

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

*Any image linked here is claimed to be used under fair use as:
the photo or image is only being used solely for informational purposes*

If any copyright holder is not agreed such an image could be removed at short notice

LUIGI SILVA

By Karel

Born in Milan, Italy Nov. 13th, 1903, Luigi Silva came from a musical family: his father was a voice teacher of some renown and his mother was a Viennese singer. At the age of 5, Silva began taking piano lessons with his father, and started his study of cello three years later. In addition to taking cello lessons with Arturo Bonucci in Bologna, Silva also studied composition with Respighi in Rome, but his small hands and frail health prevented him from being accepted for study with famous masters. Silva received a degree in cello from the Bologna Conservatory, and a master's degree in music pedagogy (*cum laude*) in 1921.

Silva performed throughout Europe during the 1920s and 1930s. He was cellist in the Rome Opera Orchestra, and won the Boccherini Prize at the First National Contest for young concert artists in Rome in 1933. This may have triggered his lifetime interest in Boccherini's cello compositions. He was cellist in the Quartetto di Roma, and taught at the Cherubini Conservatory in Florence.

In 1939 Silva emigrated with his wife and father to the United States, settled in California and eventually became an American citizen. The family moved to New York in 1940, and from 1941-1949 Silva was head of the cello and chamber music departments at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. From 1949 he taught at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, at the Mannes College of Music, and the Yale University School of Music. He was cellist of the Mannes-Gimpel-Silva Trio.

Silva's great talent rested in his superb ability to teach young people just beginning to play the cello. His special interest in developing the left-hand technique of his students probably stemmed from his own problem of having small hands.

Luigi Silva (1903-1961) - Italian-born violoncellist, teacher, and musicologist. He was a member of the Quartetto di Roma, the Mannes-Gimpel-Silva Trio, and other chamber music groups. Silva taught at several schools, including the Eastman School of Music, Juilliard, the Peabody Conservatory, and Yale University. His collection of approximately 1775 music scores and 13 boxes of archival materials is housed in the Special Collections Division of Jackson Library at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The music scores have been cataloged and may be searched through Jackson Library's online catalog.



JOHNSTONE - MUSIC

A space open for:

- Concerts and performances
- Composition and special projects with the cello
- New frontiers / cross-over / fusion
- Composition of instrumental music for concerts and recitals
- Television music / cinema / theatre / documentaries

Downloading of Music Scores

- Strings
- Wind and brass
- Piano
- Accordion
- Chamber groups / orchestra

Downloads of transcriptions:

- Solo cello
- Cello and piano
- Cello and orchestra
- Cello ensembles
(duos up to cello orchestras)

Written Articles

- General Music
- Specialist themes on the cello

Directory - Library

- Famous Historical Cellists

Audio - Video

- Free downloads and links

Interactive

- News and Diary
- Commentaries and Suggestions
- Useful and easy tools for musicians
- Games



www.johnstone-music.com