

## **Matt Haimovitz (Cello / Israel)**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Renowned as a musical pioneer, cellist Matt Haimovitz is praised by *The New York Times* as a “ferociously talented cellist who brings his megawatt sound and uncommon expressive gifts to a vast variety of styles” and by *The New Yorker* as “remarkable virtuoso” who “never turns in a predictable performance.” He has inspired classical music lovers and countless new listeners by bringing his artistry to concert halls and clubs, outdoor festivals and intimate coffee houses – any place where passionate music can be heard. He brings a fresh ear to familiar repertoire, champions new music, and initiates groundbreaking collaborations, as well as creating innovative recording projects. Besides his relentless touring schedule, he mentors an award-winning studio of young cellists at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music in Montreal.

Haimovitz made his debut in 1984, at the age of 13, as soloist with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic. At 17 he made his first recording with James Levine and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, for Deutsche Grammophon. He has gone on to perform on the world’s most esteemed stages, with such orchestras and conductors as the Berlin Philharmonic with James Levine, the New York Philharmonic with Zubin Mehta, the English Chamber Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim, the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Leonard Slatkin, and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal with Kent Nagano. Haimovitz made his Carnegie Hall debut when he substituted for his teacher, the legendary Leonard Rose, in Schubert’s String Quintet in C, alongside Isaac Stern, Shlomo Mintz, Pinchas Zukerman and Mstislav Rostropovich.

The solo cello recital is a Haimovitz trademark, both inside and outside the concert hall. In 2000, he made waves with his Bach “Listening-Room” Tour, for which, to great acclaim, Haimovitz took Bach’s beloved cello suites out into the clubs across the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. Haimovitz’s 50-state Anthem tour in 2003 celebrated living American composers and featured the cellist’s own arrangement of Jimi Hendrix’s “Star-Spangled Banner.” He was the first classical artist to play at New York’s infamous CBGB club, in a performance filmed by ABC News for Nightline UpClose.

In 2015 he revisited the Bach cello suites with the release of *The Cello Suites According to Anna Magdalena* for the PENTATONE Oxingale series, inspired and informed by an authoritative manuscript by Anna Magdalena and performed on period instruments. This season, he takes his profound new interpretation even further with the release of *Overtures to Bach*, six new commissions that anticipate and reflect each of the cello suites. The new overtures by Philip Glass, Du Yun, Vijay Iyer, Roberto Sierra, David Sanford, and Luna Pearl Woolf, expand upon the multitude of spiritual, cross-cultural, and vernacular references found in the Bach, building a bridge from the master’s time to our own. The new recording will be released internationally on the PENTATONE Oxingale series in August and launched in Berlin, followed by performances in New York City, Montreal, and numerous other US cities this season.

Other highlights this season include concerti with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the Atlanta Symphony, and Tokyo’s New Japan Philharmonic. Matt will also lead the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie at the Berlin Philharmonie, and perform a concerto by Isang Yun – marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Korean composer and political prisoner – with the Bruckner Orchestra with Dennis Russel Davies on tour in Austria. He will also perform several solo recitals at festivals in Germany.

Haimovitz's recording career encompasses more than 20 years of award-winning work on Deutsche Grammophon and his and composer/producer Luna Pearl Woolf's own trailblazing independent label Oxingale Records, now in collaboration with PENTATONE. Two recent Oxingale albums have been nominated for Juno Awards and a third, *Meeting of the Spirits*, was nominated for a GRAMMY® for Best Classical Crossover Album and won a GRAMMY® for Best Producer of the Year (Classical). *BEETHOVEN, Period*, a traversal of the Beethoven Sonatas and Variations for Piano and Cello on period instruments with Christopher O'Riley was an Editor's Choice pick, and one of the top-10 Beethoven albums of recent times, at Gramophone Magazine. 2015 also saw the release of *ORBIT*, an expansive 3-SACD compilation of Haimovitz' solo cello work. Haimovitz's recording of Philip Glass's Cello Concerto No. 2, "Naqoyqatsi," with the Cincinnati Symphony and Dennis Russell Davies, recorded live in Cincinnati, has received universal acclaim. A new solo cello album featuring the music of Philip Glass will be released in 2017 to coincide with the composer's 80th birthday.

In 2006, Haimovitz received the Concert Music Award from ASCAP for his advocacy of living composers and pioneering spirit, and in 2004, the American Music Center awarded Haimovitz the Trailblazer Award, for his far-reaching contributions to American music. Born in Israel, Haimovitz has also been honored with the Avery Fisher Career Grant (1986), the Grand Prix du Disque (1991), the Diapason d'Or (1991) and he is the first cellist ever to receive the prestigious Premio Internazionale "Accademia Musicale Chigiana" (1999). Haimovitz studied at the Collegiate School in New York and at the Juilliard School, in the final class of Leonard Rose, after which he continued his cello studies with Ronald Leonard and Yo-Yo Ma. In 1996, he received a B.A. magna cum laude with highest honors from Harvard University. Matt Haimovitz plays a Venetian cello, made in 1710 by Matteo Gofriller.