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Explore Fine Antique InstrumentsHeritage by MyLuthierRare antique instruments, representing both historical significance and unparalleled craftsmanship. The cello is one of the most classical and most beautiful stringed musical instruments in the world. This instrument in particular has permeated throughout dozens of genres of music, lending
itself to help create some of the most moving and emotional pieces of music in history. The talented people on this list are masters of the cello and considered giants in the classical world. Whether you recognize these musicians or not, these famous cellists have all carved a place for themselves in the music business and become
influential, prominent figures in the industry. If you love geeking out on music, then we definitely recommend finding and listening to some of their music. So, what are you waiting for? Take a look through the cellists listed below, and vote up your favorite cellists in the world! Most divisive: Alisa WeilersteinOver 5.9K Ranker voters have come
together to rank this list of The Greatest Living Cellists Pablo Casals, considered to be one of the most influential cellists A person who plays the cello is called a cellist. This list of notable cellists is divided into four categories: 1) Living Classical Cellists; 2) Non-Classical Cellists; 3) Deceased Classical Cellists; 4) Deceased Non-Classical Cellists. The
cello (/ˈtʃɛloʊ/ chel-oh; plural cellos or celli) is a bowed string instrument with four strings tuned in perfect fifths. It is a member of the violin family of musical instruments. This is a dynamic list and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by editing the page to add missing items, with references to reliable
sources. To keep the lists usable and useful, please include only those who have attained notability as cellists. Please do not add those known for other activities who happen to play or have played the cello either professionally (e.g., the conductor Arturo Toscanini and composer Heitor Villa-Lobos) or privately (e.g., the actress Rosamund Pike). Also,
please do not add people without Wikipedia articles, unless you can also add a reference to verify the person's notability as a cellist. Jamal Aliyev Jamal Aliyev (born 1993, Azerbaijan) Nicolas Altstaedt (born 1982, Germany) Tanya Anisimova (born 1966, Russian, also a composer) Julian Armour (born 1960, Canadian) Maya Beiser Michael Bach (born
1958, Germany, also composer and visual artist) Soo Bae (born 1977, Korean-Canadian, living in United States) Zuill Bailey (born 1972, United States) Alexander Baillie (born 1956, England) Matthew Barley (born 1965, England) Maya Beiser (born 1963, Israel, moved to the United States, new classical music) Emmanuelle Bertrand (born 1973,
France) Coenraad Bloemendal (born 1946, Netherlands, moved to Canada) Mike Block (born 1982, United States) Becca Bradley (born 1991, United States) Andreas Brantelid (born 1987, Denmark) Carter Brey (born 1954, United States) František Brikcius (living, Czech Republic) Denis Brott (born 1950, Canada) Mario Brunello (born 1960, Italy)
Max Beitan (born 1986, Russia) Gautier Capuçon Gautier Capuçon (born 1981, France) Colin Carr (born 1957, England) Phoebe Carrai (born 1955, United States, baroque and other historical styles) Jesús Castro-Balbi (living, of Peruvian descent, moved from France to the United States) Rosa Cedrón (born 1972, Spain, also a singer) Han-na Chang
(born 1982, South Korea, also a conductor) Young-Chang Cho (born 1958, South Korea) Telalit Charsky (born 1986, Israel) Chu Yibing (born 1966, China) Myung-wha Chung (born 1944, Korean) Lluís Claret (born 1951, Andorra) Natalie Clein (living, England) Bruno Cocset (born 1963, France) Robert Cohen (born 1959, England) Christophe Coin
(born 1958, France) Emilio Colón (born in Puerto Rico, also a composer and conductor) Kristina Reiko Cooper (living, United States) Marc Coppey (born 1969, France) Robert deMaine Caroline Dale (born 1965, England, classical and popular music) Nadine Deleury (France) Robert deMaine (born 1969, United States) William De Rosa (living, United
States) Rohan de Saram (born 1939, England, also contemporary music) Roel Dieltiens (born 1957, Belgium, baroque and modern cello) Denise Djokic (born 1980, Canada) Angela East (born 1949, UK), continuo player and member of Red Priest Timothy Eddy (living, United States), a founding member of the Orion String Quartet Amanda Forsyth
Yosif Feigelson (born 1955, Latvia) Emmanuel Feldman (born 1965, United States) Pablo Ferrández (born 1991, Spain) David Finckel (born 1951, United States, founding former member of the Emerson String Quartet) C. Myron Flippin (United States) Amanda Forsyth (born 1966, Canada) Eugene Friesen (born 1952, United States) Michaela
Fukačová (living, Czech Republic) Tina Guo Sol Gabetta (born 1981, Argentina) Ophélie Gaillard (born 1974, France) Alban Gerhardt (born 1969, Germany) Kristin von der Goltz (born 1966, Germany, period instrument) David Geringas (born 1946, Lithuania) Igor Gavrish (born 1945, Russian) Rudolf Gleißner (born 1942, Germany) Tina Guo (born
1985 in China, raised and living in the United States, also an electric cellist and erhuist) Natalia Gutman (born 1942, Russian) Stjepan Hauser Matt Haimovitz (born 1970, Israel) Narek Hakhnazaryan (born 1988, Armenia) Yehuda Hanani (born Jerusalem, Israel) Richard Harwood (born 1979, England) Ofra Harnoy (born 1965, Israel) Stjepan Hauser
(born 1986, Croatia) Frans Helmerson (born 1945, Sweden) Catherine Hewgill (born 1963, Australia) - Principal Cello Sydney Symphony Orchestra Desmond Hoebig (born 1961, Canada) Louise Hopkins (born 1968, England) Dale Henderson (cellist) (New York) - Founder of Bach in the Subways Sébastien Hurtaud (living, France) Steven Isserlis
Steven Isserlis (born 1958, England) Sergei Istomin (Russian, resides in Belgium), period instruments, also plays viola da gamba Yuki Ito (born 1990, Japan) Ádám Jávorkai (born 1977, Hungary) Guy Johnston (born 1981, England) Sheku Kanneh-Mason (born 1999, United Kingdom) Ivan Karizna (born 1992, Belarus) Anssi Karttunen (born 1960,
