

Bryan Cheng, cello



The first cellist to win Grand Prize at the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Competition (2019), and the first-ever Canadian laureate at the prestigious Paulo International Cello Competition (2018), 23-year-old **Bryan Cheng** continues to captivate critics and audiences alike with his “absolutely astonishing” (*La Presse*) command of the cello, “dreamy beauty” (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*), and his “abundant facility, innate musicality, and sense of joy” (*New York Concert Review*). He made his solo debut at age 10 with the Orchestre de chambre I Musici de Montréal, his sold-out Carnegie Hall recital debut at 14, and his Elbphilharmonie debut in 2018 with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen.

Solo highlights of recent and upcoming seasons include engagements with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, National Arts Centre Orchestra Ottawa, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Panamá, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim, and Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, as well as the Springfield (MO), Kingston, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Okanagan, Niagara, Lahti, and Schleswig-Holstein symphonies; a coast-to-coast Canadian tour with the National Youth Orchestra as winner of the Canada Council for the Arts’ Michael Measures Prize; and a residency with the Orchestra of the Americas. He has collaborated with such esteemed conductors as Matthias Pintscher, Susanna Mälkki, Peter Oundjian, Joshua Weilerstein, and Jonathan Darlington.

As cellist of the Cheng² Duo and chamber musician, Bryan performs extensively across the globe. 2020-21 season highlights include recitals in Dresden, Los Angeles, New York, Ottawa, Montréal, and Vancouver; a European tour of the Duo’s Beethoven 250 project, *Ludwig & Beyond*; and appearances at Belgium’s Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, Germany’s Kammermusikfestival “Spannungen”, Russia’s Trans-Siberian Art Festival, and Italy’s Trasimeno Festival. He has released a trilogy of albums on German label *audite*—*Russian Legends* (2019), *Violonchelo del fuego* (2018), and *Violoncelle français* (2016)—which has been critically-acclaimed by *The Times* (UK), *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *ORF Radio* (Austria), WCRB Classical Radio Boston, and BBC Radio Scotland, among others.

Formerly studying with the late Yuli Turovsky and Hans Jørgen Jensen, Bryan is now in the studio of Jens Peter Maintz at the Universität der Künste Berlin. He plays the ca. 1696 *Bonjour* Stradivari cello and ca. 1830 *Shaw Adam* bow, generously on loan from the Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank as First Laureate of its 2018 Competition.