

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on NATALIA SHAKHOVSKAYA

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Birth: 27th September 1935 - Moscow

Death: 20th May 2017 - Moscow

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Natalia Shakhovskaya studied at the Gnessin School of Music and later at the Moscow Conservatory, under the guidance of Semyon Kozolupov. Her advanced studies were carried out in this same centre with Mstislav Rostropovich. She became the winner of some of the most important performing competitions, both in Russia and internationally - including the International Tchaikovsky Competition, where she obtained the First Prize and Gold Medal in 1962.

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Since that success Natalia Shakhovskaya carried out an intense concert life both in recitals and with the best orchestras and conductors. The first I knew of her was a recording of the virtuoso Concerto-Rhapsody of Khachaturian, with the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by the composer - this would have been recorded in the early 1970s I believe.

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She was a professor at the Moscow Conservatory, and was the Head Professor of the Cello Chair and Director of the Double Bass Department between 1974 and 1995, once Rostropovich had vacated that position when he left Russia. Natalia Shakhovskaya herself has had more than forty students awarded top prizes in international competitions to her credit. Not surprisingly she was invited to give master classes around the world and to be part of the jury in international competitions. She was also Head of the Sony Cello Chair at the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid, sending many now important cellists on the professional way....

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Tribute to Natalia Shakhovskaya | 10 Cello Medley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnKF9rYiDW8>

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Pablo Ferrández wrote about her:

“Natalia Shakhovskaya, one of the most beautiful human beings that ever walked the earth, passed away today... I studied with her for seven years, from 13 to 19.... and she had a great impact on me, an overwhelming impact, she made me who I am today, not only as a cellist and a musician, but as a person...”.

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Other pupils of her have included:

Truls Mørk

Fernando Arias

Michal Dmochowski

Alexandre Buzlov

Alexander Ramm

Carmen María Elena González

Tatiana Alampieva.....and many more! ...



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