Finland) Paul Katz (living, United States), founding member of the Cleveland Quartet Jonah Kim (born 1988, South Korea) Ralph Kirshbaum (born 1946, United States) Maria Kliegel (born 1952, Germany) Jacob Koranyi (born 1983, Sweden) Nina Kotova (born 1969 in Soviet Union, lives in the United States) Maxim Kozlov (active 1995 - present, born
in Russia, lives in the United States) Anatoli Krastev (born 1947, Bulgaria) Josef Krecmer (born 1958, Czech Republic) Joel Krosnick (born 1941, United States), was member of Juilliard String Quartet Wieland Kuijken (born 1938), Belgium, baroque cello and viola da gamba, also a conductor Friedemann Kupsa (born 1943, Austria) Aage Kvalbein (born
1947, Norway) David Lale (Australian cellist) (born 1962, England) David Lale (British cellist) (born 1981, England) Gerard Le Feuvre (born 1962, Channel Islands) Trey Lee Chui-yee (born 1973, Hong Kong) Mats Lidström (born 1959, Sweden) Jaap ter Linden (born 1947, Netherlands), baroque cello Gavriel Lipkind (born 1977, Israel) Hugh
Livingston (born 1969) Julian Lloyd Webber (born 1951, England) Yo-Yo Ma (born 1955 in France, raised and living in the United States) Mischa Maisky (born 1948, Latvia) Brian Manker (living, Canada) Jonathan Manson (living, born in Scotland), period instruments, also plays viola da gamba Alain Meunier (born 1942, France) Antônio Meneses
(born 1957, Brazil) Ailbhe McDonagh (born 1982, Ireland) Ivan Monighetti (born 1948, Poland) John Moran (born 1963, United States), baroque cello Truls Mørk (born 1961, Norway) Johannes Moser (born 1979, Germany, lives in Canada) Philippe Muller (born 1946, France) Daniel Müller-Schott (born 1976, Germany) Steven Sharp Nelson (born
1977, United States), member Of The Piano Guys Clancy Newman (born 1977, United States) Şerban Nichifor (born 1954, Romania), also a composer Arto Noras (born 1942, Finland) Kevin Olusola (born 1988, United States) Ouyang Nana (born 2000, China) Johann Sebastian Paetsch (born 1964, United States) Paolo Pandolfo (born 1964, Italy, viola
da gamba) Angela Park (born 1987, United States) Vito Paternoster (born circa 1963 [estimated from other dates], Italy, also a conductor and composer) Amit Peled (born 1973, Israel) Samuli Peltonen (born 1981, Finland) David Pereira (born 1953, Australia) Miklós Perényi (born 1948, Hungary) Vladimir Perlin (born 1942 in Soviet Union, lives in
Belarus, also a conductor and pedagogue) Luigi Piovano (living, Italy, baroque and modern cellos, also a conductor) Anthony Pleeth (born 1948, England, baroque cello, son and student of William Pleeth) Carlos Prieto (born 1937, Mexico) Mark Prihodko (born 1997, Belarus, lives in United States) Jean-Guihen Queyras (born 1967 in Canada, lives in
France, plays baroque and modern cellos) Misha Quint (born 1960 in Soviet Union, moved to the United States) Giovanni Ricciardi (born 1968, Italy) Sharon Robinson (born 1949, United States) (Kyril) Kirill Rodin (born 1963, Russian) Sergei Roldugin (born 1951, Russia) Shauna Rolston (born 1967, Canada) Joshua Roman (born 1983, United States)
Alexei Romanenko (born 1974 in Soviet Union, moved to the United States) Nathaniel Rosen (born 1948, United States) Martti Rousi (born 1960, Finland) Alexander Rudin (born 1960, Russian) Martin Rummel (born 1974, Austria) John Sant’Ambrogio (born 1932, United States) Sara Sant'Ambrogio (born 1962, United States) Niklas Schmidt (born
1958, Germany) Julian Schwarz (born 1991, United States) Inbal Segev (born in Israel, lives in the United States) Tessa Seymour (born 1993, United States) Jacob Shaw (born 1988, born in United Kingdom, lives in Denmark) Fred Sherry (born 1948, United States) Andrew Shulman (born 1960, England, also a conductor and composer) Vedran
Smailović (born 1956, Bosnia and Herzegovina, lives in Northern Ireland) Brinton Averil Smith (born 1969, in Royal Oak Michigan) Giovanni Sollima (born 1962, Italy, also a composer) Jeffrey Solow (born 1949, Los Angeles) Kian Soltani (born 1992, Austria) Julian Steckel (born 1982, Germany) Pierre Strauch (born 1958, France) Peter Stumpf (United
States) Luka Šulić (born 1987, Slovenia) Hidemi Suzuki (born 1957, Japan, period instruments, also a conductor) Stéphane Tétreault (born 1993, Canada) Camille Thomas (born 1988, France) Ronald Thomas (born 1952, United States) Doron Toister (born 1957, Israel) Fiona Thompson (born in England, lives in the United States) Bion Tsang (born
1967, United States) Frances-Marie Uitti (born 1946, United States, also a composer) Laura van der Heijden (born 1997, England) Jan Vogler (born 1964 in Germany, lives in the United States) Nathan Waks (born 1951, Australia) Christine Walevska (born 1943, Los Angeles, California) Raphael Wallfisch (born 1953, England) Jian Wang (born 1968,
China) Wendy Warner (living, United States) Graham Waterhouse (born 1962, England, also a composer) Paul Watkins (born 1970, Wales) Alisa Weilerstein (born 1982, United States) Paul Wiancko (born 1983, United States, also a composer) Peter Wiley (born 1955, United States) Dominique de Williencourt (born 1959, France, also a composer)
Pieter Wispelwey (born 1962, Netherlands) Sung-Won Yang (living, South Korea) Daniel Yeadon (born 1967, England, lives in Australia) Dmitry Yablonsky (living, Russia) Igor Zubkovsky (Russian, resides in the United States) Thomas Batuello (born 1994, TV work, rock music) Matt Brubeck (born 1961, United States, jazz music) Isobel Campbell (born
1976, Scotland, indie rock) Grace Chatto (living, born 10 December 1985, multi-instrumentalist, key member of band, Clean Bandit.) Gretta Cohn (living, United States, rock musician and radio producer) Melora Creager (born 1966, United States, rock music) Caroline Dale (born 1965, England, classical and popular music) Rushad Eggleston (born
