

**Olsi LEKA**  
cellist, born in Tirana, Albania, in 1980



He started studying the cello at the age of 6. During his studies, he twice obtained the first prize at the 'Young Virtuosi' competition (junior and senior categories), the first prize at the 'Lyons Club Interpretation Competition' in Belgium and the second prize at the 'International Music Competition' in Cyprus.

During his last year at the conservatory he was appointed Cello Solo - First Cellist at the National Orchestra of Belgium, at the age of 24. This allowed him to work with a multitude of conductors and soloists of international renown like Valery Gergiev, Walter Weller, Hugh Wolf, Pinchas Zukerman, Vadim Repin, Misha Maisky, H el ene Grimaud and others.

Since then, he has performed in chamber music appearances in numerous places and festivals such as 'Schiermonnikoog Festival' in Netherlands, the 'Different trains Festival' in Albania, the 'Gj ovig Musicfest' in Norway , the 'Excellent Concerts' in the Netherlands and others.

He has performed in recitals with the pianists Daniel Blumenthal, Alexandar Madzar, Fran ois-Ren  Duchable, Adam Laloum, Liebrecht Vanbeckevoort, Desar Sulejmani and Peter Caelen. As a soloist, he has played the concertos of P.I. Tchaikovsky, A. Dvorak, R. Schumann, E.Lalo, M. Bruch, W. Bargiel. J.Brahms and more.

A career highlight was the interpretation of the concerto 'Tout un monde lointain ...' by the French composer Henri Dutilleux. After preparation of the oeuvre with the composer in his Parisian Ile Saint-Louis studio, the work was played and recorded live in Brussels in his presence. The composer said it was one of the best interpretations he had ever heard.

In 2007 he was appointed cello Professor at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp.  
In 2015 he was appointed cello Professor at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels.

He is regularly invited to give cello master classes in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Italy and France.

He plays an exceptional cello of the famous Italian violin maker Raffaele Gagliano, generously made available to him by the Eric Feldbusch Foundation. This instrument was given to Eric Feldbusch in 1965 by Queen Elisabeth of Belgium for the occasion of the creation of the "Queen Elisabeth" piano trio.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8bl070A0rE>