



Twenty-three year old cellist **Erik Ásgeirsson** has amassed a staggering list of professional credits on the world stage. Since well before his enrollment at the Eastman School of Music at age sixteen, Ásgeirsson's ascent as a rising star has been swift and steady. He has been featured as soloist in the major concerto repertoire with orchestras of Germany, Miami and his native Michigan and has been recorded and presented internationally as recitalist and chamber musician at venues throughout Europe – among them, Italy's Amici Della Musica and Gustav Mahler Festivals, France's Festival Music Alp and Germany's “Romanische Nacht” Festival, Forum Neue Musik and Philharmonie Koln Lunch series.

In North America, Ásgeirsson has appeared as soloist with the Epiphany Orchestra of Miami, with the Birmingham-Bloomfield, Rochester, Dearborn, Livonia and Warren Symphony Orchestras (Michigan) and as recitalist at numerous venues in the U. S. and Canada including Ottawa's Chamber Music on Cleary Avenue, Sarnia's Lawrence Centre for the Arts; in Michigan, the Fair Lane Music Guild, Grosse Pointe Chamber Music Society, Troy Public Library, Brunch with Bach (Detroit Institute of the Arts), and St. Clair Community College. In May 2011, he was presented as Artist of the Year by the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, adding his name to a list of such legendary artists as Fritz Kreisler and Myra Hess.

Stepping in as the last-minute replacement in 2009 for the originally scheduled artist with Collegium Musicum Siegen, **Erik Ásgeirsson** earned high praise from **Der Westen** for his *“refined magic of tone colors... exquisitely beautiful melodies and enormous virtuosity.”* North American critics have followed suit. In May 2011, the **New Monitor of Detroit** noted his *“rich tone and deep expressiveness...eliciting rave applause and a standing ovation”*, adding that *“[this]performance [on] this prestigious series did an honor to its tradition, which has featured artists such as Paderewski, MacDowell, Damrosch and Gabilowitsch.”*

Ásgeirsson was awarded the Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance by the Eastman School of Music in May of 2008, graduating “with highest distinction”. A student of Steven Doane, he was invited to the studio of Christoph Henkel at the Musikhochschule Freiburg during his junior year, one of selected international students to receive a scholarship from the state of Baden-Württemberg. He was the first cellist ever to be awarded a Masters in Cello Performance at the Hochschule für Musik Köln in June of 2010 as a student of Maria Kliegel, to continue with Franz Helmerson in pursuit of a Masters degree in Contemporary Music.

Called a “cello prodigy” by the Detroit Free Press, Ásgeirsson is the winner of numerous youth competitions, including the Louis Potter Cello Competition, the Birmingham and Tuesday Musicale of Detroit Scholarship Competitions and was twice awarded Rislov Foundation grants. Early studies with Paul Wingert led him to Erling Blöndahl Bengtsson at U. of Michigan. Performing at Detroit’s Orchestra Hall at age eleven with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, he became its Principal Cellist in 2001 under director Charles Burke and guests Itzhak Perlman and Pascal Tortelier. Intensive summer studies with Philippe Muller, Steven Geber and the late Orlando Cole followed.

Currently residing in Cologne, Germany, Ásgeirsson performs regularly in Deutsche Kammerakademie Orchestra (Neuss). Fluent in German, Icelandic and English, Erik Ásgeirsson enjoys photography and distance running.