

Elena Vance

Principal Cellist

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Professional Summary

Award-winning Principal Cellist with over 8 years of professional orchestral and chamber experience. Recognized for exceptional leadership in section management, impeccable sight-reading, and mastery of a broad classical and contemporary repertoire. Proven track record of executing over 80 high-profile performances annually, collaborating with internationally acclaimed conductors, and maintaining peak musical standards under pressure.

Certifications & Licences

Federation of Professional Musicians (FPM) Local 802 Active Union Member in Good Standing (ID: 802-99812) Orchestral Performance License (OPL) Apex Music Commission (Lic. No. OPL-2022-401)	National Association of String Instructors (NASI) Certified Suzuki Cello Teacher (Units 1–5) Meridian State Performing Arts Registry Registered Performing Artist (ID: NY-88902)
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Skills

Instrumental Mastery:	Advanced orchestral, chamber, and solo cello performance; secondary proficiency in Viola da Gamba.
Orchestral Practice:	Exemplary sight-reading, section leading, bowing sync coordination, and dynamic blending.
Repertoire Specialization:	Classical (Beethoven, Mozart), Romantic (Brahms, Dvořák), and Modern (Shostakovich, Hindemith).
Professional Skills:	Section administrative coordination, audition coaching, performance preparation, and music transcription.

Orchestral & Performance Experience

Principal Cellist <i>Apex Philharmonic Orchestra</i>	2022 – Present New York, NY
- Lead the cello section of a 90-piece professional orchestra, directing bowing styles, phrasing, and articulation for 6 major classical series. - Performed as solo cellist in over 30 concerti, including Dvořák’s Cello Concerto in B minor, receiving critical acclaim for precision and tonal warmth. - Coordinated and evaluated annual orchestral auditions, successfully recruiting 4 new section cellists to elevate the ensemble’s performance standard.	
Section Cellist (First Chair Assisting) <i>Meridian Symphony Orchestra</i>	2019 – 2022 Boston, MA
- Performed as a member of the core cello section in 140+ symphonic concerts, opera productions, and community outreach events. - Stepped in as Acting Principal Cellist for 8 subscription concerts, coordinating with the Concertmaster to synchronize section dynamics. - Participated in the recording of 3 commercial albums under Nimbus Records, ensuring precise ensemble intonation and tempo stability.	
Chamber Cellist & Solo Recitalist <i>Vertex Chamber Ensemble</i>	2017 – 2019 Chicago, IL
- Collaborated in a premier string quartet for 40+ seasonal chamber music recitals, focusing on classical and early 20th-century repertoires. - Conducted 15 guest masterclasses and educational workshops for local music schools, reaching over 300 aspiring string students.	

Education

Master of Music (MM) in Cello Performance <i>Honors: Recipient of the Merit Performance Scholarship. Studied under Dr. Arthur Vance.</i>	Synapse Conservatory of Music, Boston, MA	2019
Bachelor of Music (BM) in Cello Performance <i>Honors: Summa Cum Laude, Concertmaster Award (2016).</i>	Nexa Institute of Music, New York, NY	2017