

David Geringas

Chairman
(Lithuania | Germany)

Honorary Professor of the conservatories in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Beijing, and Honorary Doctor of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, David Geringas (b. 1946) is much coveted in classical music venues around the world. Ranked among the musical elite of our time, he is renowned for exceptional versatility, boasting an unusually broad repertoire from the early Baroque to contemporary music. His intellectual rigor, his stylistic versatility, his melodic feeling, and the sensuousness of his tone have brought him praise the world over. He does not however forget his native country, to which he returns regularly with concerts and treats his loyal audiences with unforgettable musical delicacies.

A native of Vilnius and pupil of legendary cellist Mstislav Rostropovich at the Moscow Conservatory, gold medal winner of the 1970 Tchaikovsky Competition, David Geringas has enjoyed an illustrious career of over five decades, performing worldwide as cellist and conductor, with some of the greatest orchestras and musicians of our time. His wife and pianist Tatiana Schatz-Geringas and pianist Ian Fountain belong to his closest partners on chamber music scene. Since 2000 he has been engaged as conductor to an ever-growing extent. Besides his orchestral engagements around the globe, he made his opera conducting debut in 2010 with Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* in Klaipėda and ballet debut in 2015 with Balsys' *Egle, the Queen of Grass Snakes* in Vilnius, Lithuania.

His extensive discography, which now approaches 100 CDs, includes many for which he received highest international distinctions.

Having relocated to West Germany in 1975, Geringas was the first to champion the work of the Baltic and Russian avant-garde composers in the West. Well-known contemporary composers have dedicated cello concertos to him. For his championing of Lithuanian music and composers he has been awarded highest cultural distinctions of his homeland, including the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas and the Lithuanian National Prize for Culture and Arts.

Geringas has for decades taught a world-famous cello class in the music universities of Hamburg, Lübeck and Berlin. He now teaches exclusively at the Blackmore International Music Academy in Berlin and continues to give master classes worldwide.

In 2017, Geringas was invited to appear in concerts and preside over the jury of the 1st Klaipėda International Cello Festival and Competition.