

LAURA VAN DER HEIJDEN

Cello



Hailed by the Guardian as a “thoughtful artist with much to say”, Laura van der Heijden has emerged as one of the leading cellists of her generation, captivating audiences and critics alike with the sensitivity of her sound and interpretations. She can already look back on a number of exceptional achievements, among them being the winner of the BBC Young Musician competition, and performing with such distinguished musicians as Sir Andrew Davis, Karl-Heinz Steffens, Kirill Karabits, Huw Watkins, Krzysztof Chorzelski, and the Brodsky Quartet. 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 Fazıl Say at Zürich Tonhalle.

Laura's 2018 debut album '1948', featuring Russian music for cello and piano with pianist Petr Limonov, won the 2018 Edison Klassiek Award (broadcast live on Dutch TV), and the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Newcomer Award. The CD has been hailed as a “dazzling, imaginative and impressive” debut recording.

The 2019/20 season saw her perform with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Aldeburgh, the Tchaikovsky Symphony in Moscow, the Prague Symphony, the London Philharmonic and BBC Philharmonic Orchestras.

In the past few years, Laura has performed with leading orchestras such as the Philharmonia, the Hallé Orchestra, the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the Royal Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, as well as the European Union Chamber and English Chamber Orchestras. She has also given debuts in Holland, Germany, New Zealand, and in Australia with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of the inaugural BBC Proms Australia.

Recent highlights also include recitals at Tonhalle Zürich, Wigmore Hall and Musashino Cultural Foundation in Japan, as well as her participation at the music festivals of West Cork, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and Krzyzowa Music.

Chamber music is immensely important to Laura. She has collaborated with Tom Poster, Huw Watkins, Petr Limonov, Katya Apekisheva, Matthew MacDonald, and Krzysztof Chorzelski and regularly participates in international chamber music courses and festivals.

Laura plays a late 17th-century cello by Francesco Ruggieri of Cremona, on generous loan from a private collection.

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