

Short-Biography

Maria Kliegel-Violoncello

Maria Kliegel is a renowned German cellist who studied under János Starker at the Indiana University, USA. Praised by Mstislav Rostropovich as "the best cellist I have heard since Jacqueline du Pré" branded by him as *La Cellissima*, she has won major competitions in Chicago, Bonn, Paraiba, Brazil, and Paris, and performed worldwide.

With around one million CDs sold, she is a leading figure in cello recordings and has premiered works by composers such as Alfred Schnittke, Sofia Gubaidulina, and Wilhelm Kaiser-Lindemann.

From 1986 to 2023, Maria Kliegel was a professor at the Cologne University of Music and Dance and taught internationally, including masterclasses around the globe and serving as jury member in prestigious competitions like ARD Munich, Geneva, Paulo Helsinki, Prague Spring, Janacek Brno, Isang Yun Korea.

In 2019, her album *Voyages Sonores* with pianist Oliver Triendl was critically acclaimed and nominated for the Opus Klassik and ICMA awards. In 2021, Maria Kliegel founded the "Cello Forum La Cellissima" in Essen/Germany offering annual international masterclasses.