

Mārcis Kuplais, cello

www.kuplais.com
m.kuplais@yahoo.com
Tel. +41 78 88 36 721

Markircherstrasse 39
CH 4055, Basel
Switzerland



Mārcis Kuplais was born on May 6, 1983 in Riga, Latvia. At the age of 6 he began to play the cello. Since the age of 7 he has been participating in various festivals, concerts and competitions. He has received prizes in 22 competitions in Latvia and abroad, from them 7 times the first place.

In 1997 and 1998 he got two invitations to the Palace of Riga by president of Latvia Guntis Ulmanis because of his success in international competitions.

He has played as a soloist with various orchestras, including with „Academy of St. Martin in the Fields“ (without conductor), Sinfonieorchester Basel (cond. Ariel Zuckermann), Georgian Chamberorchester (cond. Ivan Monighetti), Georgian National Symphony Orchestra (cond. Fahraddin Kerimov), Zurich Academy Orchestra (cond. Marc Kissóczy), Riga Chamber Orchestra (cond. Normunds Šnē) and others.

He has big experience playing in many different chamber music ensembles – trios, quartets, quintets, with piano, organ and choir. He has played chamber music with Mstislav Rostropovich, Ivan Monighetti, Ana Chumachenko, Alexander Rudin, Danjulo Ishizaka, Gerardo Vila, Silvia Simionescu and others.

Since the year of 2006 he plays regularly together with pianist Akane Matsumura and won with her as a duo and trio partner different competitions in Switzerland, Italy and Germany.

He has given concerts as a soloist in Latvia, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Georgia, Cyprus, Brazil, USA, South Korea and Japan.

He has had master classes with Bernard Greenhouse, Anner Bylsma, David Geringas, Troels Svane, Chiara Banchini, Yosif Feigelson, Māris Villerušs and others.

His teachers in Latvia were Lija Sudraba (1989.-1998. in Riga) and Arimans Štrauss (1998.-2002. in Ventspils). From 2002 – 2010 he has been studying at the Music Academy of Basel under Professor Ivan Monighetti. His chamber music teachers in Basel were Gerard Wyss, Adrian Oetiker, Felix Renggli, Benjamin Engeli and others.

In July 2006 he got the teaching diploma with marks of “very good” and in July 2008 he got the concert diploma with the highest marks of “excellent”. In July 2010 he finished his studies at the Music Academy of Basel, getting the highly prestigious Masters Degree with Soloist distinction with the highest marks of “excellent”.

Since July 2011 he is a teacher in a children music school Binningen-Bottmingen (Baselland).

He is playing on French cello, made ~1870, sponsored by Mr. Dolf Teuscher (“Teuscher” chocolate).

Results in competitions:

Prize for the best Swiss composer (Jost Meier) piece performance in “29. National Competition Instrumental-Trios Geraldine Whittaker” as Trio with **Pianist Akane Matsumura** und clarinetist Francesco Negrini (February, 2010)

Finalist as a trio with pianist Akane Matsumura and flutist Liam Mallett of the International Boris Pergamenschikow chamber music competition in Berlin, Germany (November, 2009)

Finalist as a duo with pianist Akane Matsumura of the International Max Reger chamber music competition in Karlsruhe, Germany (September, 2009)

Prize in Friedl Wald Stiftungs competition (Basel, June 2009)

Prize in Kiefer-Hablitzel Stiftungs competition (Bern, February 2009)

Prize in Migros competition (Zürich, November 2008)

Prize in Schenk competition (Zofingen, October 2008)

Prize in BOG competition (Basel, June 2008)

Prize in Kiefer-Hablitzel Stiftungs competition (Bern, February 2008)

1st prize - “Lions Club” competition in Switzerland (2003)

1st prize – State competition of Latvia Republic (2002)

1st prize – State competition of Latvia Republic (1999)

1st prize + a special prize from the jury - “2nd August Dombrovski International competition” (1998)

1st prize - „Talent in Latvia“ (1998)

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2nd prize (1st was not given) as a duo with pianist Akane Matsumura of the International Chamber Music Competition in Assisi, Italy (October 2009)

2nd prize + a special prize for the best performance of J.S.Bach - “Carl Davidoff 2nd International competition” (2002)

2nd prize - competition “Nova Nomina” (1999)

2nd prize – State competition for chamber ensemble of Latvia Republic (1998)

2nd prize – State competition of Latvia Republic (1996)

3rd prize + a prize for the best performance of the obligatory piece, a 20th century composition - “August Dombrovski 3rd International competition” (1999)

3rd prize – State competition for chamber ensemble of Latvia Republic (1996)

3rd prize – State competition of Latvia Republic (1994)