1979, United States, cello rock) Gideon Freudmann (living, eclectic composer, cello rock) Erik Friedlander (born 1960, United States, jazz) Eugene Friesen (born 1952, United States, jazz/improvisational cellist) Károly Garam (born 1941 in Hungary, moved to Finland, popular musics) Hildur Guðnadóttir (born 1982, Iceland, lives in Germany, solo and
in electronica bands) Tina Guo (born 1985, China) Natalie Haas (living, United States, Celtic folk music) Melissa Hasin (born 1954, United States, popular music) Stjepan Hauser (born 1986, Croatia, part of 2Cellos) Svante Henryson (born 1963, Sweden, jazz, rock, also a composer) Ivan Hussey (living, leader of Celloman, fusion music) Jorane (born
1975, Canada, alternative singer-songwriter) Zoë Keating (born 1972, Canada, cello rock and classical, also a soundtrack composer) Julia Kent (living, born in Canada, cello rock) Perttu Kivilaakso (born 1978, Finland, from cello metal band Apocalyptica) Brent Kutzle (born 1987, United States, in band OneRepublic) Caroline Lavelle (living, British
singer-songwriter and cellist) Alexandra Lawn (from indie rock band Ra Ra Riot) Ana Lenchantin (living, United States, from progressive rock band Into the Presence) Max Lilja (born 1975, Finland, from thrash metal band Hevein) Fred Lonberg-Holm (born 1962, United States, jazz) Paavo Lötjönen (born 1968, Finland, from cello metal band
Apocalyptica) Antero Manninen (born 1973, Finland, cello metal) Martin McCarrick (born 1962, England, rock) Kerry Minnear (born 1948, England, multi-instrumentalist, progressive rock with 70s band Gentle Giant) Steven Sharp Nelson (born 1977, member of "The Piano Guys") Neyla Pekarek (born 1986, United States, also a vocalist, from folk
rock band The Lumineers) Saskia Rao-de Haas (born 1971, Netherlands, primarily known for Hindustani classical music, also a composer) Ernst Reijseger (born 1954, Netherlands, improvisation) Hank Roberts (born 1954, United States, jazz) Jane Scarpantoni (living, United States, alternative rock) Philip Sheppard (living, England, also a composer)
Ben Sollee (born 1983, United States, singer-songwriter, eclectic genres) Luka Šulić (born 1987, Croatia, part of 2Cellos) Mark Summer (born 1958, United States, original cellist of Turtle Island String Quartet) Martin Tillman (born 1964, Switzerland, also a composer) Eicca Toppinen (born 1975, Finland, from cello metal band Apocalyptica) Matt
Turner (living, United States) Kanon Wakeshima (born 1988, Japan, also a vocalist) Aubrey Webber (living, United States, nerd-folk with The Doubleclicks) Gay-Yee Westerhoff (born 1973, England, of crossover band Bond) Alexander Zhiroff (born 1951, Russian, world music) Claus Adam (1917–1983, United States, also a composer) Joseph Alexander
(c.1770–1822, Germany) Diran Alexanian (1881–1954, Armenia) Francesco Aliani (1762–1812, Italy) Karl Andersen (1903–1970, Norway, also a composer) Johann Gottfried Arnold (1773–1806, Germany, also a composer) Olivier Aubert (1763–c.1830, France, also a composer) Felix Battanchon (1814–1893, France) Paul Bazelaire (1886–1958, France)
Hugo Becker (1863–1941, Germany) Auguste van Biene (1849–1913, Netherlands, moved to England) Luigi Boccherini (1743–1805), Italy, primarily a composer) Karl Leopold Böhm (1806–1859, Austria) Gaetano Braga (1829–1907, Italy, also a composer) Jean-Baptiste Bréval (1753–1823, France) Christopher Bunting (1924–2005, England) Friedrich
Buxbaum (1869–1948, Austria) Anner Bylsma (1934–2019, Netherlands, baroque cello) Pau Casals (1876–1973, Spain, also a composer and conductor) Juan Ruiz Casaux (1889–1972, Spain) Gaspar Cassadó (1897–1966, Spain, also a composer) Giacobbe Cervetto (died 1783, Italy, moved to England) James Cervetto (1748–1837, UK) Mabel Chaplin
(1870–1960, UK, member of the Chaplin Trio; also played viola ga gamba) Giovanni Battista Cirri (1724–1808, Italy, also a composer) Jennifer Ward Clarke (1935–2015, UK) Hugo Cole (1917-1995, UK) Orlando Cole (1908–2010, United States) Nelson Cooke (1919–2018, Australia, career partly in UK) Bernhard Cossmann (1822–1910, Germany) John
Crosdill (1751–1825, UK) Douglas Cummings (1944–2014, UK) Karl Davydov (1838–1889, Russia) Jules Delsart (1844–1900, France) Jean Deplace (1944–2015, France) Friedrich Dotzauer (1783–1860, Germany) Karl Drechsler (1800–1873, Germany) Jean-Louis Duport (1749–1819, France, brother of Jean-Pierre Duport) Jean-Pierre Duport (1741–1818,
France, brother of Jean-Louis Duport) Jacqueline du Pré (1945–1987, England) Maurice Eisenberg (1900–1972, United States) Emanuel Feuermann (1902–1942, born in Ukraine, died in the United States) Rocco Filippini (1943–2021, Switzerland) Wilhelm Fitzenhagen (1848–1890, Germany) Pierre Fournier (1906–1986, France) Auguste Franchomme
(1808–1884, France) Ricardo Roberto Francia (1932–2021, Argentina) Jacques Franco-Mendès (1816–1889, Netherlands) Domenico Gabrielli (d.1690, Italy) Raya Garbousova (1909–1997, born in Georgia, Russian Empire) Maurice Gendron (1920–1990, France) Gwyneth George (1920–2016, UK) Georg Goltermann (1825–1876, Germany, also a
composer) Bernard Greenhouse (1916–2011, United States, founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio) Friedrich Grützmacher (1832–1903, Germany) Lynn Harrell (1944–2020, United States) Beatrice Harrison (1892–1965, England) Robert Hausmann (1852–1909, Germany) Victor Herbert (1859–1924, Ireland, primarily remembered as a composer,
also a conductor) Florence Hooton (1912-1988, England) Kato van der Hoeven (1877 –1959, Netherlands) Alexander Ivashkin (1948–2014, Russian) Antonio Janigro (1918–1989, Italy) Ivor James (1882–1963, British) Nicasio Jiménez (1849–1891, Cuba) Vivian Joseph (1916-2005, British) John Kennedy (1922–1980, born in England, moved to Australia)
Lauri Kennedy (1896–1985, born in Australia) Julius Klengel (1859–1933, Germany) Sviatoslav Knushevitsky (1907–1963, Russia) Antonín Kohout (1919–2013, Czech) Otto van Koppenhagen (1897–1978, Netherlands) Antonín Kraft (1752–1820, Czech) Salvatore Lanzetti (1710–1780, Italian) Robert Lindley (1776–1855, British) Joseph Linke (1783–
