



To begin with I want to greet every single viewer from the bottom of my heart, but specially all the cellists who have participated in this exciting virtual event. The cellists, who belong into my cello family, which has been growing bigger and bigger over more than 4 decades.

We all together are a team, performing here for ourselves as well as for you, dear audience. Corona has locked us down in March, everyone of us got stuck for months wherever in the world we were. But our minds, emotions and hearts couldn't possibly be locked away and started crossing continents. They were functioning better than ever. So in April 2020 an idea was born, a virtual performance, a creative challenge for all, me playing the Solocello accompanied by a cello orchestra made up of my students. The driving force of this idea: Lynn Kao as a conductor, producer and editor, and Manuel Lipstein-one of my students- as the arrangeur of the piece. Both infected me immediately and we looked forward to create something positive and unifying and not get depressed. We wanted to be close to each other, embrace each other. We all had enough of being locked down and being occupied with all the thoughts of how to keep distance, distance, distance.

During my life as a teacher, I was able to observe and follow the developments of my students, in both their private and professional lives; how they found their places and settle down, how they paved their paths onto a successful performing career, some became teachers themselves, playing in leading orchestras, many are married and have a beautiful family. Many of them stayed in close contact with me after they left Musikhochschule Köln, some contacts have blossomed into friendships. Is there anything more satisfying and rewarding for a teacher? We communicate on a solid base of mutual respect, admiration and love for each other, enjoy life and what we do with it, and keep Corona (COVID-19) out of our doors.

Even though it was a new, very unusual and challenging process of music making for all of us everyone agreed to join the project with great enthusiasm, without any hesitation. Working with 2 or more digital devices at the same time: watching and relying (ensemble playing, intonation, phrasing.....etc) purely on my solo video, while listening to the audio through their headphones, filming themselves with their cell phone, alone in their room playing their part. Each individual video was then sent to Lynn in USA, who put 36 videos and soundtracks together, her conducting and playing harpsichord included. Tricky task.....Thank you dear Lynn for all these hours you put into this project, professionally done with your musical and digital expertise and genuine love for us cellists.

**VIVA LA MUSICA!!!!** 

Maria Kliegel -LA CELLISSIMA-



It is an absolute honour to be part of this very meaningful project. I've known Professor Maria Kliegel for almost 20 years. I was doing my KA, Kunstlerische Ausbildung; equivalence of the masters degree in Köln Hochschule für Musik und Tanz back then, and frequently played for Prof. Maria Kliegel's students. It was always such as inspiration listening and playing for helessons! I've learned so much about cello, string playing, but most importantly, about music. I believe, the years of playing for her class, the wonderful and priceless knowledge which I learned about string playing and music, really supported, inspired, and influenced me in the most positive way, to be the musician which I am today!

When I was planning the German Gala Event in 2018; a major culture event led by the German Embassy of Armenia: combining German music, art and language, I reached out to toProf. Kliegel, whom I was sure to have nurtured one of the best young talents in Germany, to be my soloist in the S chumann Cello Concerto. This is how I met the fabulous Manuel Lipstein, whom has embodies the teachings and inspirations of Prof. Kliegel in the most wonderful way; not only as a cellist, but also as a brilliant composer. Needless to say, I waover joyed when Manuel, whom has become a very dear friend of mine, agreed to arrange for this very meaningful project for all of us.

I believe everything happens for a reason, and sometimes, they happen for reasons which we don't understand or comprehend. But it is up to us to make the best out of it. As Prof. Kliegel put so beautifully, "our minds, emotions and hearts couldn't possibly be locked away and started crossing continents". Perhaps Corona has managed to lock us down for a little w hile, our love for music and the desire to reach out has no limitations.

Thank you Prof. Kliegel for your trust, support, positive energy and inspiration! It is because of you, this project if possible! Thank You Manuel, for sharing your wonderful talent with us. It is an absolutely pleasure to accompany you in your path; and what a fabulous one! Thank you all the wonderful cellist! Getting to know you during this process has made my life even more meaningful and colourful. And last but not least, thank you all the viewers! Thankful for sharing our love and passion for music with us; because you allow us to "share" we have doubled what we have.

