

DIRECTORY / LIBRARY OF FAMOUS HISTORICAL CELLISTS

Surname letter starting with W

DIRECTORIO / BIBLIOTECA DE VIOLONCELLISTAS HISTORICOS FAMOSOS

Apellidos empezando con W

**** {Patricia} Ruth Waddell (Waddel)**

1891-1981

Scotland

Important Activity:

Member of the Reid (Symphony) Orchestra. violoncello teacher and performer.

Anecdotes:

* Sister of Mamie Waddell (sometimes the surname is spelled with one L as in Waddel)

* she was a student of Portuguese cellist Guilhermina Suggia

* In 1946 the University of Edinburgh awarded each of the two sisters an Hon.D.Mus

* after their deaths the Maimie and Ruth Waddell Memorial Prize was established for String Players

* amongst her students were Joan Dickson and Eleanor 'Kitty' Gregorson

**** Henryk Waghalter [*considered a Holocaust Victim*]**

1869 - 1958

Poland

Important Activity:

Principal cello Warsaw Opera theatre Orchestra. Also an organist.

Anedotes:

* born in Warsaw, died in Katowice

* a pupil of Becker and Klengel.

* also a cello professor, composer, and orchestral conductor.

**** Józef Wagner**

1768 - 1855

Poland

Important Activity:

Cello professor in Warsaw.

**** Herbert Walenn**

1870 - 1953

Great Britain

Important Activity:

Founder of The London Violoncello School, Professor Royal Academy of Music (London).

**** Alfred Wallenstein**

1898 - 1983

USA

Important Activity:

Member San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Member Los angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Principal cello Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Principal cello New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Music Director Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Professor Juillard School of Music (New York).

Anecdotes:

** Toscanini advised him to become a conductor!*

**** Heinrich Warnke**

1870 - 1938

Germany

Important Activity:

Member Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Principal cello Kaim Orchestra. Principal cello Boston Symphony Orchestra. Principal cello Metroplitan Opera Orchestra (New York). Boston Symphony Quartet.

**** Constant Noel Adolphe Warot**

1812 - 1875

Belgium

Important Activity:

Professor Brussels Conservatoire.

Music/Publications:

Several own original works.

**** Franz Joseph Weigl**

1740 – 1820

Bavaria

Important Activity:

Member Vienna Opera Orchestra. Chamber musician in Imperial Chapel (Vienna).

Anecdotes:

* *A once celebrated cellist in Vienna – upon 50 years service the Emperor awarded him a gold medal.*

* *He was a cellist in the orchestra of the Esterházy family. He played under the directorship of Joseph Haydn, who also was godfather to the cellist's son*

* *Haydn MAYBE composed the Concerto in C for him!*

* *At some point after 1769 Weigl left the Esterházy Kapelle in order to move to Vienna to be able to join Leopold Hofmann's orchestra at St. Peter's where he remained active until at least 1783.*

* *He was the father of Joseph Weigl (1766 - 1846), the composer and conductor.*

**** Terence Weil**

1921 – 1995

England

Important Activity:

Principal cello English Chamber Orchestra, founder member of Melos Ensemble.

Cremona Quartet. Professor of chamber music at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Premieres:

Arthur Butterworth - Suite for viola and cello (with Cecil Aronowitz in 1951).

Anecdotes:

* *He was well-known for correcting mispronunciations of his last name, which was commonly mispronounced as "wheel"!*

**** August Wenzinger**

1905 – 1996

Switzerland

Important Activity:

Principal cello Bremen Orchestra. Principal cello Basel Allgemeine Musikgesellschaft

(1936-1970). Kabeler Kammermusik (Kabel Chamber Music). Kammermusikkreis

Scheck-Wenzinger (Scheck-Wenzinger Chamber Music Circle). Professor Schola

Cantorum Basiliensis (Basle). Schola Cantorum Basiliensis viola da gamba trio.

Professor at Harvard and Brandeis Universities (USA). Honorary doctorate from the University of Basel. Conductor Capella Coloniensis (baroque orchestra) of West German Radio in Cologne.

