

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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FEATURE ON

MICHAEL FLAKSMAN

cellist, professor and music courses founder

Birth: 1946 - Akron, Ohio, USA.

Death: 2019

He studied the cello in Paris with Paul Tortelier and he was also taught composition under Nadia Boulanger. He continued studying at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf under Antonio Janigro.

He won the first prize at the 1974 International Cello Competition in Bologna, a year later receiving the Casals Centenary Award. A soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra at just 17 years of age, concertised extensively before settling for a distinguished teaching career.

He became Janigro's teaching assistant at the Stuttgart Musikhochschule, and at the Mozarteum University Salzburg. Then, in 1987 Flaksman succeeded Janigro at Stuttgart, and four years later became a professor at the Musikhochschule in Mannheim. At Mannheim he was elected its vice president four times, between September 1999 and August 2010, having already served several years as head of strings.

He frequently appeared on juries at international music competitions.

As an organizer he founded the Ascoli Piceno Festival in Italy.

His son, Jonathan, is assistant principal cello with the Santa Barbara Symphony.



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