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William DeRosa, cello

William DeRosa has established himself as one of the leading cellists of his generation. Melding distinctive artistry, profound musicianship and exquisite tone, DeRosa was described by the late Leonard Rose as “one of the most brilliant cello talents in the world.”

A performer of international stature, DeRosa regularly collaborates with such renowned conductors as Raymond Leppard, Myung-Whun Chung, James Judd, JoAnn Falletta, Yan-Pascal Tortelier with numerous orchestras including the Los Angeles and Florida Philharmonics, the Symphony Orchestras of Milwaukee, Utah, and San Francisco and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. As a recitalist, DeRosa has performed in major music centers in the United States including Washington, DC’s Kennedy Center, the Music Center in Los Angeles, Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, Boston’s Jordan Hall and Jones hall in Houston. DeRosa is also an active chamber musician, performing with many of the world’s leading ensembles including the Artis, Emerson and Cleveland quartets. His festival appearances have taken him to Aspen, Marlboro and Seattle, as well as Europe and at sea. DeRosa has regularly performed on the National Public Radio, and has been the subject of documentaries and television specials broadcast on PBS and CBS.

Highlights of recent seasons include engagements in Chicago, Los Angeles, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and two appearances in New York at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. In 2001 DeRosa embarked on special project to perform all of Bach Cello Suites in one evening and were recorded in the fall of 2002, DeRosa began a five-week tour of Japan. This was his fifth re-engagement which has included performances in virtually all of Japan’s major music venues.

The BBC Philharmonic invited DeRosa to be their soloist in the Elgar Concerto on their American tour. While performing the Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 with the Florida Philharmonic, DeRosa and British-born conductor James Judd began a relationship which blossomed into a rare artistic collaboration. They performed four series of concerts over three consecutive seasons, performances of concerti by Shostakovich and Dvorak and the Beethoven Triple Concerto. DeRosa has also collaborated with James Judd performing Bloch’s Schelomo and Bruch’s Kol Nidre.

DeRosa accompanied Sara Caldwell on a tour of Russia with Ekaterinburg Philharmonic Orchestra. The release of a live recording of the Shostakovich 1st concerto from that tour was awarded a place on Stereophile Magazine’s 1997 list of “Ten Best recordings” and declared a “record to die for.” DeRosa returned to Europe with the Ekaterinburg

Orchestra to perform the premiere of a new work by Giya Kanchelli for cello, counter-tenor and orchestra.

DeRosa's reputation as an avid champion of contemporary music is equally established in America, and prompted the avant garde composer David Amram to invite DeRosa to give the New York premiere of his cello concerto Variations on a Theme of Sitting Bull. In December 2000, DeRosa traveled to South America to join the Symphony Orchestra of Puerto Rico in a gala concert honoring the 120th anniversary of the birth of Pablo Casals and returned to Puerto Rico in April for his recital debut.

DeRosa has recorded for EMI Classics and Audiofon Records. His release for Audiofon include a disk of sonatas for cello and piano by Brahms, Strauss and Schuman with pianist Li Jian, and Shostakovich concerti with the Ekaterninburg Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sarah Caldwell, which was awarded a place on Steriophile's 1991 list of "ten best recordings." In addition, he has recorded an album of short works for cello and piano entitled "Cellist Holiday", and the chamber music of Rachmaninoff. In May 2002 EMI Classics released a compilation album entitled "Cellist Forever."

Born into a family of musicians, DeRosa began his musical studies with Eleanor Schoenfeld in Los Angeles. At age twelve, with an invitation from the legendary cellist Gregor Piatagorsky, DeRosa was asked to join his master class at the University of Southern California. DeRosa eventually entered the Juilliard School where he continued his studies with Leonard Rose and Lynn Harrell. In 1980, DeRosa was invited by Isaac Stern and Leonard Rose to join pianist Yefim Bronfman, violinists Cho-Liang Lin and Joseph Swenson in a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall concert celebrating the 60th birthday of Maestro Stern.

DeRosa performs on a rare and pristine cello crafted by Dominico Montangana, Venice 1739.

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