Premieres:

Hindemith – Cello Concerto (European premiere)

Music/Publications:

a method book for viola da gamba in 2 volumes. Editions for cello of the Bach Suites.

Anecdotes:

** a pupil Basle Conservatoire. Later studied with Paul Grümmer (Cologne Conservatoire), and Emanuel Feuermann (Berlin).*

** by 1925 he had mastered the Viola da gamba, and was accepted as a pioneer of historically informed performances, helped by both gamba playing, and as conductor of Baroque orchestral and opera music.*

**** Joseph Werner**

1837 – 1922

Germany

Important Activity:

Principal cello Munich Hofkapelle.

Music/Publications:

Own original pieces including pieces for ensembles of cellos, and a Cello method.

****?. Werner**

???? (early 18th c.) – 1768

Bohemia

Important Activity:

Musician in the Crusaders' Church, Prague.

Music/Publications:

Own original works, including cello concertos.

Anecdotes:

** once considered an excellent player – rumoured that in his time no foreign cellist ventured/dared to play in Prague!*

**** William Whitehouse**

1859 – 1935

Great Britain

Important Activity:

Professor Royal Academy of Music (London), London Trio with Simonetti and Goodwin, Professor Cambridge University, Professor Royal College of Music (London), Professor King's College (London), Professor Manchester New College of Music. Member Bath Quartet Society. Ludwig Quartet.

Music/Publications:

Some original pieces. Own studies for cello, plus the autobiography 'Recollections of a cellist'.

Friendships:

Piatti

Anecdotes:

** a pupil of Piatti (Royal Academy of Music).*

** the teacher to Felix Salmond, Paul Ludwig, Herbert Withers, Paterson Parker, John Snowdon, Warwick Evans, Ivor James, Kate Ould, Beatrice Evelyn and Beatrice Harrison.*

**** Mateusz Wielhorsky**

1794 - 1866

Russia

Important Activity:

Cellist.

Dedications:

Adolf von Henselt - Duo, Op.14 (c.1845)

Franchomme - Cello Concerto No.1 in C minor, Op.33

Schumann - Piano Quartet

Anecdotes:

** he was the first important Russian-born cellist, working as a soloist, and a music organizer in his land.*

**** Alexander Wierzbilowicz**

1850 - 1911

Russia (Polish father)

Important Activity:

Principal cello Russian Imperial Opera Orchestra, St. Petersburg String Quartet, Duo with Rubinstein.

Dedications:

Popper - Serenata Oriental, Op.18,

Popper - Spanish Dances, Op.54 (Serenade)

Glazounov - Chant du Menestrel, for cello with orchestral/piano accompaniment, Op.71.

Glazounov – *Melodie* (Op.20 No.1) and *Serenade Espagnole* (Op.20 No.2) vlc and piano)

Victor Ewald – *Romance*, Op.82 (1894),

Leokadiva Kashperova – *Cello Sonata*, Op.1 (1890)

Neruda – *Gavotte*, Op.54

Nápravnik - several pieces

Special friendships:

Popper, Glazounov

Anecdotes:

* He was a favoured student of Davidov

** Hanus Wihan

1855 – 1920

Czech

Important Activity:

Professor Mozarteum in Salzburg (age 18). Member private orchestra of a Russian patron in Nice and Lugano, then went to Benjamin Bilsé's orchestra in Berlin (the forerunner of the Berlin Philharmonic). Prince Schwarzenburg's orchestra in Sondershausen. Court orchestra in Munich. Bohemian String Quartet (with violinists Karel Hoffmann and Josef Suk, and violist Oskar Nedbal). Chamber music and Cello professor at Prague Conservatory.

Premieres:

R. Strauss – *Cello Sonata* (also dedicated to him),

R. Strauss – *Romance for Cello and Orchestra* (no dedication, but officially written for him. The dedication in fact went to Strauss's uncle).

Dvořák - *Quartet in G major*,

Dedications:

Richard Strauss - *String Quartet in A*, Op. 2,

Dvořák – *Cello Concerto in B minor*.

