

## Meet the Artists

### Anita Leuzinger, Cello

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Anita Leuzinger was born in 1982 near Zurich and began to play the cello at the age of five. She studied with Thomas Grossenbacher and then with Thomas Demenga in Basel, where in the summer of 2007 she completed her studies with the soloist's diploma with distinction.

During her studies she received important impulses from G.Kurtag, M.Perenyi and S.Isserlis, among others. The greatest influence on her had the Hungarian pianist Ferenc Rados, who showed her a completely new approach to music.

In June 2008 she won the first prize at the Naumburg Competition in New York and, in addition to further appearances, she gave her debut recital at the Weill Recital Hall at the Carnegie Hall in October 2009.

Already at the age of 23, when Anita Leuzinger was still a student, she won the audition for the position of principal cellist with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich. This half-time position enables her not only to get to know the symphonic repertoire and to be part of the best orchestra in Switzerland, but also to devote herself intensively to her passion for chamber music.

For almost six years she has performed regularly with the pianist Anton Kernjak, giving concerts in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, USA and Switzerland. This collaboration is source of great pleasure for her and a very important part of her musical evolution.

Her concert activities have taken her to various festivals in Switzerland and abroad. She has received invitations to the Lucerne Music Festival, the Davos Music Festival, the Sommets Musicaux at Gstaad and the IMS Open Chamber Music Festival, England.

Early on she gained experience as a soloist, notably with the first concerto of D.Shostakovich on a tour of the US in 2000, and played as a soloist with orchestras like the Tonhalle orchestra Zürich, the Basel Symphony Orchestra, the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Zagreb Soloists and the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana.

She has now also assumed greater teaching responsibilities and since October 2008 she has been assistant to Thomas Demenga at the Musikhochschule Basel.

Anita Leuzinger plays a cello made by Antonio Stradivari in 1698 which has been kindly lent to her by the Stradivari-Stiftung Habisreutinger.

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