

Damien Ventula, violoncelliste



Damien Ventula, an experienced soloist, created in Paris in 2017, with the Orchestre Colonne under the direction of Laurent Petitgirard, the concerto for cello and orchestra that Charles Chaynes dedicated to him. He played in 2020 with the Toulouse Chamber Orchestra conducted by Gilles Colliard, premiered Thierry Huillet's cello concerto in Bordeaux, and is regularly invited to prestigious festivals: Prades Pablo Casals Festival, Konzerthaus Berlin, Solent Music Festival Lymington, Niagara Music Festival.

Remarkable for his temperament and sensitivity, Damien Ventula has been known as the "Spedidam Generation" since 2017, and has received the Deodat de Séverac Prize awarded by the Académie du Languedoc. He was also nominated for the "Victoires de la Musique" in the category of Instrumental Soloist Revelation in 2005, winner of the Navarra Competition in 2008, as well as several foundations (Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet, Piatigorsky, Singer-Polignac).

Born in Toulouse into a family of musicians, Damien Ventula began working with the cello at an early age with great masters: Lluís Claret in his hometown, Bernard Greenhouse and Laurence Lesser in Boston and finally Boris Pergamenschikow in Berlin. Eager to transmit the knowledge of the latter, he teaches at the Conservatory of Versailles and from 2013 to 2017 had a class at the prestigious Hanns Eisler Hochschule in Berlin.

Damien Ventula plays both modern and classical cello in chamber music with renowned artists such as Christian Zacharias, Raphaël Oleg, Stéphanie Paulet, Denis Pascal, Michel Lethiec, Matthew Truscott, Steven Devine, Sam Haywood, or the Talich Quartet. He is principal cello of the Insula Orchestra and plays regularly with the Paris Mozart Orchestra.

Among other recordings, he recorded in 2016 the complete music for piano and cello by Gabriel Fauré with Nicolas Bringuier on Klarthe Label - distributed by Harmonia Mundi -, and "Arc en cello" (ed. "La Nuit Transfigurée"), a disc dedicated to contemporary Toulouse composers.

Damien Ventula plays a cello by Antoine Médard from 1675 and a bow by Christian Barthe archetier.