

# Cello **Online** city

Welcome to the Nexus of the Next Step in Cello!

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- [Cello City Store – CDs, sheet music and more](#)
- [The New Directions Cello Facebook page](#)



# Message from the Director

By Chris White

Dear New Directions Cellists & Friends,

We are excited to be taking the New Directions show on the road again! For our 22nd annual festival, we'll be travelling to one of the most stunningly beautiful spots in the world: Arcata, California, where mighty redwoods meet the Pacific ocean. **Humboldt State University** here we come! June 3-5, 2016, we'll be exploring the current state of non-classical cello music with **Mark Summer, Zoe Keating, Jaques Morelenbaum, The Bee Eaters, CelloJoe** and **Artyom Manukyan**. You can find out all about the guest artists and register for the festival on our website <http://www.newdirectionscello.org>.

In 2017, we're planning on taking the festival even further afield – to Germany! July 7-9 we'll be rocking out at our 23rd annual festival with some of the best new directions cellists and their groups that Europe has to offer. Location and guest artists to be announced. Save the dates!

We regret that we were not able to get out the fall/winter issue of Cello City Online last year. It fell by the wayside as our editor Corbin Keep's mom became very ill and passed away in December. Corbin traveled back and forth from his island home in British Columbia to her home in Denver to take great care of her up to her last days.

You may or may not know that New Directions has a history of moving around. We've been in New York City, Boston, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Sacramento and Ithaca NY.

So please enjoy this issue, keep checking our website and our Facebook page (we now have over 1000 members!) and please join us in California in early June!

If you value what we are doing, please join or renew at <https://newdirectionscello.org/registration>. Thanks for all your ongoing support!

Cellistically Yours,

– Chris



**Chris White, Founder & Director**

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# New Directions Cello Festival 2016

Humboldt State University, Arcata CA, June 3-5, 2016

## Join us for the 22nd annual New Directions Cello Festival

Each year, we feature six guest artists from the cutting edge of the world of non classical cello. Each artist plays an hour long concert (three on Friday, three on Saturday) and teaches several workshops throughout the weekend. This year, we are happy to present:



### CelloJoe

**CelloJoe**, aka Joey Chang, combines beatboxing, humorous insightful lyrics, innovative cello techniques and a loop pedal to present a joyous soundscape of rhythm, love and light. He was awarded a scholarship and attended Berklee from 2002-2006 and has since performed the world over. Joey travels to many of his gigs by bicycle. With cello in tow, he has covered over 10,000 miles in the US, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Australia. We've been itching to get Joey to New Directions for years and are very excited to at last bask in his unique and amazing talent!



### Artyom Manukyan

**Artyom Manukyan** is an Armenian genre-busting cellist currently living in Los Angeles. His innovative approach draws from diverse sources. He studied classical cello formally for several years at the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, toured the world with the award-winning BBC World Music Armenian Navy Band, studied jazz bass (on cello) and was strongly influenced by Jaco Pastorius and Marcus Miller. He has toured with Darryl "DMC" McDaniels and Grammy winners Draco Rosa and Natasha Bedingfield and since landing in LA, has played with Peter Erskine, Charles Altura, MdCL, Tigran Hamasyan, Herb Alpert and many more. Artyom's own material, stunningly presented on his debut cd, "Citizen," is as accessible as it is diverse, and as moving as it is mind blowing. Artyom will be joined at the festival by Vardan Ovsepiyan, an Armenia-born pianist/composer whose pedigree is so staggering we can't print it here. Seriously, this guy alone is worth attending New Directions for. And he's not even a cello player!



