

"probably the greatest young 'cello talent since Jacqueline du Pré"
(**The Strad**)

"an articulate musician with zest, spontaneity, technical assurance and a lovely sense of line...a major talent"
(**Helen Wallace, BBC Music Magazine, 2007**)

The young English 'cellist **Richard Harwood** began his studies with Joan Dickson, before continuing with other eminent teachers such as Steven Doane, David Waterman, Heinrich Schiff (University of Music and Dramatic Art, Vienna), and Ralph Kirshbaum (Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester).

He complemented his studies by taking master classes and lessons with Mstislav Rostropovich, Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Boris Pergamenschikow, Miklós Perényi, Bernard Greenhouse, Valentin Erben (Alban Berg Quartet), William Pleeth, Zara Nelsova, and Ferenc Rados.

Since his critically acclaimed concerto debut at the age of ten, Richard has performed concerti and recitals in major venues including London's Royal Albert Hall, all of the South Bank Centre venues, Wigmore Hall, Musikverein (Vienna), Alte Oper (Frankfurt), Thomaskirche (Leipzig), and the Auditorium du Louvre (Paris).

Concerto performances have taken Richard throughout Europe, New Zealand, and the Russian Federation. He has collaborated with conductors such as Okko Kamu, Marko Letonja, Douglas Bostock, David Parry, En Shao, Shuntaro Sato, and Yehudi Menuhin, and been soloist with numerous orchestras including the London Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonia, Auckland Philharmonia, and the Ural Philharmonic.

Richard enjoys life as a recitalist and chamber musician. He made his Wigmore Hall recital debut in 1998, aged eighteen, and his Purcell Room recital debut took place the following year. Both were with the pianist Julius Drake.

As chamber musician, he has collaborated with the Endellion Quartet, Olivier Charlier, Benjamin Schmid, Ilya Gringolts, Pekka Kuusisto, Jack Liebeck, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Ida Levin, Guy Ben-Ziony, James Boyd, Chen Halevi, Julian Bliss, Finghin Collins, Gottlieb Wallisch, and Ashley Wass, among others. At *Chamber Music Connects the World* in 2006, Richard gave concerts in Frankfurt and Kronberg with Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, and Eduard Brunner.

Richard regularly plays on BBC, having made his BBC Radio 3 debut at the age of thirteen with a live recording of the Elgar *Concerto*. He has also given performances for Radio France, MDR, and Radio New Zealand. Richard's debut disc for EMI Classics, recorded with pianist Christoph Berner, was released to wide critical acclaim in 2007.

Contemporary music plays an important role for Richard. In 2002, he took part in the Park Lane Group Young Artists' Series on the South Bank and premiered solo works written for him by Dominic Muldowney and Martin Butler. Richard has continued to work closely with Dominic and recorded the solo 'cello part to his score for the BBC Television Drama *Holy Cross*. He has also worked with Philip Grange, giving the London premiere of his *Nocturnal Image* and, in 2004, gave the European premiere of David Horne's *Zip* with the composer at the piano.

Richard has won many awards. In 1992, he became the youngest ever winner of the Audi Junior Musician Award. More recently, Richard won the 2004 Pierre Fournier Award and, the same year, became the first British 'cellist ever to be awarded the title "Bachpreisträger" at the

International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition, Leipzig. In 2005, he received a special "mention" from the jury at the Rostropovich Competition, Paris. In addition to a 2001 Maisie Lewis Young Artists Award from the Worshipful Company of Musicians, Richard has won Music Education, Myra Hess, and Ian Fleming Trust Awards from the MBF. He has also received support from the Hattori Foundation and benefited from over a decade of assistance from the KPMG/Martin Musical Scholarship Fund. In 1997, BBC Music Magazine selected him in their world-wide *Who's Who* edition and, in 2000, Richard was entered into the new edition of the *International Who's Who in Music* as an 'up and coming talent on the brink of world-wide recognition.'

Performances in the coming seasons will include Lalo, Barber, and Haydn Concerti and recitals and chamber music with Gottlieb Wallisch, Julia Fedoseeva, Christoph Berner, Ilya Gringolts, Chloe Hanslip, and Alexander Sitkovetsky at venues and festivals such as the Budapest Spring Festival, Vienna's Musikverein, and London's Wigmore Hall.

In 2009, Richard can be seen and heard in Phil Grabsky's new documentary *In Search of Beethoven* which will receive its theatrical premiere at the Barbican Theatre, London and broadcast premiere on Sky Arts.

Richard plays a 'cello by Francesco Rugeri, dated 1692.

"His playing is hard to beat for sheer beauty of tone"
(Janet Banks, *The Strad*, 2007)

"Fresh insight, effortless musicianship and a confidence belying his years"
(Anthony Holden, *The Observer*, 2007)