1837, Austria) Martin Lovett (1927–2020, England) Fritz Magg (1914–1997, born in Vienna, moved to the United States) Enrico Mainardi (1897-1976, Italy) Rudolf Matz (1901–1988, Croatia) Joseph Merk (1795–1852, Austria) Frank Miller (1912–1986, United States) Georges Miquelle (1894–1977, born in France, moved to the United States) Víctor
Mirecki Larramat (1947–1921, born in France, lived in Spain) Lorne Munroe (1924–2020, United States) Charlotte Moorman (1933–1991, United States, performance art) May Mukle (1880–1963, British) André Navarra (1911–1988, France) Zara Nelsova (1918–2002, Canada) Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880, born in Germany, lived in France) Siegfried
Palm (1927–2005, Germany) Aldo Parisot (1918–2018, Brazil, United States) Leslie Parnas (1931–2022, United States) Boris Pergamenschikow (1948–2004, born in Soviet Union, moved to Germany)[1] Gregor Piatigorsky (1903–1976, born in Russia, moved to United States) Alfredo Piatti (1822–1901, Italy) William Pleeth (1916–1999, England, teacher
of Jacqueline du Pré) Dominik Połoński (1977–2018, Poland) David Popper (1843–1913, Bohemian born, active in Hungary) Jean-Marie Raoul (1766–1837, France, also a composer) Thelma Reiss (1906–1991, Britain) Gábor Rejtő (1916–1987, Hungary) Bernhard Romberg (1767–1841, Germany, also a composer) Leonard Rose (1918–1984, United
States) Mstislav Rostropovich (1927–2007, Russia, also a conductor) Karel Pravoslav Sádlo (1898–1971, Czech) Miloš Sádlo (1912–2003, Czech) Felix Salmond (1880–1952, England) Heinrich Schiff (1951–2016, Austria) Franz Schmidt (1874–1939, Austria, also a pianist and a composer) Georg Schnéevoigt (1872–1947, Finnish, also a conductor)
Eleonore Schoenfeld (1925–2007, born in Slovenia, died in the United States) Joseph Schuster (1903–1969, born in Turkey, died in the United States) Adrien François Servais (1807–1866, Belgium) Daniil Shafran (1923–1997, Russian) Natalia Shakhovskaya (1935–2017, Russian) Harvey Shapiro (1911–2007, American) Anna Shuttleworth (1927–2021,
England) František Sláma (1923–2004, Czech) Benyamin Sönmez (1983–2011, Turkey) George Sopkin (1914–2008, United States) David Soyer (1923–2010, United States) William Henry Squire (1871–1963, England) János Starker (1924–2013, born in Hungary, died in the United States) Peter Steiner (1928-2003, Germany) Leo Stern (1862–1904,
England) Guilhermina Suggia (1885–1950, Portugal) Paul Tortelier (1914–1990, France) Anton Träg (1819–1860, Austria) Laszlo Varga (1924–2014, Hungary) Aleksandr Verzhbilovich (1850–1911, Russia) J. Louis von der Mehden (1873–1954, United States) Terence Weil (1921–1995, England) August Wenzinger (1905–1996, Switzerland) Donald
Whitton (1923–2018, Canada) Maximilian Willmann (1767–1813, Germany) Muhal Richard Abrams (1930-2017), United States, jazz, also a composer and multi-instrumentalist) David Baker (1931–2016, United States, jazz composer and performer) Tom Cora (1953–1998, United States, experimental jazz and rock) Mike Edwards (1948–2010, England,
member of the Electric Light Orchestra) Tristan Honsinger (born 1949, United States, free jazz and free improvisation) Fred Katz (1919–2013, United States, described as "the first real jazz cellist")[2] Hugh McDowell (1953–2018, England, cellist with rock bands Electric Light Orchestra and ELO Part II) Oscar Pettiford (1922–1960, United States,
bebop) Kristen Pfaff (1967–1994, United States, alternative rock) Arthur Russell (1951–1992, United States, eclectic genres) Music portal Lists of musicians ^ Jessica Duchen (4 May 2004). "Obituary for Boris Pergamenschikow". The Guardian. ^ Coda magazine. 2010-05-27. Retrieved 2011-10-05 – via books.google.com. Retrieved from " 2Croatian
musical duo "Two cellos" redirects here; not to be confused with A Tale of Two Cellos. 2Cellos2Cellos in 2017Background informationOriginZagreb, CroatiaGenresCello rock, classical, chamber music, instrumental rockLabelsSony MasterworksMembersLuka ŠulićStjepan HauserDušan KranjcWebsite"2Cellos.com". Archived from the original on 3
October 2023.YouTube informationChannel2CellosSubscribers6.2+ millionViews1.6+ billionLast updated: 18 September 2022 2Cellos (stylized 2CΞLLOS) were a Croatian cellist duo,[1][2][3] consisting of classically trained cellists Luka Šulić and Stjepan Hauser. Signed to Sony Masterworks in 2011, they released six albums. The duo played
instrumental arrangements for cellos of well-known pop and rock songs, as well as classical and film music.[4] The duo performed internationally and were featured on several American television series including Glee and The Bachelor (Sean and Catherine's Wedding).[5] They continue to be active as solo performers. Hauser is from Pula, Croatia, and
Šulić is from Maribor, Slovenia (born to a Croatian father and Slovenian mother[6]). They met at a master class in Pula while still in their teens. They were both educated at the Academy of Music in Zagreb.[7] Later on, Šulić studied in Vienna and they both studied in the UK (Šulić at London's Royal Academy of Music and Hauser at Trinity College of
Music, now Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music in London and then at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester).[8] The duo rose to fame in 2011 after their cover of "Smooth Criminal" became a hit on YouTube,[9] receiving over three million views in the first two weeks[8] and almost 43 million views as of April 2021.[10] One of Hauser's
acquaintances in Croatia, a director, assisted in the creation of a video to "Smooth Criminal." The video[11] features Šulić and Hauser facing off alone in a large ballroom littered with chairs, playing Jackson's tune.[8] Before they became partners, the two cellists were sometimes considered rivals, competing against each other in music competitions.
[11] 2Cellos signed to record with Sony Masterworks,[12] and finished recording their first album in May 2011,[13] which carried the Menart Records label in Croatia.[14] Released on 19 July 2011,[15] their eponymous debut album includes covers of songs by U2, Guns N' Roses, Nine Inch Nails, Sting, Coldplay, Nirvana, Muse, and Kings of Leon.