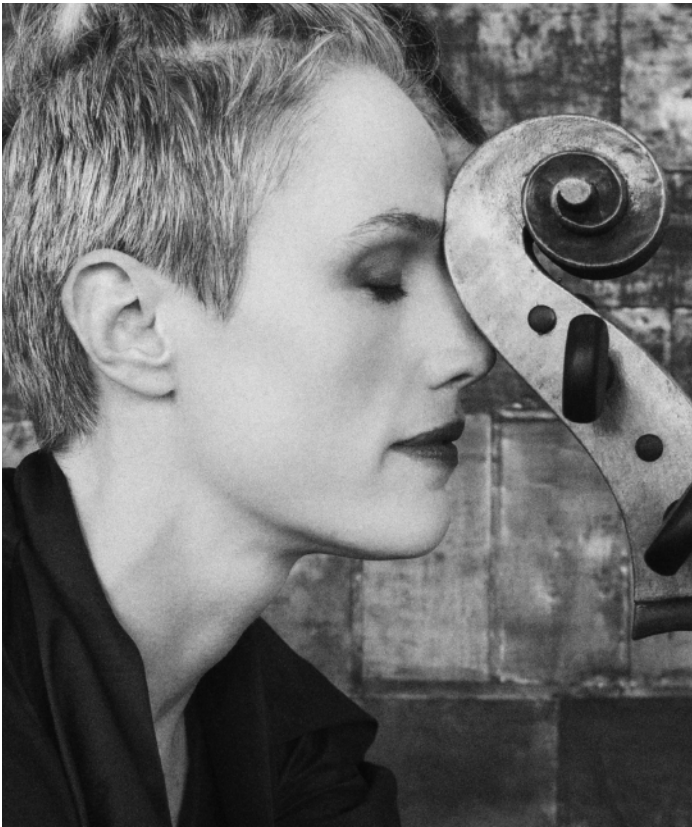
### Mark Summer

**Mark Summer** is an early pioneer in the realm of adopting elements of jazz and non-classical techniques to the cello. He is known worldwide for his phenomenal percussion and pizzicato techniques, combined with bowed jazz and fiddle phrasing on the cello. He is a co-founder of the Grammy winning Turtle Island Quartet and was the quartet's cellist for 30 years. His composition "Julie-O" has been learned, recorded, covered and coveted to the point that it is considered a veritable anthem of non-classical cello. Mark has been a soloist with symphonies in the US and Europe, playing concertos specifically written for him, added his groundbreaking cello chops to performances and recordings with the likes of Linda Ronstadt, Toni Childs, Jeff Tamelier (Tower of Power), Will Ackerman and Tierney Sutton, a seven-time Grammy nominated singer. He is also passionate about teaching and sharing his gifts; for the past three summers he has been part of Cello: An American Experience, a program for young cellists.



