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Bach, Ragas and Wu-Wei

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### JAN MÜLLER-SZERAWS, CELLO

The central questions of how music connects people - it's mysterious magnetism, seductiveness, and power to affect us on so many levels - has lead cellist Jan Müller-Szeraws' musical journey from his native Chile over Europe to the United States, exploring it as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher.

Connecting with colleagues through chamber music, he has been a guest artist at many festivals including the Cape & Islands, Rockport, El Paso Pro-Musica, Strings in the Mountains, Delaware, Music at Gretna, Florida Arts, Sebago Long Lake and Kingston Chamber Music Festivals, the Garth Newel Music Center and the European Chamber Music Association.

His solo performances include the world premiere and recording of Bernard Hoffer's Concerto di Camera II for solo cello and ensemble written for him, the Boston premiere of Gunther Schuller's cello concerto and John Harbison's and Chou Wen-Chung's cello concertos with the New England Philharmonic, Schumann concerto with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción and Orquesta de la Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Shostakovich concerto no.1 and Brahms double concerto with violinist Bayla Keyes and the Concord Orchestra (MA), Dvorak concerto with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

As guest principal cellist he was invited to join the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra for two projects, including a live concert broadcast of Bavarian Broadcasting of Shostakovich's Symphony no. 15 with Mikhail Pletnev conducting as well as a tour to China.

He has been broadcasted by radio and TV stations in the United States, Chile and Germany, and recorded Pedro Humberto Allende's cello concerto with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile, which was released by the Chilean Academy of Fine Arts as part of the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of Chilean Independence.

Other recent projects include the release of "Anusvara", a disc with music by Shirish Korde for cello, tabla and carnatic soprano, the premiere of "Mutations" for solo cello and computer by Chris Arrell and the premiere and recording of Thomas Oboe Lee's "Suite for Solo Cello", both written for him, as well as a recording of sonatas for piano and cello by Brahms and Chopin with pianist Adam Golka for Hammond Performing Arts and a series of recitals for cello and harp with Israeli harpist Sivan Magen.



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Müller-Szeraws regularly performs recitals with pianists Adam Golka, Ya-Fei Chuang and Sally Pinkas. He is cellist of the contemporary music ensemble Boston Musica Viva as well as founding member of Trio Tremonti.

Since September 2014 Müller-Szeraws is Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross and coordinates its Performance Program. He is also artistic director of the Chamber Music Institute at Holy Cross, an intensive chamber music summer immersion program for gifted high school and college students. Müller-Szeraws has been artist and teacher in residence at the "Jornadas Musicales Internacionales de Invierno" in Concepción, Chile and has taught Master Classes at the Garth Newel Music Center, Columbus State University and Academia de Música Antonio Vivaldi, Concepción. He was a guest lecturer at the Universidad Católica de Chile and currently teaches at the Phillips Academy Andover.

Müller-Szeraws is a prize-winner at the Washington International Competition, as well as a grant recipient of the Saul and Naomi Cohen Foundation, which is generously lending him a cello by David Tecchler (1717).

Jan Müller-Szeraws studied at the Musikhochschule Freiburg, Germany and holds a Bachelor and Master of Music Degree from Boston University. His teachers include Andrés Díaz, Christoph Henkel, Arnaldo Fuentes and Javier Santamaría.

## MÜLLER-SZERAWS SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Cellist and Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross Jan Müller-Szeraws has an active career as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Solo performances have included engagements with the New England Philharmonic, Concord Orchestra, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción, Orquesta de la Universidad de Santiago de Chile and Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile with repertoire ranging from concertos from the traditional repertoire such as Haydn, Dvorak, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich to contemporary composers Chou Wen Chung, Gunther Schuller, Bernard Hoffer and John Harbison. Recent projects have been the release of "Anusvara", a disc with music by Shirish Korde for cello, tabla and carnatic soprano, the premiere of "Mutations" for solo cello and computer by Chris Arrell, the premiere and recording of "Suite for Solo Cello" by Thomas Oboe Lee as well as a disc with sonatas by Brahms and Chopin with pianist Adam Golka for Hammond Performing Arts. He has been guest professor at the Universidad Católica de Chile, a guest with the Israeli Chamber Project as well as guest principal cellist for the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra in Germany. He is member of Trio Tremonti, contemporary music ensemble Boston Musica Viva and Boston/Andover based ensemble Mistral. Also on the faculty at Phillips Academy Andover, he is a frequent guest artist at many festivals and is founder and Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Institute at Holy Cross, an intensive summer program for talented high-school and college students. Müller-Szeraws studied at the Musikhochschule



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Freiburg and holds degrees from Boston University. He plays a cello by David Tecchler, on loan from the Saul and Naomi Cohen Foundation.

#### JONATHAN HESS, PERCUSSION

A specialist in contemporary percussion, Jonathan has been praised for his “power and finesse” by the Boston Classical Review and his “exacting milieu” by the Boston Globe. He is a founding member of the Boston Percussion Group (BPeG) and has been featured with Boston Musica Viva, Alea III, Dinosaur Annex and Monadnock Music. Jonathan has performed and recorded with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP Sound) and plays in the pit for Odyssey Opera. In addition to his work in contemporary music, he is the timpanist for Boston's Handel and Haydn Society and Grand Harmonie - an ensemble dedicated to inventive and compelling performances of 19th century art music on historical instruments. He has also performed with Boston Baroque, Canto Armonico and Cambridge Concentus. In 2014, Jonathan toured Japan as timpanist for the Boston Chamber Orchestra and recently played drum set for the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus' historic trip through the Middle East. He lives in Boston with his wife Sonja and their dog, Leila.

#### AMIT KAVTHEKAR, TABLA

Young and talented Amit Kavthekar (“GANDA-BANDH SHAGIRD” of Late Ustad Allarakha) has rhythm running in his veins. At the early age of six, when most the children of his age were playing about, he was being groomed in the art of tabla playing by Maestro Ustad Allarakha. Since 1991, he was fortunate to be taught tabla intricacies by Ustad Zakir Hussain, a master maestro in Tabla with an unbelievable number of fans all over the world and, of course, in India.

He played with many Legends such as Ustad Zakir Hussain and Sivamani on Zee Tv in India, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma in his Documentary directed by Jabbar Patel in India, He has Accompaniment Pt. Jasraj in his Vocal recital in Pune India, Ustad Shahid Parvez at Berklee College of Music, Boston MA, Ustad Ashish Khan at Learnquest Festival at Regis College MA, Pt. Buddhadev Dasgupta in Bithak, Boston MA, with Pt. Kushal Das at MIT Cambridge, MA. Presently Amit is teaching Tabla in American School of Bombay (ASB) and in New England School of Music which is based in Boston MA area. Presently he is working as a professor in Salem State University for the World Music Ensemble.