The album also features a cello version of Michael Jackson's "Human Nature."[8] The duo said that they chose songs that could be arranged as covers playable on just two cellos.[16] In anticipation of the release, 2Cellos released their second single, "Welcome to the Jungle," a cover of the Guns N' Roses song of the same name.[11][17] Luka Šulić
Elton John asked the duo to appear with him on his 2011 summer tour,[9] which began in Cardiff, Wales on 8 June.[8] John personally called Šulić and said that he had watched the "Smooth Criminal" video and wanted 2Cellos to participate in his thirty-city tour.[18] The two had previously performed on The Ellen DeGeneres Show of 25 April 2011.[12]
[19] 2Cellos also performed at the 2011 iTunes Festival in London.[18] They went on to perform internationally with Elton John and his band for five years, including hundreds of performances at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. They appear in The Million Dollar Piano movie filmed at the Colosseum in 2012 and on the 2013 album, The
Diving Board. Stjepan Hauser The duo performed an arrangement of "Smooth Criminal" in the third season of the television show Glee.[20] The episode in which they appeared, titled "Michael", aired on 31 January 2012, and was the first time that the series highlighted instrumental musicians. The scene featuring "Smooth Criminal" was set up
similarly to 2Cellos' original music video for the song.[21] On 4 June 2012 2Cellos performed with Elton John at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert at Buckingham Palace. On 12 June 2012, 2Cellos performed in front of a full Arena Zagreb audience. The concert was filmed for DVD: Live at Arena Zagreb. Although the two usually record covers of
rock songs, Šulić and Hauser said they still play with orchestras and will not abandon playing classical music. The cellists said they would someday like to go on tour with both a classical and a contemporary orchestra,[11] a hope that was fulfilled in part during their tour for the album Score. Their second studio album, entitled In2ition, came out early
in 2013, and featured new twists on a diverse range of classic tracks with a few surprise vocal and instrumental duet partners including Elton John, Lang Lang, Naya Rivera, Steve Vai, Sky Ferreira and Zucchero. The album was produced by Bob Ezrin. Other tracks include covers of AC/DC's "Highway to Hell" featuring Vai, Coldplay's "Clocks"
featuring Lang Lang, Muse's "Supermassive Black Hole" featuring Rivera, an Italian version of "The Book of Love" by The Magnetic Fields entitled "Il Libro Dell'Amore" featuring Zucchero, Karl Jenkins' "Benedictus", and "Oh Well" featuring Sir Elton.[22] In July 2013, they filmed a commercial for the Japanese mobile phone company Docomo.[23]
Their album In2ition debuted on the Japanese Albums Chart, in August 2013 at number 1.[24] Since then, they have done commercials for the US National Football League Thursday Night Football [1], for 1906 Reerva Especial [2] and they have done several print campaigns for the Italian designer, s.Oliver. As a part of their world tour with Elton
John, including concerts in North America, Europe and Asia, 2Cellos performed at Madison Square Garden two days in a row, in December 2013.[25] In March 2014, they had a solo Japanese tour.[26] In 2015, 2Cellos released their third album, Celloverse, which they also co-produced.[27] The album contains a diverse array of renditions including
AC/DC's "Thunderstruck", Avicii's "Wake Me Up", Michael Jackson's "They Don't Care About Us", Hans Zimmer's "Mombasa" (from Inception), and an original work titled Celloverse, among numerous other covers. Drummer Dušan Kranjc (born in Pula, Croatia) joined the group in 2011 2Cellos has used YouTube to reach out to their audience, posting
videos of notable live performances, including Arena Zagreb (2012), Arena Pula (2013), EXIT Festival (2014), and their fifth anniversary concert at Arena di Verona (2016) in Italy. In February 2014, the duo published their rendition of AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" to YouTube. The video depicts the duo playing before a Baroque audience, which soon finds
out that the song is anything but classical. The video went viral at the beginning of March, gathering 10 million views in the first two weeks.[28] As of March 2021, the video has garnered over 200 million views. As Šulić told The Sydney Morning Herald, "we love AC/DC as much as Bach." Hauser added, "both (AC/DC and Bach) are simple and
convincing in what they do."[28][29] In 2017, Šulić and Hauser released their fourth album, Score, recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra, which included a wide array of television and film music. To mark the album's release, 2Cellos released their official YouTube video for Game of Thrones Medley, which garnered over 1 million views in
two days. On 26 May 2018, 2Cellos performed the UEFA Champions League Anthem ahead of the 2018 UEFA Champions League Final between Real Madrid and Liverpool.[30] That same year, they released their fifth album, Let There be Cello. In November 2022, they performed at the Cairo International Film Festival.[31] The Dedicated World Tour
was 2Cellos' farewell tour. Šulić cited focusing on his family as a reason for formally ending his involvement with 2Cellos, while Hauser will continue on with solo work.[32][33] Main article: 2Cellos discography 2Cellos (2011, Sony Masterworks) In2ition (2013, Sony Masterworks) Celloverse (2015, Sony Masterworks) Score (2017, Sony Masterworks)
Let There Be Cello (2018, Sony Masterworks) Dedicated (2021, Sony Masterworks) International Tours in Europe and the US and Canada 2013 International Tours in Japan, Australia, Europe and Russia 2014 International Tours in Australia, the US and Canada, Europe, Japan and other Asian countries, Latin America and Russia 2015 CELLOVERSE
tour: US and Canada, Europe, Latin America and Australia 2016 The Score World Tour (2017) with orchestral accompaniment Let There Be Cello (tour) (2019) (their first Arena tour) Dedicated World Tour (2022) Main article: Porin (music award) Year Recipient Award Result Ref. 2012 2Cellos Best International Album Won [34] "Smooth Criminal"
Best International Song Won 2013 In2ition Best International Album Nominated [35] 2014 Live at Arena Zagreb Best International Video Album Won [36] Main article: Japan Gold Disc Award Year Recipient Award Result Ref. 2014 In2ition Instrumental Album of the Year Won [37] "Kagemusha" Song of the Year by Download Won [38] Main article:
MTV Europe Music Awards Year Recipient Award Result Ref. 2015 2Cellos Best Adria Act Nominated [39] Main article: Večernji list Year Recipient Award Result Ref. 2014 2Cellos Musicians of the Year Won [40] Main article: Orders, decorations, and medals of Croatia Year Recipient Order 2014 Luka Šulić, Stjepan Hauser Ribbon of an Order of
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cellists (links | edit) CNBC-e (links | edit) Fleur Maxwell (links | edit) László Papp Budapest Sports Arena (links | edit) Jeremy Gilley (links | edit) Zetra Olympic Hall, Sarajevo (links | edit) Estadio Luna Park (links | edit) Lola Astanova (links | edit) Sarah Meier (links | edit) Xiaomi Arena (links | edit) Palau Sant Jordi (links | edit) Voodoo People (links |
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from Maribor (links | edit) List of cover versions of U2 songs (links | edit) Lang Lang discography (links | edit) Santana Lopez (links | edit) List of Lopez Tonight episodes (links | edit) View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500) Retrieved from " WhatLinksHere/2Cellos" Famous Cellists Feel free to Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel if you
like this video! The cello is a staple in any orchestra; classical music would not be the thing of beauty that it is today without it. Like most of the other instruments in the string instrument family, the cello is typically included in the section of the orchestra that has the best nuance, a range of expression and intensity. The cello, in particular, has