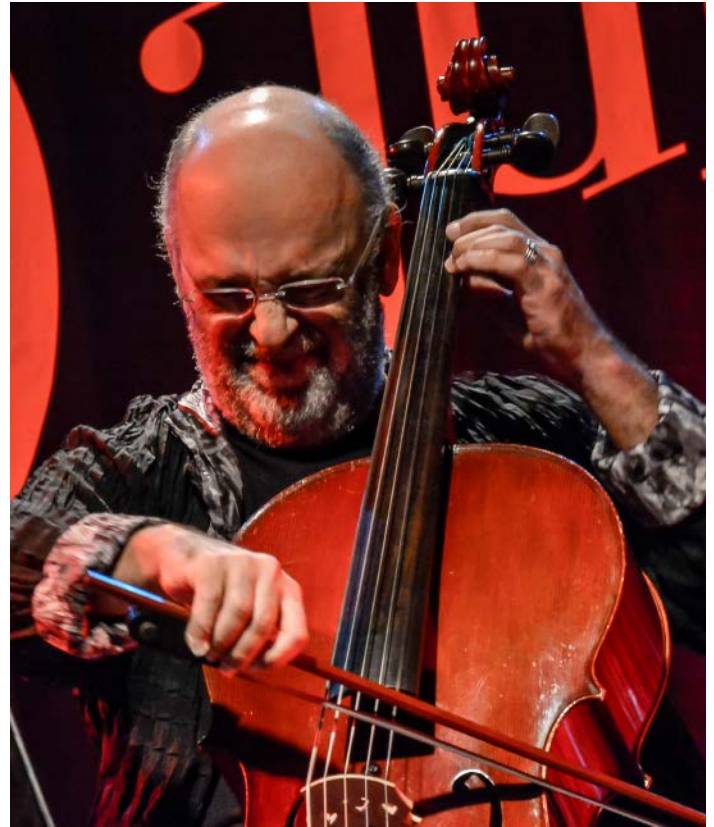
### Tristan Clarridge

**Tristan Clarridge** is front and center of what is no less than a revolution amongst adventurous young cellists throughout the world. Infusing traditional folk influences with rhythmic vocabulary drawn from jazz, rock and pop music, he has synthesized a sound which is much more than the sum of its parts. Tristan is a five-time Grand National Fiddle Champion and has toured the world with Crooked Still and Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, as well as Mike Marshall, Bruce Molsky and Cape Breton's fiddle phenomenon Natalie MacMaster. Tristan's sister, **Tashina**, also a Grand National Fiddle Champion, has toured with Mark O'Connor, Tony Trischka and Laurie Lewis. Hammer dulcimer virtuoso **Simon Chrisman's** virtuosic touch and sophisticated rhythmic sensibilities have helped to redefine the instrument and earned the attention of musicians from around the world. In 2008, Tristan, Tashina and Simon formed **The Bee Eaters**, a much lauded, groundbreaking ensemble which has made musical waves on the many shores upon which it's landed. The Bee Eaters have collectively taught hundreds of lessons and workshops in communities, schools, and colleges, including the Berklee School of Music, University of Victoria, Humboldt State and many others. In 2004, Tashina and Tristan co-founded the Mt. Shasta Music Summit, which unites the highest level of musical masterminds with players of all ages and skill levels.



### Zoë Keating

**Zoë Keating** is a one-woman orchestra and a global phenomenon. A technologically savvy cellist, she has forged an extremely successful career via a completely DIY approach. Her self-released albums have several times reached #1 on the iTunes classical chart, she has over 1 million followers on Twitter and her inspiring, grassroots approach and artists' advocacy have garnered her much positive public attention and press. She was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and serves on the boards of the San Francisco chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Magik\*Magik Orchestra and CASH Music, a nonprofit organization which builds open source digital tools for musicians and labels. In addition to her solo work, Zoë is a sought after cellist who has worked with a wide range of artists, including Imogen Heap, Amanda Palmer, Tears for Fears, DJ Shadow, Dan Hicks, Thomas Dolby and more.



### Jaques Morelenbaum

**Jaques Morelenbaum** is a Brazilian cellist who has been forging new directions with his instrument for over 40 years. In that time, he has performed on 723 albums, played 2358 concerts in 412 cities and 46 countries, and shared stage and studio with Antonio Carlos Jobim, Egberto Gismonti, Leonard Bernstein, David Byrne, Sting, Mstislav Rostropovich and many, many more artists from 'round the world. Jaques, a multi Grammy winner, played for 10 years with Antonio Carlos Jobim, 14 years with Gilberto Gil, 3 years with Gal Costa, and is still playing, 24 years on, with Ryuichi Sakamoto. Mr. Morelenbaum's current solo project is the CelloSam3aTrio. Joining Jaques at New Directions on guitar will be **Ricardo Vogt**, a highly accomplished, acclaimed accompanist, as well as a recording artist in his own right.

# New Directions Cello Festival 2015

## A Retrospective

The 21st annual New Directions Cello Festival took place June 12-14, 2015 at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY. The guest artists were **Natalie Haas** with **Alasdair Fraser**, **Max Lilja**, **Jacob Szekely Trio**, **Stephen Katz**, **Trevor Exter** and **Lizzy Simkin** with **Nicholas Walker**.

As always at the NDCF, Friday started off with workshops in the afternoon. Friday night's concert began with Ithaca native **Trevor Exter**, who played standing up, holding the cello like a bass player might hold a small bass. Trevor is an exceptional singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on cello, for the most part without loops. Mostly he would employ guitar style strumming on his cello, but occasionally would pick up the bow to whip off some cool lines. Next came **Max Lilja**, co-founder of cellorock super-group, Apocalyptica. Max played a solo set using his computer and other equipment to create lush soundscapes in styles ranging from ambient to head banging. The first concert finished off with the **Jacob Szekely Trio** from LA. They played mostly original jazz tunes of Jacob's, with a nod to Max's set when they covered a tune by Soundgarden.



Saturday was full of workshops and sessions from 9 to 5, including an exhibition room full of acoustic and electric cellos and gear – amps, pickups, fx pedals.

