

Robbie Stanley-Smith began learning the cello at the age of three with Penny Heath and the Suzuki method, and in 2005 was awarded the Marguerite Swan Memorial Prize for the highest mark at Grade 8 (143).

Under Helen Verney in Kingston he subsequently achieved distinctions at dipABRSM and LRSM level, was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and in 2009 became Sunbury and Shepperton Young Musician of the Year. In the same year he was soloist in Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with Kingston Chamber Orchestra, and returned to perform the Schumann concerto with the orchestra in 2012.



He studied Spanish and Latin at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he was an instrumental award holder and performed the Walton, Dvořák and Elgar concertos. Chamber music, however, is his preferred medium, having studied many of the great chamber works with Pro Corda, the National School for Young Chamber Music Players. He is a member of the Kandour Quartet, which has performed at various venues in England and Russia and is the recipient of the 2018 Boconnoc award.

Previously he performed at the Leeds and RNCM chamber music festivals, and in 2009 performed Schoenberg's Verklärte Nacht at Wigmore Hall. In Cambridge he was involved in several new music projects, including operas by Kate Whitley and a performance of Ariel by Mark Simpson. Post-university, in between stints teaching English in Germany, France and China, he has performed with Multi-Storey Orchestra, the Faust Chamber Orchestra, the Anglo-Portuguese Ensemble, the Outcry Ensemble, the London Mahler Orchestra and the Orion Orchestra. In September 2016 he began studying with Richard Lester, and is now in the first year of a Masters of Performance at the Royal College of Music under Alexander