Maksymiuk at Carnegie Hall in New York. Since then, he has performed with the best orchestras in the world, such as the National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra RAI Roma, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Scottish National Orchestra, ZDF Köln and all BBC orchestras, while in Poland, among others, the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with some of the greatest musicians of our time, performing in prestigious venues and the radio station in Cologne, the BBC concert halls, as well as in Madrid, Barcelona, Moscow, Rome, Edinburgh, and Lisbon.

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Roman Jabłoński is also involved in teaching work. From 1969 to 1971 he lectured at the Academy of Music in Łódź , in 1964-76 at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk, from 1978 at the Academy of Music in Warsaw. In the 1990s, he moved to San Sebastián in Spain, where he took an active part in the country's musical life as a performer and organizer of international music courses. He has been invited to give masterclasses in Europe, the United States and Australia. He is/was also professor at the Akademie für Kunst in Berlin, Academy of Music in Manchester, Yale University School of Music, and teaches at numerous master courses (including in Rheinsberg, Ankara, Cleveland, Jerusalem, Norfolk, Perth, San Sebastian, Głuchołazy).

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Roman Jabłoński had a long-lasting friendship with the composer Witold Lutosławski, who acclaimed him as his favourite interpreter of his Cello Concerto. He performed the work under the composer's baton in many renowned concert halls and at festivals, in Berlin, New York, Cleveland, London, or Edinburgh. Contemporary music occupies a prominent place in Jabłoński's repertoire. Many composers have dedicated works to him. He was the soloist in the Polish premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki's Cello Concerto No. 2, and performed Lutosławski's cello concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. He has played a Giovanni Grancino instrument dating from 1692.



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