



Dominique de Williencourt - Cellist composer

Advised by Zino Francescatti and disciple of André Navarra, Philippe Muller, Marcel Bardon and Mstislav Rostropovitch, Dominique de Williencourt has been invited to play in more than forty countries. Recently, he was invited to perform in Albania, Algeria, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, The Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Russia, Ukraine in festivals as prestigious as Kuhmo (Finland), Portogruaro (Italy), Yokohama (Japan)...

In 2008, he was twice invited by the maestro Valentin Berlinsky of the Borodin Quartet to play at the Moscow Philharmony and to sit on the jury of the Shostakovich International String Quartet Competition in Moscow.

He has also had works written for him by Bacri, Choveaux, Jevtic, Florentz, Lancino, Larchikov, Lemeland, Menut, Silvestrini, Uebayashi, Vercken and Wolff.

He is inspired by his travels in the Sahara, the Yemen, the Caucasus, Central Asia and India to compose works on Touareg, Armenian and Tibetan themes... A documentary (of 52 minutes) on his exploration of silence whilst travelling with his cello through the deserts of the world was produced for the Mezzo channel. A monograph CD (EA 0610/1) of his compositions has been produced, as well as a DVD « Bach in the desert » (EA 0806) which presents him travelling in the heart of the Sahara.

He was awarded the Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque. He recorded Haydn concertos (EA 0408), Dvorak, Saint-Saens, Bacri, Brahms, Beethoven concertos, Florentz, Lancino, Landowski pieces, the Six Bach cello Suites (EA 0312) and Beethoven 5 Sonatas (EA 0406/1/2) with the pianist Emile Naoumoff after a concert at a full Théâtre des Champs Elysées (Paris).

Elected President of the society "Pour que l'Esprit Vive" (Let the spirit live) in 2006, he started up an artists in residence programme which has been supported by the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris and Rencontres Musicales in the Abbey de la Prée (Indre region) with Nicolas Bacri and Hélène Thiebault. He teaches at the Conservatoire Supérieur of Paris CRR and has been made a Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the National Order of Merit).

Artistic director of Europ & Art, a music production company, he has been organising since 1999 musical cruises with Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Marcel Landowski, Barbara Hendricks, José Van Dam, Teresa Berganza, Marilyn Horne, Gidon Kremer, the Borodin Quartet, the Fine Arts Quartet, Gérard Poulet, Marielle Nordmann, Pavel Vernikov, Yuri Bashmet... He created in 2009, with Jean Ferrandis, the Ensemble Edgédé, string orchestra.

Dominique de Williencourt inspired the book by Jacqueline de Romilly *De la Flute à la lyre (From the Flute to the lyre)*. A painted sculpture of a cello by the Belgian sculptor José Chapellier was dedicated to him in 2006. He participated to the Claude Sautet's film « Un coeur en hiver ».

Since 2000, he has been playing an exceptional cello by J.Gagliano (1754) and using a bow made by F. X. Tourte (1825).