

Benjamin Myers, cello

Emotional power, sparkling technique, and a burnished tone are the qualities that have made Benjamin Myers an audience favorite. *The New Yorker* magazine noted, "The best soloist was the first cello, Benjamin Myers, who added a romantic line to the duet." *Music Monthly* said of another performance that he was "riveting and delightful to behold."

Myers was just 19 when he took top prize in the 1987 Emerson String Quartet Competition resulting in a guest appearance as that quartet's cellist. Since then, he has appeared as soloist and chamber musician in major halls in America, Europe, and Taiwan, and has given three solo and chamber performances in New York's Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall) under the auspices of the LaGessee Foundation.

He is the award-winning Gemini Piano Trio's cellist, and one of its founders. The *American Record Guide* praised the trio's debut CD featuring works by Ives and Brahms saying, "There is an admirable balance between confidence, polished technique, and impulsive, romantic ardor in this performance." Their second album, featuring trios by Ravel and Shostakovich, also was also received by audiences around the world enthusiastically. Myers' performance with the Gemini Piano Trio in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall garnered a rave review from Edith Eisler in *The New York Concert Review*.

Myers also has the distinction of being the first person ever to earn a doctoral degree in cello performance from the highly selective program at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he also earned his master's degree. He earned a bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) from the Hartt School of Music.

His major teachers were David Finckel of the Emerson Quartet, and soloists David Wells, David Gibson, and Colin Carr; and he has also played in master classes for Yo-Yo Ma. Myers has also appeared as principal cello of many orchestras, including the Aspen Concert Orchestra, Concert Artists of Baltimore, and the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Myers has taught at Goucher College and Washington College and is the Chair of the Howard Community College Music Department. Benjamin Myers has had a studio of advanced cellists, several of whom have gone on to study at some of the best conservatories and music schools in the country, including Peabody, New England Conservatory, and Manhattan School of Music.