

LAURA VAN DER HEIJDEN

Cello



Laura van der Heijden has already made a name for herself as a very special emerging talent, captivating audiences and critics alike with her insightful and faithful interpretations. Having won many prizes and awards from a very young age, Laura was awarded the title of BBC Young Musician 2012 at the age of 15, performing Walton's Cello Concerto with Kirill Karabits and the Northern Sinfonia at The Sage, Gateshead. In September 2014 Laura was awarded the Landgraf von Hessen Prize at the Kronberg Academy's prestigious international masterclasses. In 2015, Laura was named Young Artist in Residence of the London Mozart Players. In 2016 Laura was chosen by the Orpheum Stiftung in Switzerland, a foundation encouraging and assisting exceptionally talented young instrumental soloists. Under this umbrella she appeared in recital with Fazil Say at Zürich Tonhalle in September 2016.

Born in England in 1997 as the youngest daughter of a Dutch father and a Swiss mother, Laura's first public performance as a cellist was at the age of nine with the Jupiter Chamber Orchestra. From 2005 to 2014 Laura was a student at the Royal College of Music Junior Department. Since 2008 Laura has been a student of the renowned British-Russian cellist Leonid Gorokhov. She is currently studying for her Bachelor's Degree in Music at St John's College, Cambridge, while continuing to perform during her term breaks.

In the past few years, Laura has performed with many leading UK orchestras, such as the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, European Union Chamber and English Chamber Orchestras, as well as giving her debuts in Germany, New Zealand, and in Australia with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of the inaugural BBC Proms Australia, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis.

Laura's myriad chamber music performances have included collaborations with Tom Poster, Huw Watkins, Fazil Say, Peter Limonov, and Krzysztof Chorzelski. She regularly participates in chamber music courses, as well as masterclasses with David Geringas, Ralph Kirshbaum and Miklós Perényi.

Laura van der Heijden's 2017/18 season will see her perform the Schumann cello concerto with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields as part of the "Cello Unwrapped" series at Kings Place, London. She will also make an appearance at the Award Night of the 13th Zurich Film Festival at Zurich Opera House, and participate in the Open Chamber Music Tour 2017 of IMS Prussia Cove. Later on in the season Laura will perform in Switzerland with the Argovia Philharmonic, at Wigmore Hall in a BBC Lunchtime recital, and also travel to Japan to give her debut with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. Laura's debut recital CD will be released on the award-winning Champs Hill Records label in early 2018, featuring Russian music for cello and piano.

Laura plays a 1780 cello by Joseph Hill, loaned to her by the Boileau family, and is an Ambassador for both the Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts and Brighton Youth Orchestra.

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