

Razvan Suma

(Romania)

Currently numbered among the most active and accomplished Romanian cellists, Răzvan Suma (b. 1977) began playing the cello at the age of six and won his first prize in a competition next year. A native of Cluj-Napoca, he studied with Gabriela Todor in the local high school and then with Marin Cazacu at the National University of Music Bucharest. Later on he earned the Artist Diploma from the Longy School of Music at Bard College in Cambridge, MA, where he studied with Dr. Terry King. Suma has participated in master classes given by the likes of Arto Noras, Miklós Perényi, Radu Aldulescu, Herre-Jan Stegenga and Frans Helmerson. He has garnered quite a few top awards in international competitions, including Gian Battista Viotti in Italy, Markneukirchen in Germany, and Villa de Llanes in Spain, which helped launch his illustrious international career.

Having built a vast repertoire, he has given hundreds of recitals and concerts all over the world, performing with more than 30 orchestras and next to the world-renowned musicians, such as Maxim Vengerov, Alexander Sitkovetski, the Borromeo and the Voces Quartets, Justus Frantz, Jozsef Lendvay, Misha Katz, Jin Wang, Cristian Mandeal and Marin Cazacu. Since 2009 he has been appointed soloist with the Romanian Radio Orchestras and Choirs and an associate professor at the National University of Music Bucharest. He has been invited to give master classes in Spain, Italy, Argentina, South Korea, and Romania, where his class “Music at Altitude”, realized in collaboration with violinist Ștefan Horváth, has already become a landmark.

An enthusiastic performer of chamber music, Suma collaborates frequently with Spanish pianist Josu Okiñena, with whom he has given recitals in many major concert venues in Spain, Portugal and Argentina. He is also the founding member of the Cellissimo cello quartet (with Marin Cazacu, Alexandra Guțu and Octavian Lup) and the ArgEnTango group, dedicated to the promotion of authentic tango styles. Besides his diverse activities in the classical music realm, Suma is also fond of cross-genre collaborations. Most recently, he has collaborated with the popular Romanian alternative rock band Vița de Vie, and was featured in a track on their 2013 album *Acoustic*.

In 2012, Suma launched a suite of successful national concert tours of his own devising: “Do You Like Bach?”, “Do You Like Brahms?”, “Do You Like Tango?”, and “Do You Like SCHU...?” Due to the wide success of his “Do You Like Bach?” tour, Suma has released a CD of the complete Bach Cello Suites (Sonoro Records). He is the first Romanian to have recorded Bach’s entire canon for solo cello.

In 2017, he was invited to join the festival roster and the jury of the 1st International Klaipėda Cello Festival and Competition.