developed into one of the most prominent instruments in the orchestra owing to its evocative character- of all the string instruments, the cello is the one that produces the most human-like sound. Unlike the violin, which is equally as impressive, the cello is straddled by the musician as it rests on the floor instead of being held by the chin. As you
would expect, the cello is incredibly difficult to learn and play because it has a large fingerboard that requires extreme coordination and muscle memory if you want to find the perfect note. Additionally, the task of having to play the correct notes in tune while holding the cello in place requires a special form of the upright position that is hard to
execute. Because of this, cellists have earned a special place in musical history through the years owing to years of masterful dedication and sheer passion for the instrument. The contribution by modern players has helped the cello to experience a contemporary renaissance. To commemorate the cello’s irreplaceable place in the world of music, here
are 15 famous cellists in no particular order: 15 Famous Cellists You Should Know (Male & Female Cellists) 1. Pablo Casals Pablo Casals One simply cannot explore iconic cellists and cello recordings of the 20th century without mentioning Pablo Casals. He revolutionized the cello and transformed it into a world-accepted solo instrument, which
helped to pave the way for thousands of others after him. All through his career, Pablo made numerous recordings including chamber and orchestral music in addition to his solo work. He is remembered for countless works but the Bach Cello Suites (1936-1939) are arguably his most memorable. According to Fritz Kreisler, Casals is the greatest
musician to ever draw a bow. 2. Emanuel Feuermann Emanuel Feuermann Commonly referred to as the Wienawski of the cello, Emanuel Feuermann was an internationally recognized Ukrainian born cellist that lived and performed in the first half of the 20th century. Although he passed away at a relatively young age (39), Emanuel left a lasting
legacy that will always receive recognition in music halls everywhere. He set standards of virtuosity in cello playing that are yet to be exceeded by most modern cellists of today. For a while, he was a very influential teacher at the Berlin HochschulefürMusik until he was dismissed for being a Jew. His move to America to pursue a solo career
catapulted him to fame as a result of successful partnerships with the likes of Arthur Rubinstein and Jascha Heifetz. 3. Jacqueline du Pre Jacqueline du Pre When talking about popular female cellists, Jacqueline du Pre immediately springs to mind. She was only 17 when she gained critical acclaim and even younger than that when she set off to the
Swiss Mountains to learn under the greatest virtuoso of all, Pablo Casals. Unfortunately, Jacqueline du Pre’s playing had to end her professional career early after she learned at just 28 that she suffered from multiple sclerosis. Thanks to recorded performances and documentaries made in her honor, her legacy will live on forever and her music will
remain familiar to audiences both far and wide. Although she was forced to stop playing at an early age, Ms. du Pré made a significant impact in Britain, managing to set a standard for other British cellists. 4. Natalia Gutman Natalia Gutman Natalia Gutman is a Russian world-famous cellist and one of the most distinguished of her time. Born in Kazan
in 1942, Natalia learned and trained under the indomitable R. Sapozhnikov in Moscow but later, she joined the Mosco Conservatory to specialize her training. She is commonly referred to as the Queen of the Cello by both critics and her fans. Her status and reputation among famous cellists are embodied by the numerous awards she holds including
the state prize of Russian Federation in 2000 and the National artist of the year in 1991. 5. Yo-Yo Ma Yo-Yo Ma Yo-Yo Ma is easily the most recognizable cellist of these modern times. The American Chinese musician was born in Paris. He was a child prodigy that was already performing complicated pieces by the time he was five. He spent a large
chunk of his childhood and youth training in New York before graduating from the prestigious Julliard School and Harvard University. Yo-Yo Ma is respected and loved by fans and fellow cellists in equal measure. Ma has set a standard for pushing boundaries. Whether he is participating in a bluegrass music project or coming up with content for Goat
Rodeo Sessions, everyone will agree that Yo-Yo Ma is the best there ever was. 6. Mischa Maisky Mischa Maisky Maisky made the cello sing and speak like no other player on this list. The secret to his fame not only lay in his unique sound that could not be replicated, but also in his hair. Because he had wonderful and easily recognizable silver hair, he
quickly rose in the ranks to become a distinguished player. His intense performance, exceptional vibrato and power are still unmatched today. When he performed his debut with the Leningrad Philharmonic back in 1965, he earned himself the nickname Rostropovich of the Future. 7. Natalie Clein Natalie Clein Like most other famous cellists,
Natalie’s career started at a young age after she won the Young Musician of the Year Award held in 1994. She studied at the Royal College of Music where she still teaches today and serves her role as the Director of Music Performance. She has collaborated with several other musicians including working alongside writer Jeanette Winterson who is
best known for Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit. 8. Mstislav Rostropovich Mstislav Rostropovich A list of famous cello players would be incomplete if Mstislav Rostropovich was not included. A Russian master cello player, he is known as the most influential composer of his generation and one of the very first people who gained fame due to recorded
classical music. Without his contribution, diversity and richness, the cello would not be the popular instrument that it is today. 9. János Starker János Starker János was already a virtuoso in his youth and at just the age of 8, he was already giving lessons to people his senior. Predictably, owing to his prowess and his deep respect for the cello, he
enjoyed a long and decorated career as a master player and teacher. Throughout his life, he came up with some of the best cello recordings available with the most notable being his interpretation of Kodaly’s solo sonatas. 10. Alisa Weilerstein Alisa Weilerstein The young and extremely talented Alisa Weilerstein is a classical American cellist that has
risen to fame in the recent past. The thirty-year-old currently carries the baton as the leader of innovation. She has an extraordinary capacity to breathe fresh life into old classics without tampering with their essence. In 2011, she received coveted fellowship grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which helped to greatly
consolidate her place in history as a world-famous cellist. 11. Carlo Prieto Jacqué Carlo Prieto Jacqué Carlo Prieto Jacqué, Mexico 1937, besides being a cellist, he’s also a writer (with 9 books published in Spanish, two in English, one in Portuguese and one in Russian) and a diplomatic. He began his studies at 4 years old with a Hungarian professor,
later he managed to study in Geneva and New York. Since then he has been devoted to music and has positioned himself among the most respected cellists, from where he has become a promoter for Latin American composers. Among his most outstanding awards are the Mozart medal awarded by the Austrian ambassador in Mexico, the award for
the achievement of the Institute of Mexican Culture in New York, Order of Arts and Letters award from the French government in the official degree, Award Cultural Leadership Citation of the music school of Yale University, The Pushkin Medal, granted by the Russian government and more recently the Master Emeritus of Venezuelan Youth title
awarded by the President of the State Foundation of the Youth and Children’s Orchestra System from Venezuela. 12. Pieter Wispelwey Pieter Wispelwey Pieter Wispelwey (1962), of Dutch origin, he started playing piano at a young age but then at 8 years old he decided to switch to cello, he studied in various parts of the world starting from his
