

Łucja Madziar - Violin

Currently 1st concertmaster of the Niedersaechsisches Staatsorchester Hannover in Germany (beg. 2010), Łucja Madziar has moved audiences around the world with her performances. A Laureate of the International Violin Competition „*Fritz Kreisler*” in Vienna, she also won the 1st prize „*Zlatko Balotovic*” and the Zagreb Philharmonic Prize at the 8th International Violin Competition „*Vaclav Huml*” in Zagreb, Croatia, and 1st prize and the EMCY Grand-Prix at the 8th International Violin Competition in Kloster Schöntal, Germany. She has appeared as a soloist with the Essener Philharmoniker, Niedersaechsisches Staatsorchester Hannover, Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn, Neubrandenburger Philharmoniker and Folkwang Kammerorchester Essen. Collaborating conductors include Stefan Soltesz, Karen Kamensek, Jörg Faerber, Alexander Joel, and Pavel Baleff, among others.

From 2006 to 2010, Łucja Madziar was 1st Concertmaster of the Essener Philharmoniker, Germany. She has worked regularly as guest 1st Concertmaster with renowned orchestras, such as the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, Bayerisches Staatsorchester Munich, Staatskapelle Berlin, Guerzenich Orchester Cologne, WDR Radio Orchestra Cologne, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, Museumsorchester Frankfurt, Duesseldorfer Symphoniker, Mannheimer Staatstheater, Dortmunder Philharmoniker, Bochumer Symphoniker, and the Vlaamse Opera, under the direction of conductors including Zubin Mehta, Kirill Petrenko, Sir Roger Norrington, Lawrence Foster, Thomas Hengelbrock, Michael Sanderling and Andrei Boreiko, among others.

A passionate and experienced chamber musician, Ms. Madziar has appeared in recitals at festivals in Europe and North America, including the Beethovenfest Bonn, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, Styriarte (Graz), Paderewski Festival (Warsaw), Festival Mitte Europa and Festspiele Herrenhausen. In 2012, with pianist Katharina Sellheim and cellist Christine Balke, she founded the Klaviertrio Hannover, which has performed numerous concerts in Germany and is known for its honesty of interpretation.

Born in Poland in 1981, Ms Madziar began playing the violin at age 6, and later graduated from the Hochschule fuer Musik in Rostock, Germany and the Kunstuniversitaet Graz, Austria. Her principal teachers were Petru Munteanu and Silvia Marcovici. She has participated in masterclasses with Ida Haendel, Shlomo Mintz, Igor Ozim, Stefan Gheorghiu and Gerard Poulet, and performs on a Milanese violin made in 1759 by Carlo Landolfi.

Christine Balke - Cello

Christine Balke was born in Stuttgart in 1963 and began her cello studies at the age of seven. From 1982-86 she studied in Stuttgart with Prof. Peter Buck, and graduated with a first in musical education. She continued her studies in Cologne with Prof. Boris Pergamenschikow from 1986-89, graduating with distinction.

Christine Balke graduated from the Solo Class of Prof. Wolfgang Mehdorn in Hamburg with distinction, and was awarded the Masefield Scholarship.

She performed Prokofiev's Symphony Concertante at the Hamburg 'Musikhalle' in her final concert, accompanied by the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra.

A year studying with Janos Starker at Indiana University in Bloomington, USA, was made possible by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Scholarship. During which she won the Schuman Cello Concerto Competition as a soloist, accompanied by the Indiana University Orchestra.

Christine Balke was awarded First Prize in numerous "Musical Youth" competitions when she was a child. She won the special prize for Cello and Piano Duo at the "S-3 Competition" organised by SWR (South German Radio). Later she was awarded First Prize by the Elise Meyer Foundation in Hamburg, and was a prizewinner of the "Hausmann Chamber Music Competition".

Christine Balke has taken part in master classes with Arto Noras, Czaba Onczay, Zara Nelsowa, David Geringas and Valentin Feigin. She has taken chamber music courses with the Lasalle Quartet, Melos Quartet and with Josef Gingold in the USA.

As a soloist Christine Balke has performed with various orchestras. She performed Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations many times, as part of ballet productions with the Hanover State Opera Orchestra. She was also soloist with the same orchestra 2012 at a Christmas Concert conducted by Jonathan Stockhammer.

Between 1985-1988, Christine Balke played regularly with the Wurttemberg State orchestra in Stuttgart, and with the South West Radio Symphony Orchestra. She has been assistant Principal Cello with the Hanover State Orchestra, whilst guest Principal Cellist with orchestras in Bremen, Braunschweig, Hamburg (State Opera), Berlin (German Opera) and Munich (Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra).

Katharina Sellheim - Piano

The Pianist Katharina Sellheim shows a remarkable musical versatility. She gets engaged as soloist, chamber musician and often accompanies lied singers. She gives recitals in the important musical centres of Europe, such as Vienna, Berlin and Paris and concerts worldwide - amongst others in the cities of Wuhan and Hefei in China. She is a regularly guest at international festivals like the "Beethoven-Fest" in Bonn, the "Schleswig Holstein Musikfestival", the "Braunschweig Classix Festival", the "Heidelberger Frühling", the "Tiroler Festspiele", and the Gustav Mahler Music Weeks in Toblach.

She taught master classes in China, Estland and others, and in 2006 she accepted the "Barenboim-Said Foundation's" invitation to give a series of guest lectures in Ramallah, Jerusalem and other cities in Palestine and Israel.

Katharina Sellheim is partner of winners of international competitions, renowned artists, members of the Berlin and Munich Philharmonic Orchestras and singers of the Hamburg State Opera. She was engaged by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau to accompany his master classes of Mörike- and Goethe lieder by Hugo Wolf in Sankt Paul.

Together with her brother Konstantin Sellheim, outstanding violist, she regularly plays concerts as the ["Duo Sellheim"](#). Their CD ["Fantasy"](#) with works of Schumann, Hindemith and Clarke produced by Musicaphon is now available on the market.

Her performances were broadcasted live by the German TV and radio station NDR and also recorded by SWR, WDR and HR.

Furthermore, in the project "Rhapsody in school" the pianist goes into schools to impart music to children and young adolescents.

During her university studies, Katharina Sellheim was rewarded several prizes and awards. She was scholarship holder of the "Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes" and repeated scholarship holder of the "Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienstes" as well as first laureate of the "Gedok music competition". Additionally, she is scholarship holder of the "FJS- Gesellschaft" as chamber musician and accompanist of lieder. To round off her range of scholarships, she was awarded a scholarship by the "Richard-Wagner-Verband" in 2005.

Katharina Sellheim received her musical education with Prof. Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Prof. Markus Becker and Germaine Mounier in Hannover and Paris. Important stimuli were given by Eckart Sellheim and Paul Badura-Skoda as well as Norman Shetler and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau.