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„He's as extraordinary to watch as to hear, seeming to lose himself completely in his instrument as though his cello is an extension of himself, every sinew strained in intense concentration as gorgeous clusters of notes poured from his bow in a manner that ought to be impossible from just one instrument."

The Times, July 2023

JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS

CELLO

Biography

Curiosity, variety, and a firm focus on the music itself characterize the artistic work of Jean-Guihen Queyras. Whether on stage or on record, on listening one experiences an artist dedicated wholly and ardently to the music, whose humble and unpretentious treatment of the score reflects its clear, undistorted essence.

Three key elements contribute towards a successful performance - the alignment of the inner worlds of composer, performer and audience alike: Jean-Guihen Queyras learnt this interpretative approach from none other than Pierre Boulez, with whom his artistic partnership spanned many years. This philosophy, alongside a flawless technique and a clear, decisive sound, shapes Jean-Guihen Queyras' approach to every performance and his absolute commitment to the music itself.

This intensity comes to the fore too in his approach to historical and contemporary repertoire – visible notably in his collaborations with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra and the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin. He has also given world premieres of works by, amongst others, Ivan Fedele, Gilbert Amy, Bruno Mantovani, Michael Jarrell, Thomas Larcher, Tristan Murail, Vito Zuraj and Benjamin Attahir. Conducted by the composer, he recorded Peter Eötvös' Cello Concerto to mark his 70th birthday in November 2014.

Jean-Guihen Queyras was a founding member of the Arcanto Quartet and performs as part of a trio with Isabelle Faust and Alexander Melnikov; on the piano, Melnikov and a further collaborator, Alexandre Tharaud, feature too as regular duo partners. In addition, he has collaborated with zarb specialists Bijan and Keyvan Chemirani on a programme featuring music of the Mediterranean.

This versatility of his practice has led to numerous concert halls, festivals and orchestras inviting Jean-Guihen as an Artist in Residence, including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Vredenburg Utrecht, De Bijloke Ghent, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and the Wigmore Hall.

Jean-Guihen Queyras often appears with renowned orchestras such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, the Residentie Orkest Den Haag, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Gewandhausorchester and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, working with conductors such as Iván Fischer, Philippe Herreweghe, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, François-Xavier Roth, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and Sir Roger Norrington.

Jean-Guihen Queyras has built an outstanding discography. His recordings of the cello concertos by Edward Elgar, Antonín Dvořák, Henri Dutilleux, and Witold Lutosławski have been met with widespread critical acclaim. As part of a Schumann project, he released three albums, including Schumann's Cello Concerto with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra under the direction of Pablo Heras-Casado, as well as the complete Piano Trios with Isabelle Faust and Alexander Melnikov. His album *THRACE – Sunday Morning Sessions*, featuring the Chemirani brothers and Sokratis Sinopoulos, brings together contemporary works, improvisations, and traditional music from the Mediterranean region. In 2024, he released recordings of the cello concertos by Kraft and C. P. E. Bach with Ensemble Resonanz under the direction of Riccardo Minasi. The same year also saw the release of his second recording of Johann Sebastian Bach's complete Cello Suites, seventeen years after his first acclaimed cycle in 2007.

Jean-Guihen Queyras records exclusively for Harmonia Mundi. In 2026, an album featuring works by Brahms, Joachim, and Robert and Clara Schumann, was released, recorded with Tabea Zimmermann and Javier Perianes. The programme will be presented on tour in February 2027.

In the 2026/27 season, Queyras will perform under the baton of Robin Ticciati, Maxim Emelyanychev, Roberto González-Monjas, Thierry Fischer, Kazuki Yamada, Jaap van Zweden und Sir John Eliot Gardiner with renowned orchestras such as the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Münchner Philharmoniker, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Dresdner Philharmonie, Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. Highlights of the season include concerts at Wigmore Hall, the Philharmonie de Paris, the Palau de la Música in Barcelona, the Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Beethovenfest in Bonn, as well as concert tours to Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan.

The season is rounded off by chamber music performances alongside long-standing musical partners including Isabelle Faust and Alexander Melnikov, as well as a North American tour with Alexandre Tharaud celebrating thirty years of their musical partnership.

Jean-Guihen Queyras holds a professorship at the University of Music Freiburg and is Artistic Director of the "Rencontres Musicales de Haute-Provence" festival in Forcalquier. He plays on the "Kaiser" Stradivarius made in Cremona in 1707, kindly made available to him by Canimex Inc. of Drummondville (Quebec), Canada.

2026/2027

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