BIOGRAPHY · 2026/27

Benedict *Kloeckner*

Short biography (about 110 words)

Benedict Kloeckner is one of the defining cellists of his generation. He appears as soloist with orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and Kremerata Baltica, and performs at Carnegie Hall, the Berliner Philharmonie, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Suntory Hall. Musicians he has worked with include Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle and Christoph Eschenbach. His recordings for Berlin Classics include Dvořák's Cello Concerto with Cristian Măcelaru and the complete Bach Cello Suites. An OPUS KLASSIK winner, he is Professor at the École Normale de Musique de Paris, founder and artistic director of the International Music Festival Koblenz and chairman of the International Violoncello Society.

Full biography

Standing ovations in the world's great concert halls, from Carnegie Hall in New York to the Berliner Philharmonie, tens of thousands of listeners every season and millions of views of his recordings and videos: Benedict Kloeckner is one of the defining cellists of his time.

On the great stages

As a soloist Benedict Kloeckner appears with orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Kremerata Baltica, the MDR-Sinfonieorchester and the Münchener Kammerorchester. His concerts take him regularly to the major musical centres of the world: the Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Wiener Musikverein, the Tonhalle Zürich and the Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

Musicians he has worked with include Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle, Christoph Eschenbach, Cristian Măcelaru, Michael Sanderling and Ingo Metzmacher, and the chamber music partners Emanuel Ax, Sir András Schiff, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Lisa Batiashvili and Gidon Kremer.

Future seasons

Highlights of the coming seasons include recitals at the Berliner Philharmonie, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Tonhalle Zürich and the Wiener Konzerthaus, both Haydn concertos with the Deutsches Kammerorchester Berlin in the main hall of the Berliner Philharmonie, the Brahms Double Concerto at the Wiener Musikverein, three concertos at the Kölner Philharmonie and his debut with the NCPA Orchestra in Beijing.

Recordings and new music

His recording of Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Grammy-winning conductor Cristian Măcelaru and the Romanian Chamber Orchestra for Berlin Classics received international acclaim; The Strad praised his “addictively sensuous sound”. His latest releases are the world premiere recording of Kjell Flem's Cello Concerto with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin under Markus L. Frank and “Dialogue”, an album of Schubert and Mendelssohn with Yu Kosuge. His discography also includes the Brahms sonatas and the complete Bach Cello Suites, which he has performed as a cycle at the Berliner Philharmonie, the Munich Residenz and the Alte Oper Frankfurt.

Working with living composers is close to his heart. He has given world and national premieres of works by Wolfgang Rihm, Dai Fujikura, Eun Hwa Cho and Eric Tanguy, and continually expands the cello repertoire.

Festival, teaching & supporting talent

For more than twelve years Benedict Kloeckner has shaped the International Music Festival Koblenz as its founder and artistic director, and he is artistic director of the Paul Juon Festival in Nyon, Switzerland. He is Professor of Cello at the École Normale de Musique de Paris and, as chairman of the International Violoncello Society, supports young cellists around the world.

Education

He studied with Martin Ostertag at the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe and with Frans Helmerson and Gary Hoffman at the Kronberg Academy. He plays a famous Italian instrument from 1700.

Contact: Primavera Consulting · ab@artsprimavera.com · benedictkloeckner.com
Press photos: benedictkloeckner.com/biography.html