

Laura van der Heijden, 1997

Winner of the 2012 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, Laura van der Heijden has been making a name for herself as a very special emerging talent, captivating audiences and critics alike with her imaginative interpretations and probing musicianship.

2018 marked the global release of Laura's critically acclaimed debut album "1948", featuring Russian music for cello and piano with pianist Petr Limonov. It won the 2018 Edison Klassiek Award, broadcast live on national TV in the Netherlands. The CD has been hailed as a "dazzling, imaginative and impressive" debut recording.

Laura was born in England to Dutch–Swiss parents and gave her first public performance at the age of 9. Since 2008 she has been a student of the renowned British–Russian cellist Leonid Gorokhov, and participates regularly in masterclasses by David Geringas, Ralph Kirshbaum and Miklós Perényi. She is currently in her final year studying for her Bachelor's Degree in Music at St John's College, Cambridge, while also maintaining a busy concert diary.

Laura has performed with leading orchestras such as the Philharmonia, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, European Union Chamber and English Chamber Orchestras. She has also given debuts in Holland, Germany, New Zealand, and in Australia with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of the inaugural BBC Proms Australia, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. Last season's highlights include a recital with Fazil Say at Zürich Tonhalle, a performance of Schumann's cello concerto with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, a UK tour with IMS Prussia Cove, as well as her debut with the Argovia Philharmonic, and at Wigmore Hall in a BBC lunchtime recital.

Chamber music is immensely important to Laura. She has collaborated with Tom Poster, Huw Watkins, Petr Limonov, Matthew MacDonald, and Krzysztof Chorzelski and regularly participates in international chamber music courses and festivals.

This season will see Laura give her debut in Japan with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra and at the Musashino Cultural Foundation, in Italy with the London Mozart Players, in the UK with the Hallé Orchestra under Karl–Heinz Steffens and in Ireland at West Cork Chamber Music Festival.

Laura plays a late 17th–century cello by Francesco Rugeri of Cremona, on generous loan from a private collection. She is an Ambassador for both the Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts and Brighton Youth Orchestra.

Reviews

"The beauty of Laura van der Heijden's playing lies in the fact that she has a wonderful expressivity, but never, ever overdoes it, and the pianissimo ending of the concerto was enchanting, ending with just the solo cello, captivating the audience..." (Jane Shuttleworth / Bachtrack / May 2012)

"...a completely extraordinary performance of incredible creative intensity..." (Nicholas Daniel / BBC3 Radio / May 2012)

"...mesmerising performance of the rarely–played Walton Cello Concerto..." (Richard Morrison / Times / May 2012)