Dvorak – *Rondo*, Op.94.

Dvorak – *Silent Woods* (cello version),

Dvorak – *2 Slavonic Dances* (cello versions).

Students: The following important cellists studied with Wihan -

Ladislav Zelenka (who substituted him in the Czech Quartet)

Artur Krása,

Otakar Berger,

Jan Burian,

Julius Junek,

Rudolf Pavlata,

Maximilian Škvor, and

Bedřich Vaska.

Friendships:

Liszt, Dvorak, Hans von Bülow, Richard Wagner (who hired him to play at the Bayreuth Festival), Richard Strauss, Davidov, Tchaikovsky.

Anecdotes:

* Dvorak became rather angry at Wihan's attempt to insert a possible cadenza in his cello concerto. However, the first performance by Leo Stern was as a result of Wihan's professional diary not allowing him freedom to play (because of quartet commitments), and not because of worsening relations with the Composer (as sometimes suggested).

* It was also about Wihan whom Dvorak was thinking of when he wrote the melodious violoncello part in the piano trio Op. 90 ('Dumky' 1891).

**** Bruno Wilifert**

1836? - ???

Important Activity:

Principal cello German Opera Orchestra, Prague (1864).

Music/Publications:

own original pieces.

Anecdotes:

* a pupil of Fr. Grutzmacher.

* Organizing member of Prague Musical Union.

**** Kazimierz Wilkomirski**

1900-1995

Poland

Important Activity:

Cellist and conductor. Director of Baltic State Opera (Gdansk Opera). Professor Music Academy of Sopot.

Premieres:

Bacewicz – Mazovian Danc (written 1951, fp 1952 Warsaw)

Anecdotes:

* an excellent all-round musician – cellist, composer, orchestrator, arranger and conductor.

**** Willem Willeke**

1880 – 1950

Germany

Important Activity:

Principal cello with several important orchestras, also conductor. Also became physician!

Kneisel quartet (succeeding Alwin Schroeder). Founder Elshuco Trio.

Director of Berkshire Music Festival (USA).

Dedications:

Wilhelm Jeral – Cello Concerto, Op.10 (c.1899)

Anecdotes:

** he performed Grieg – Sonata with composer, Brahms – Sonatas with composer at the piano, and Saint-Saens – Cello Concerto No.1 with the composer conducting.*

**** Paul Anton Wineberger**

1758 – 1821

Germany

Important Activity:

Principal cello Oettingen Orchestra, Wallerstein. Member French Opera Orchestra, Hamburg.

Music/Publications:

some original works, including 2 cello concertos.

Anecdotes:

** also a singer, organist, music theorist and composer.*

**** Herbert {William Stennet} Withers**

1880 - 1961

Great Britain

Important Activity:

Cello soloist.

Dedications:

Percy Hilder Miles - Cello Concerto (but see underneath!)

Music/Publications:

He edited music of Nicolo Porpora, J.S.Bach

Anecdotes:

** A new cello concerto by Percy Hilder Miles (1878-1922) was initially dedicated to and rehearsed with the cello soloist Herbert Withers (1880–1961). It was announced for performance on 3rd September 1908 in Henry Wood's Promenade Concerts. However it was not finally performed because the composer voyaged to Australia in April 1908 and the orchestral parts were simply not completed in time. So instead Withers decided to perform the Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor. It seems the composer was not*

** he became well known for his solo performances in the Queens Hall concerts*

* *He turned down the chance to play as principal cello in the Grand Opera, Vienna, so as to be able to stay in England!*

**** Friedrich Witt**

1770 - 1836

Germany

Important Activity:

Composer. Learnt a number of instruments, but probably best as cellist ! Member Prince Kraft Ernst zu Oettingen-Wallerstein as a cellist. Later devoted himself to composition, including 23 symphonies.

**** Franz Xaver Woczitka**

c.1780 - ????

Poland

Service of Court of Mecklenburg- Schwerin. Member Electoral Band, Munich.

Music/Publications:

Own original works, including cello concertos and sonatas (highly praised in their time).