

## MASSIMO POLIDORI, cello



Massimo Polidori was born into a family of musicians and began his studies with Renzo Brancaleon at the Conservatorio "G. Verdi" in Torino. He graduated with top honours and continued his studies at the Conservatorio Superiore di Musica in Geneva, where he was awarded the first prize for "Virtuosité" as well as a special prize naming him the best graduate of the year. As such, he performed Schumann Concerto together with the Orchestra della Suisse Romande, which was broadcast by Radio Svizzera.

Thanks to a scholarship "De Sono Associazione per la Musica" which was granted to him, he participated in several specialisation courses, studying with Janigro, Brunello, Grousgurin, Baldovino and Schafran. At the age of sixteen, he made his debut performing *Rococo Variations* as a soloist with the Orchestra Filarmonica di Sofia, and later performed as a soloist with the Orchestra da Camera di Mantova, Camerata Bern, Orchestra del Teatro Regio in Torino, Orchestra Cherubini and Filarmonica della Scala.

As cello soloist for the Camerata Bern, a position he held for five years, he performed together with artists such as Hölliger, Chumachenco, Zehetmair, Lupu and Andras Schiff and with them he has recorded for Philips Decca, Berlin Classic and ECM and has given many concerts appearing in the most prestigious concert halls throughout Europe and the United States. During this same period, he was full professor at the Music Conservatory in Freiburg, as principal of cello. Currently, he teaches at the Gustav Mahler Academy (President Claudio Abbado).

Massimo Polidori is one of the founding members of Trio Johannes with whom he recorded the entire collection of Brahms Piano Trios (for the magazine Amadeus). This chamber music group was awarded prizes at the Concorso Internazionale di Musica da Camera di Trieste and at a chamber music competition held in Osaka. Moreover, they won the 'Concert Artists Guild Competition' in New York. The Trio recently made their debut in New York's 'Carnegie Hall', and was widely acclaimed by both the public and the critics.

In 2000 Riccardo Muti chose Massimo Polidori for the role of principal Cello in the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala.

Since 2001, he has been the cellist in the chamber music group, Quartetto d'Archidella Scala.