

Biography of the cellist-composer David Johnstone – ENGLISH

Biography of David Johnstone – Cellist, Composer and Creative Musician

David Johnstone is considered one of the most creative and interesting string players in Spain today, combining a career as a wide-ranging cellist with composition.

British by birth, he started the cello at aged 9. His most influential teacher was the German cellist Martin Bochmann. He was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. During four years he studied in the Royal Academy of Music (London); amongst his professors were Derek Simpson, Sidney Griller and Norman Fulton. He also received valuable guidance from William Pleeth and Lynn Harrell.



Formerly working in professional British symphony orchestras (including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Concert Orchestra and the BBC Welsh National Orchestra) he has, for over a decade, been principal cellist of the 'Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra' of Spain. He is a member of the international concert trio 'B3 Classic' (clarinet-cello-piano) and of Neofusion (group based around cello and accordion with Javier López Jaso), amongst others. He displays a great versatility which enables him to work and participate as cellist in many, and very varied musical activities. Johnstone plays a cello of David Rubio - Cambridge 1993.

As a composer he has a specialization for string instruments and/or lighter classical musical writing. He has some 60 works published by the British editor Creighton's Collection (Cardiff, Wales). He has inclusions of his works on an important number of CDs, such as by the Non-Profit Chamber Orchestra and the trio B3 Classic for Warner Music Spain.

His latest original compositions include 'The Four Seasons' for Solo Violin and String Orchestra, a Pop-Classic Cello Concerto, an Accordion concerto, a Double Concertante for Solo Violin, solo Cello and orchestra, many individual String Quartet pieces based on European regions, and a great number of works for the Accordion repertoire (especially for the medium-level students). He also specializes in writing String Orchestral pieces that are well within the capabilities of youth and conservatoire orchestras. Within the cello world, his manual 'Cadenzas and Cadences', and the great variety of published 'well playable' virtuoso solo cello pieces, are considered some of the most valuable contemporary contributions in this field.

He has made many transcriptions for solo cello, cello and piano, and multi-cello groups ranging from duos up to cello orchestras.

His successful web page johnstone-music is www.johnstone-music.com - it contains hundreds of free downloads of sheet music of original works, arrangements, written articles, and a directory/library of famous historical cellists, and others of cello repertoire.