native country to Amsterdam, the United States and the United Kingdom. In 1990 he made his first recording of Bach’s cello suites and received great praise for it. He has played in different parts of the world, from France, London, Argentina and Sydney. His performance style is quite versatile, as he is comfortable playing the modern cello with metal
strings or the baroque cello of four and five strings. 13. Alexander Rudin Alexander Rudin Alexander Rudin, Russia 1960, also an orchestral conductor and pianist. Graduated from The Russian Gnesin Academy of Music in 1983, he has achieved several awards not only in Russia but also in different countries, he’s considered one of the most brilliant
artists of the Russian music scene, also he has a professor position at the Moscow Conservatory, he’s a researcher, orchestrator and has also dabbled in the field of composition. His performances have been qualified as historically accurate. But even though he was trained in academic classical music he is also interested in early music, that he has
been able to perform not only with the cello but with the viola da gamba (a primitive viola different from the one that is used nowadays) and the contemporaneous music, on which he has achieved not only balance between these three different styles but also a great domain. 14. Melora Creager Melora Creager Melora Creager, United States (1966),
cellist, singer, songwriter and founder of rock group Rasputina, has two solo albums and 22 with her band Rasputina. Creager participated as a cellist for artists such as Marilyn Manson and the group Nirvana. Melora Creager is currently one of the best references to the alternative contemporary music scene. Her influences range from baroque
music to works of minimalist modernism. Creager describes the cello as an instrument with which it is easy to identify since it has the same range of the human voice. 15. 2Cellos 2Cellos Stjepan Hauser (Croatia 1986) and Luka Sulic (Slovenia 1987), better known as 2Cellos, is a duo of cellists trained in classical music, both studied at the Zagreb
music academy and were rivals in talent shows, after they decided to become a duo they have achieved not only great visibility but also virality mainly through their videos on the digital platform YouTube playing cello arrangements covers from bands like AC-DC, Nirvana, U2, Guns’n’Roses, Coldplay among others. They have a very particular
performance style and always manage to astonish their audience. The cello has produced some of the most soul-stirring music in history. And that's in part thanks to the extraordinary talents who have mastered the instrument. From the deep, resonant tones of Pablo Casals to the electrifying performances of Jacqueline du Pré, the world’s greatest
cellists have elevated this instrument to new heights. Whether interpreting Bach’s Cello Suites with delicate precision or tackling Dvořák’s Cello Concerto with passionate intensity, these musicians have left an indelible mark on classical music. In this article, we celebrate the best cellists of all time: virtuosos who have shaped the way we hear and
appreciate the cello, blending technical brilliance with raw emotion. Whether you prefer the rich lyricism of Mstislav Rostropovich, the modern artistry of Yo-Yo Ma, or the boundary-pushing innovations of contemporary players, there’s no denying that these cellists have changed the musical landscape forever. So, sit back and let the legends of the
cello take centre stage! Ten of the greatest cello works - and the landmark recordings you must hear British cellist Beatrice Harrison made the first recording of Elgar’s Cello Concerto in 1920 with the composer conducting. She also made one of the BBC's earliest live outside broadcasts in May 1924 in her garden, duetting with nightingales. The
conductor Sir Henry Wood and the composers Edward Elgar and Charles Villiers Stanford were all great admirers of Harrison's playing. The Argentine cellist Sol Gabetta began her cello studies at the age of four, and won her first competition at 10. A highly individual performer, she's celebrated for her pure, vibrant sound, her mastery of timbre, and
her highly communicative performing style. All qualities that ensure her presence on our list of music's best cellists. Youngest on our list of best cellists, American Alisa Weilerstein made her debut at age 13 with the Cleveland Orchestra playing Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme. Hailing from a musical family, she continues to play piano
trios with her parents as the Weilerstein Trio. A champion of contemporary music, Weilerstein has worked extensively with composers Osvaldo Golijov, Lera Auerbach and Joseph Hallman. She has won many admirers for her profound musicality in interpretations of great emotion and sophistication. Brother to violinist Renaud Capuçon, French cellist
Gautier began his studies at the age of five. Celebrated for his exquisite blend of technical brilliance and emotional depth, he possesses a remarkably rich, refined tone and a fluid, expressive style that brings each piece to life. Beyond his command of the standard repertoire, Capuçon's commitment to contemporary music and his work with young
artists cement his status as a leading cellist and a true ambassador for the instrument. Truls Mørk's greatness lies in his combination of technical prowess and fierce integrity. Known for his deeply thoughtful and intense interpretations, he possesses a pure, lean tone and a highly nuanced vibrato. A champion of new music, Mørk has premiered over
30 works, solidifying his role as a vital link between the classical tradition and the contemporary repertoire. His recordings of works by Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and Dvořák have won praise and awards, including two Grammy nominations (for recordings of Shostakovich, Schumann and Bloch) and a Grammy Award for his Britten Cello Suites. A
versatile and dynamic performer with a big, warm sound, the American cellist Lynn Harrell was an influential teacher and a soloist who collaborated with top orchestras globally. Born to musician parents, he studied at New York's Juilliard School with Leonard Rose, and subsequently at the prestigious Curtis Institute with Orlando Cole, before
embarking on an international career spanning nearly six decades as a recitalist, chamber musician, and soloist with major orchestras. The Austrian cellist and conductor Heinrich Schiff was born to composer parents. His recordings of the Bach Cello Suites, Shostakovich Cello Concertos and the Brahms Double Concerto won multiple prizes. After
suffering a stroke in 2008, he gave up performing. By then, though, he had established himself as one of the best cellists to have graced the world's concert halls. Russian cellist Natalia Gutman was something of a musical prodigy. She took up the cello aged five, studying first with her stepfather and subsequently her grandfather, before receiving
lessons from Rostropovich at the Moscow Conservatory. Gutman has performed with the world’s leading orchestras under conductors including Claudio Abbado, Bernard Haitink and Gustavo Dudamel. Her robust tone and magnetic style make her a deserved entry in our list of best cellists. Born into a multigenerational musical family, British cellist
Steven Isserlis is an acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, educator, broadcaster and author of musical texts for both adults and children. A keen exponent of contemporary music, he has premiered works by composers including John Tavener, David Matthews, Wolfgang Rihm, Mikhail Pletnev and Thomas Adès. Isserlis is renowned universal acclaim
for his scholarly musicianship, technical mastery and use of distinctive gut strings. Visual China Group via Getty Images The wild-haired, passionate iconoclast of the cello, Mischa Maisky is a performer who demands your attention. His is not a playing style of cool restraint; it's a full-throated, emotional outpouring. With an opulent, singing tone and a
flamboyant stage presence, Maisky prioritises heart over textbook perfection. A unique student of both Rostropovich and Piatigorsky, he absorbed the best of two worlds to forge his own fiercely individual path. Maisky's is a unique, powerful voice that refuses to be ignored, making every performance a deeply personal and unforgettable event.
