

Biography

DENISE DJOKIC, cello

Cellist **Denise Djokic** has earned world-wide acclaim for her sincere, powerful interpretations and her bold command of the instrument. Instantly recognized by her "arrestingly beautiful tone colour" (The Strad), she moves audiences with her natural musical instinct and a remarkable combination of strength and sensitivity.

Ms. Djokic's engagements for the 2011-12 season include a Carnegie Hall debut in which she will appear with the Edmonton Symphony and conductor William Eddins, performing John Estacio's Triple Concerto with pianist Angela Cheng and violinist Juliette Kang. She will also tour with the Academic Orchestra of Zurich, Switzerland performing the Dvorak concerto, and will collaborate with Ballet Victoria in a special performance of solo Bach. Ms. Djokic's chamber music collaborations include appearances with the Jupiter and Supernova string quartets, a recital with violinist Pekka Kuusisto, and festivals in Ontario, Utah, and New York. The upcoming season will also feature the release of a new recording on the ATMA label of the Chopin and Rachmaninoff sonatas with pianist David Jalbert.

Highlights of Ms. Djokic's 2010-11 season included a highly successful return appearance with l'Orchestre Métropolitain and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, performing Strauss's Don Quixote. She also appeared with Symphony Nova Scotia and Bernhard Gueller, and with l'Orchestre de la Francophonie in a performance of the Brahms Double Concerto with Alexandre da Costa and Jean-Philippe Tremblay. She participated in the Amsterdam Cello Biennale as well as the International Cello Festival of Canada, where her performance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Alexander Mickelthwate "brought a sense of intense involvement to Adagio con Variazione by Respighi. She seems to go into a place of her own as she plays, devoted entirely to the music. This was a passionate reading of a gorgeous and not often performed work." (Gwenda Nemerofsky, Winnipeg Free Press). Ms. Djokic also made appearances at festivals in Ottawa, Park City, Tulsa, Halifax, and in Kingston, where

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she was featured at the Kingston Writers Fest in a collaborative performance with Eric Soblin, author of "The Cello Suites".

Ms. Djokic recently made her New York City concerto debut at Lincoln Center with the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas and Alondra de la Parra conducting Arturo Marquez's "Espejos en la Arena", as well as her European concerto debut with the Aachen Symphony Orchestra under Marcus Bosch. Other recent engagements featured appearances with the North Carolina Symphony, Portland Symphony, Syracuse Symphony, and the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, as well as performances of both Haydn Concerti with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Minería in Mexico City, in celebration of the 2009 Haydn Anniversary year.

As a recitalist, Ms. Djokic performs frequently with her long-time musical partner, pianist David Jalbert. Recent performances have brought them to Washington D.C., San Francisco, Mexico City, Vancouver, Chicago, Tuscon, and New York's Bargemusic. Denise and David also tour with Piano Plus, an organization which brings performances to Canadian communities in which the opportunities to hear live concerts are limited. In addition, her love of chamber music has brought her to the festivals of Ottawa, Caramoor, Park City, Ravinia, San Miguel de Allende, and Vancouver. In 2008, Ms. Djokic gave the world premiere of Christos Hatzis' "In the Fire of Conflict", with percussionist Ryan Scott and dancer Peggy Baker at the Toronto Summer Music Festival. She appears frequently with New York's Jupiter Chamber Players and also tours with her chamber music partner since childhood, her violinist brother Marc.

Immediately following the release of her debut recording on the Sony Classical label, Ms. Djokic was a featured performer at the 2002 Grammy Awards. The self-titled CD won great critical acclaim and received a 2002 East Coast Music Award. Her following recording, "Folklore", (Allegro/Endeavor) received a JUNO nomination as well as an ECMA, and hit the Billboard Chart's top 15 Classical CD's. "Folklore" was also featured on NPR's "All Things Considered".

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Ms. Djokic's most recent recording - the complete Britten Solo Suites for the ATMA label - has received critical acclaim from renowned publications such as *Fanfare* and *The Strad*. The recording was declared "easily able to stand alongside the great recordings of Rostropovich and Wispelwey" by AllMusic.com.

Ms. Djokic has been the subject of a BRAVO! TV documentary entitled "Seven Days, Seven Nights", and has also appeared as a speaker at IdeaCity in Toronto, and at the Women In Leadership Conference at Queen's University. MacLean's Magazine named her one of the top "25 Canadians who are Changing our World", and ELLE Magazine declared her one of "Canada's Most Powerful Women".

Having grown up in a large musical family, Ms. Djokic first began to learn the cello with her uncle and aunt, cellists Pierre Djokic and Michelle Djokic. Her parents, Lynn and Philippe, and brother Marc, are all musicians. She continued her studies in Cleveland with Richard Aaron and in Boston with Laurence Lesser and Paul Katz. Ms. Djokic gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

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