



Biography

Alisa Weilerstein

(Cello)

American cellist Alisa Weilerstein has attracted widespread attention worldwide for playing that combines a natural virtuosic command and technical precision with impassioned musicianship. The intensity of her playing has regularly been lauded, as has the spontaneity and sensitivity of her interpretations. In 2010 she became an exclusive recording artist for Decca Classics, the first cellist to be signed by the prestigious label in over 30 years.

Born in 1982, Alisa Weilerstein made her Cleveland Orchestra debut at age 13 with Tchaikovsky's "Rococo" Variations. She made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Youth Symphony in March 1997. Weilerstein is a graduate of the Young Artist Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Richard Weiss. In May 2004, she graduated from Columbia University in New York with a degree in Russian History.

Weilerstein was awarded Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal prize in 2008 for exceptional achievement, and was also named the winner of the 2006 Leonard Bernstein Award. She received an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2000 and was selected for two prestigious young artists programs in 2000-01: the ECHO (European Concert Hall Organization) "Rising Stars" recital series and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two.

In May 2010, Alisa Weilerstein gave her debut with the Berliner Philharmoniker under Daniel Barenboim, with Elgar's Cello Concerto, in Berlin and Oxford. She will appear with Barenboim and the Staatskapelle Berlin twice this season: in April 2012, with Elgar's Concerto, and with Elliott Carter's Cello Concerto at the Musikfest Berlin in September 2012. Both concertos will be recorded with the same cast for Weilerstein's inaugural Decca Classics release.

In Europe, Weilerstein has appeared with such orchestras as the Berliner Philharmoniker, Gulbenkian Orchestra Lissabon, NDR Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestra National de France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Royal Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich. In August 2011, she gave her debut at the Salzburg Festival with the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester under Ainārs Rubiķis.

Weilerstein has collaborated with conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Sir Andrew Davis, Gustavo Dudamel, Sir Mark Elder, Christoph Eschenbach, Manfred Honeck, Marek Janowski, Paavo Järvi, Andrew Litton, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Itzhak Perlman, Kirill Petrenko, Yuri Temirkanov, Osmo Vänskä, Simone Young and David Zinman.

Alisa Weilerstein is Artist in Residence for the 2011/12 season with the **Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra**, with whom she will perform three orchestral concerts and one chamber concert. Additional highlights for Weilerstein include her debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, as well as return engagements with the Hamburg Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic.

In November 2008, Weilerstein became a Celebrity Advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. For more information on Ms. Weilerstein, please visit her fan page on Facebook.

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