Earliest in our list of best cellists is the Italian composer Luigi Boccherini. A true virtuoso, Boccherini often played violin repertoire on the cello at pitch (i.e. as it would have sounded on the violin). He wrote a large amount of chamber music, including over one hundred string quintets for two violins, viola and two cellos, nearly a hundred string
quartets, and numerous string trios and sonatas. Boccherini's orchestral music, meanwhile, includes around 30 symphonies and twelve cello concertos. These include the Concerto in B flat, which remains popular to this day. Ranked: the ten best cello concertos of all time This Czech composer and musician was one of the greatest cellists of his day,
and composed some of the most fiendishly difficult works for his instrument. Among his cello compositions are four concertos and a Requiem for three cellos and orchestra. There are also a number of shorter works, written to highlight the cello’s unique sound and range. His High School of Cello Playing, Op. 73, a book of cello études, is widely used
by advanced cello students today. A cellist firmly in the Romantic tradition, Frenchman Paul Tortelier was blessed with an excellent left-hand technique and a subtle, accurate bow arm. His tone was fairly narrow and concentrated, yet he could also play with considerable warmth. He toured the world following WW2 as a high-profile soloist, taught at
conservatoires in France, Germany and China, and gave televised masterclasses in the UK. He was particularly associated with Richard Strauss's orchestral tone poem Don Quixote, Elgar’s Cello Concerto, and Bach's Cello Suites. The greatest French composers of all time Known as the 'aristocrat of the cello', Pierre Fournier possessed a refined and
elegant playing style with a beautiful, singing tone. His interpretations were celebrated for their nobility and poise. The young Fournier overcame childhood polio to enjoy a glittering career for over half a century. His style was nobly elegant and refined where, say, Rostropovich’s was muscular and extrovert. He formed a highly successful trio with
violinist Henryk Szeryng and pianist Wilhelm Kempff, excelling in the music of Beethoven. Born in Russia, Gregor Piatigorsky trained at the Moscow Conservatory and was principal cellist of the Berlin Philharmonic under Wilhelm Furtwängler. A musician of immense charm and charisma, Piatigorsky was known for his commanding presence and
warm, lyrical tone. He was also a passionate chamber musician and a notable teacher. He also had a droll sense of humour. Asked why he played the cello rather than the violin, Piatigorsky shot back: 'Because the cello is far more comfortable to sit behind than the violin!' The Hungarian-American cellist János Starker was a child prodigy who made
his first public appearances at age six. As an 11-year-old student at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, he took inspiration from faculty members including Zoltán Kodály and Béla Bartók. For decades he taught at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he held the title of distinguished professor. Here are some reflections on Starker as a
man and a teacher. As a player he was known for his virtuosity, his smooth, focused tone, and his dislike of wide, Romantic vibrato. American cellist Yo-Yo Ma was born in Paris to musical Chinese parents. A child prodigy, Ma began giving public concerts at the age of five. By the age of seven, he was performing for presidents Eisenhower and
Kennedy. High-profile television appearances followed, cementing his relationship with such leading musical figures as Leonard Bernstein and Isaac Stern. Here's a seven-year-old Yo-Yo Ma playing for JFK in 1962, introduced by the great Leonard Bernstein. The Ukraine-born Emanuel Feuermann was a cellist of spectacular virtuosity and artistry, of
whom the great conductor Arturo Toscanini said ‘there is no one after him.’ Feuermann settled in America in 1937 and was immediately recognised as an outstanding soloist, and formed a fruitful partnership with violinist Jascha Heifetz and pianist Arthur Rubinstein, himself one of the greatest pianists of all time. Their plans to record the complete
piano trio repertoire were cut short by Feuermann's early death from an infection after a minor operation. Jacqueline du Pre, 1965 - David Farrell/Redferns via Getty Images An iconic cellist for the British, Jacqueline du Pré inspired a generation with her dazzling performances, until her career was cruelly cut short by multiple sclerosis when she was
in her late twenties. Her heart-on-sleeve recording of the Elgar Cello Concerto achieved legendary status, and epitomised the rapturously expressive nature of her playing style. She is a fixture on any list of the best cellists of all time. We have Christopher Nupen to thank for capturing her spirited, humorous character on film playing the great
chamber works of Schubert and Beethoven with pianist Daniel Barenboim, violinists Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman and, then on the double bass, Zubin Mehta. Pablo Casals giving lessons in Zermatt, Switzerland, 1965 - Erich Auerbach/Hulton Archive/Getty Images The great Pablo Casals revolutionised the cello as a solo instrument. In the words
of Fritz Kreisler (himself one of our 20 greatest violinists of all time), Casals was ‘the greatest musician ever to draw bow’. He played for both Queen Victoria, at 22, and the American president John F. Kennedy in his eighties. Casals's most significant legacy, aside from the cellists he inspired, was the rediscovery of Bach's solo cello suites, previously
dismissed as technical exercises. Casals was driven by passionate political and moral convictions. These led to his voluntary exile from his beloved Catalonia from the Spanish Civil War until the end of his life. For 30 years he effectively silenced his instrument in protest against the West’s complicity in Fascism. Russian cellist and conductor Mstislav
Rostropovich performing, circa 1970 - Erich Auerbach/Hulton Archive/Getty Images Mstislav Rostropovich will always be remembered as the inspiration for the great cello masterworks in the second half of the 20th century. Close friendships with the composers Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Britten gave rise to the former’s two striking Cello

Concertos, Prokofiev’s Sinfonia Concertante and Sonata, Britten’s stormy Cello Symphony and the deeply personal three Solo Suites. ‘Slava’s’ legacy is astonishing: he premiered nearly 200 works in his lifetime, many commissioned by or written for him, and raised the cellistic bar with his powerful, virtuosic technique. All pics Getty Images