

ALISA WEILERSTEIN
Cellist

Biography

The 23-year old American cellist Alisa Weilerstein has attracted widespread recognition for playing that combines natural virtuosity and technical assurance with impassioned musicianship. Since her first public concert at the age of 4, Ms. Weilerstein has performed with the nation's top orchestras, given recitals in music capitals throughout the U.S. and Europe, and regularly participates in prestigious international festivals. She is also dedicated to performing chamber music, having grown up in a family of musicians with whom she collaborated from an early age. Following a performance of Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 with The Cleveland Orchestra, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote, "Cellists twice or thrice Weilerstein's age would be hard-pressed to match the concentrated beauty and power of this young dynamo's playing."

Ms. Weilerstein is already continually engaged by orchestras across the U.S. and has performed as soloist with the Baltimore Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the Houston Symphony. In 2002 Ms. Weilerstein appeared with the New York Philharmonic on its "Concerts in the Parks" series. In Europe she has performed with the Barcelona Symphony, Bournemouth Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra Lisbon, Leipziger Bachkollegium, Orchestre National de France, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich. She makes regular appearances at festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival, Bad Kissingen, Blossom Music Festival, Caramoor, Green Music Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto USA, Vail, Vancouver Chamber Music Festival, and the Verbier Festival.

During the 2004-05 season Ms. Weilerstein made her debuts with the Cincinnati Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and San Antonio Symphony. She also made her South American debut playing Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 at the Teatro Colon under Giancarlo Guerrero. During the summer of 2005, she performs Tchaikovsky's "Rococo" Variations with The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom and Bach's Suite for Solo Violincello No. 5 at a pre-concert recital during Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival. She also performs at Spoleto USA, Caramoor, the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival and Green Music Festival. Highlights of Ms. Weilerstein's 2005-06 season include performances with the National Symphony

Orchestra under Peter Oundjian at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and the Bournemouth Symphony under Marin Alsop, and she opens the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra season playing the Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations with Jeffrey Kahane. She also performs with the Austin Symphony with Peter Bay, Battle Creek Symphony under Anne Harrigan, California Symphony with Barry Jekowsky, Colorado Symphony with Jeffrey Kahane, Delaware Symphony with David Amado, and the Phoenix Symphony with James DePriest.

Ms. Weilerstein has given recitals in music centers across the U.S., including Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Portland and San Francisco. She performed at The Louvre in her Paris recital debut in September 1999. Other notable engagements have included an eight-city tour of Japan, featuring a Suntory Hall performance in March 1999, a concert tour of Australia, and Florida tours with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in 2000 and 2002.

Ms. Weilerstein was the recipient in 2000 of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and was selected for two prestigious young artists programs in 2000-01, the ECHO (European Concert Hall Organization) "Rising Stars" recital series and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two. As part of the ECHO series in 2000-01, Ms. Weilerstein gave recitals at seven celebrated concert halls in Europe (Symphony Hall in Birmingham, Wigmore Hall in London, Athens Concert Hall, the Cologne Philharmonie, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam) as well as at Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall), which nominated her to be part of the series. Ms. Weilerstein also released an acclaimed recording on EMI Classics' "Debut" series in 2000 including works by Paganini, Dvorák, Ginastera, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Janáček, Saint-Saëns, Fauré and De Falla.

Born in 1982, Alisa began playing the cello at age 4 and performed her first public concert six months later. She often plays with her parents, Donald and Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, as the Weilerstein Trio. They are the Trio-in-Residence at the New England Conservatory in Boston. Her Cleveland Orchestra debut was in October 1995, at age 13, playing the Tchaikovsky "Rococo" Variations. She made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Youth Symphony in March 1997. Ms. Weilerstein is a graduate of the Young Artist Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Richard Weiss. In May 2004, she graduated from Columbia University in New York with a degree in Russian History.

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Shuman Associates, 120 West 58 Street, New York, New York 10019
Tel: 212-315-1300 Fax: 212-757-3005 E-mail: shumanpr@cs.com