



Christian Poltéra | Biography Violoncello

"Poltéra elicits timbres from his instrument that get under your skin: sometimes with it's bass tones, vibrating and rough like the voice of an old blues singer, masking all the tribulations of life; sometimes the cello becomes a lyrical tenor with it's soft timbre"

As one of the most impressive cellists of his generation, Poltéra's performance focuses on music alone: without excessive gestures, he reveals the essence of a work. His unique timbre is characteristic of his interpretations, masterfully adapted to each epoch and style.

Already at a very young age, the Swiss Christian Poltéra gravitated to the cello. He began his studies with Nancy Chumachenco and then continued with Boris Pergamenschikov and Heinrich Schiff in Salzburg and Vienna. In 2004, he was awarded the Borletti-Buitoni Prize and named *BBC New Generation Artist*. As a *Rising Star* two years later, he was able to present himself to audiences in all the great European concert halls.

Invitations from renowned orchestras have led him all over the world. He has appeared with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Los Angeles and Oslo Philharmonic Orchestras, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bamberger Symphoniker, Orchestre de Paris, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Münchner Philharmoniker, Santa Cecilia Orchestra Rome, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich under conductors such as Riccardo Chailly, Christoph von Dohnányi, Bernard Haitink, John Eliot Gardiner, Philippe Herreweghe, Paavo Järvi and Andris Nelsons.

In addition to his solo career, Christian Poltéra devotes himself to chamber music. The concerts of the Zimmermann Trio - together with Frank Peter Zimmermann (violin) and Antoine Tamestit (viola) - are an integral part of the large concert hall programs worldwide. A series of CDs (Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Hindemith, Schoenberg) prove the unique cooperation of this unsurpassed string trio. In addition, he performs with colleagues such as Mitsuko Uchida, Gidon Kremer, Lars Vogt, Leif Ove Andsnes, Isabelle Faust, Ronald Brautigam, Esther Hoppe and Kathryn Stott, as well as with the Artemis, Belcea, Auryn and Zehetmair string quartets. Again and again new projects arouse his interest, such as the 2020 release of two new CD's, featuring arrangements of violin sonatas and songs of Schumann and Brahms together with Kathryn Scott, and Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* Op. 4 with Isabelle Faust and others.

He is also frequently heard performing at major international festivals in Salzburg, Lucerne, Edinburgh, Berlin, Vienna, Schleswig-Holstein and London.

Christian Poltéra's much acclaimed recordings reflect his versatile and extensive repertoire. Among the award-winning CD recordings include the cello concertos of Dvořák, Walton, Ligeti, Barber, Dutilleux, Lutosławski, Honegger, Hindemith and Martin, as well as sonatas of Mendelssohn (awarded the BBC Music Award, Gramophone Choice, and Diapson D'Or de l'année), Fauré and Saint-Saëns. In 2017, his recording of the Shostakovich and Martinů second cello concertos with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Gilbert Varga was released. In early Summer 2020, he will present both Haydn cello concertos with the Münchener Kammerorchester.

Since 2013, Christian Poltéra is Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Days in the mountain church of Büsingen. He is also a lecturer at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, and regularly gives masterclasses.

He plays an Antonio Casini cello built in 1675 and the legendary *Mara* cello of Antonio Stradivari from 1711.