Most sincerely yours,

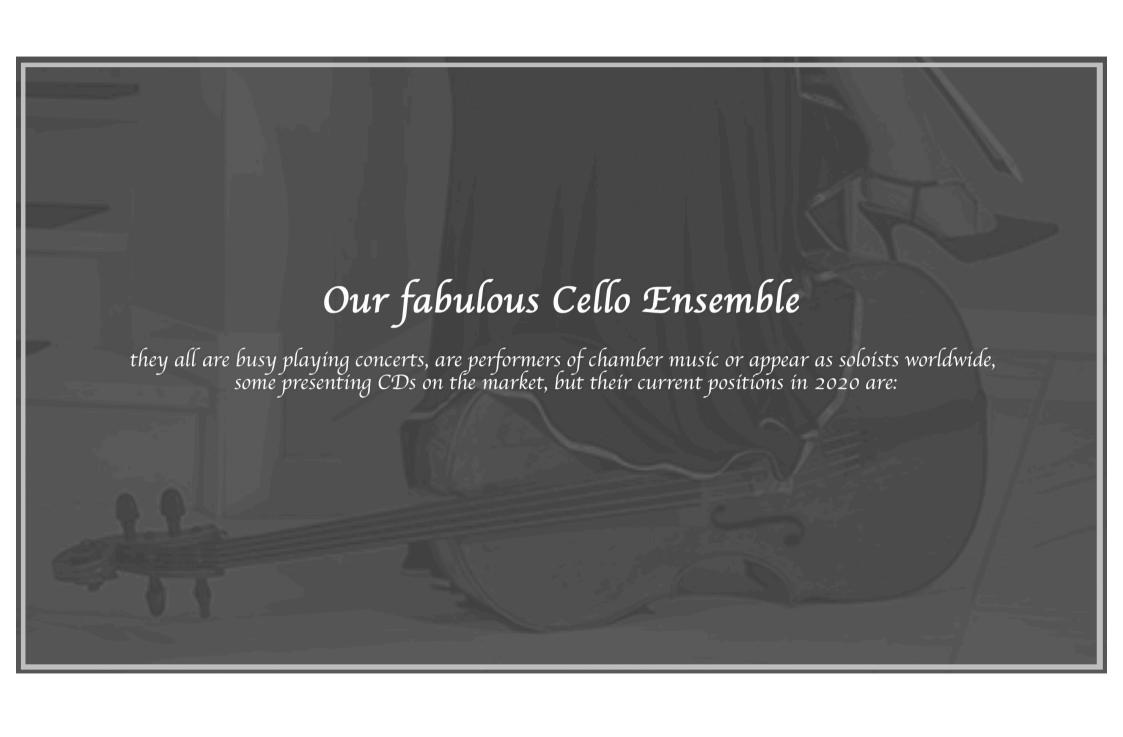
Lynn Kao

From Maria Kliegel's little but beautiful teaching room, from the (less beautiful) hallways of the Köln Hochschule für Musik und Tanz and from the concert halls of the world, we all have got to know each other: 33 cellists in total, plus our wonderful teacher and multi-talented Lynn! Over the years, we have become a true cello family, mutually connected thanks to our common passion and our truly unique, always highly inspiring Maria Kliegel.

Now I am more than happy that we all are not only joint in daily routine but also in the digital world during these hard times. A whole virtual cello orchestra, only with Maria Kliegel's students? Crazy, was my first thought, but why not! In defiance of intonation difficulties, many hours of editing material and 35 differently looking living rooms, we - 3 generations of musicians - have created a singular greeting for the whole world! Enjoy listening and watching - just as we all enjoyed playing!

**Manuel Lipstein** 







Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Professor of Cello
Head of the Odeion String Quartet
University of the Free State, Bloemfontein



Master degree chamber music (string quartet) Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Harald Schoneweg



Bachelor degree Universität der Künste Berlin with Prof. Jens-Peter Mainz



Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln Prof. Maria Kliegel



Co-Principal Cello in NOB Neues Orchester Basel



Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Professor at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Mannheim



Co-Solo Cello Neue Philharmonie Westfalen Gelsenkirchen



Soloist Diploma Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Co-Principal Cello
Philharmonisches Kammerorchester Wernigerode



Professor at School of Music, University of Auckland



**Guest professor Yonsei University Seoul** 



Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Co-Principal Cellist Staatskapelle Weimar



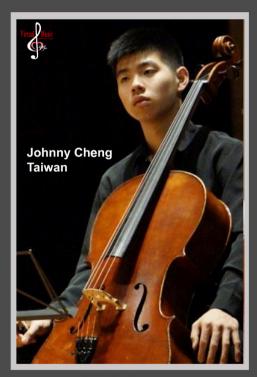
Professor at Conservatoire de Musique de la Ville d'Esch-sur-Alzette



Co-Solo Cello Düsseldorfer Symphoniker /
Deutsche Oper am Rhein



Cellist Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra



Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Master degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Thomas Carroll



Bachelor degree Kronberg Academy Hochschule für Musik u Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt am Main with Prof. Frans Helmerson



Professor of Cello

Royal Academy of Music London



Cellist of Raon String Quartet, Köln



Cellist NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover



Soloist Diploma Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln \ with Prof. Maria Kliegel



1st Cello Solo Sinfonieorchester Münster



Music and French teacher Hegel-Gymnasium Stuttgart



Solo Cellist

South Bohemian Opera orchestra Budweis



Solo Cello Hofer Symphoniker, Hof



Bachelor degree Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln with Prof. Maria Kliegel



Co-Principal Cello Philharmonie Südwestfalen Hilchenbach

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