The Saturday night concert began with cellist [Elizabeth Simkin](#) and bass player [Nicholas Walker](#). They played beautifully arranged and varied compositions of Mr. Walker's. The set incorporated lots of extended techniques and improvisation by both players. Following them was [Stephen Katz](#), who has been a guest artist at the festival more than anyone in our 21 year history. Stephen surprised everyone by giving a performance which combined storytelling, juggling, solo Bach and his own compositions – mainly featuring his trademark "flying pizzicato" technique. Saturday night wrapped up with an uplifting performance by cellist [Natalie Haas](#) and Scottish fiddle virtuoso [Alasdair Fraser](#). This duo has been traveling the world for several years bringing the joy of their unique interpretations of Scottish and other fiddling styles to life in fresh new ways. Natalie Haas has developed an amazing repertoire of accompaniment techniques including chopping, bass lines and counter melodies among other tricks. The rapport between Haas and Fraser was a wonder to behold.

Sunday brought more workshops in the morning and then the typical NDCF farewell concert starting with an open mic open to participants and ending with a concert by the [Cello Big Band](#) led by [Joel Cohen](#).

You can see a list of all the workshops, bios of the guest artists and more pictures on our website at <http://www.newdirectionscello.org>

– Chris



# CD Review

## Pedro de Alcantara: *Passages* (2015)

While listening to this record, my responses tend to run the gamut from “cool!” to “huh?” to “yawn.” The aesthetic of the album is one solo cello, with no overdubs. The playing is excellent, as is the recording; it’s quite transparent.

Tracks one and two are short, meditative, open string oriented pizz pieces. They are simple, but evocative and well wrought.

Track three: we’re treated to the Gavotte from the first Bach Cello suite. This is a “huh?” moment, as the Gavotte’s comparative harmonic density (etc.) seems incongruous with the spacey, nigh-on new age original numbers heard up to that point. Its inclusion does however eventually make *some* sense, when the album is taken as a whole, as other movements of the Suites appear later on in various guises. (Inexplicably, De Alcantara has renamed the movements of the Bach Suites on the cd; the Gavotte is renamed “Séan’s Jig”)

Track four is a spirited, open string/body bash number, well executed in its own right, a very stark departure from the Gavotte.

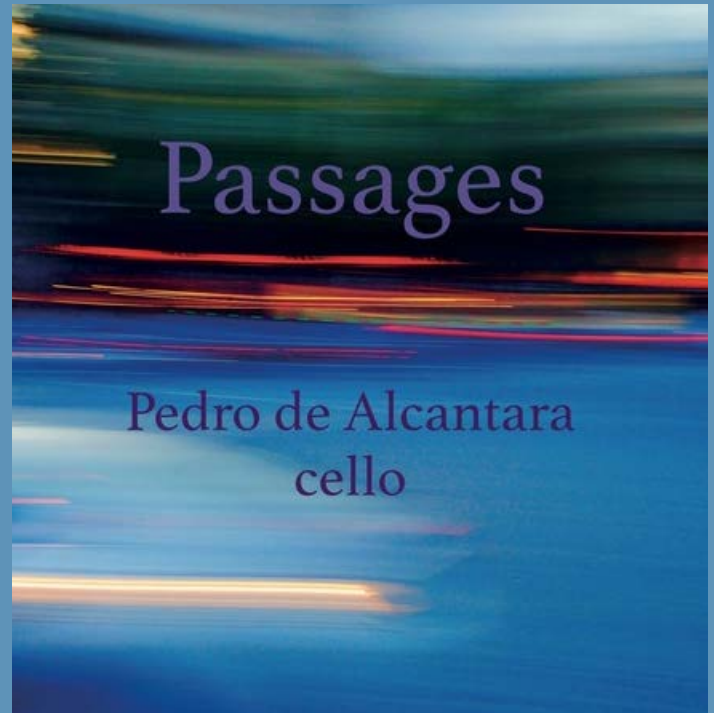
Track five: a return to the recurring motif of contemplative pizz playing.

Track six: the longest and arguably, the best piece. It starts out as another spacey pizzicato ditty, but then, around a minute and a half in, its source material is revealed to be none other than the Sarabande from the fifth Suite.

Track seven is percussive, open string oriented; again quite disparate from Bach. It’s harmonically static, but also sprightly and fun.

Track eight is more Bach, from the third Suite, played sans bow.

Track nine: once again, ambient pizz.



Track ten: return of the bow, the first we’ve heard it since the Gavotte. The piece features an open drone string throughout, with some nice harmonic flourishes. Taken with the contemplative pizz tracks, it fits right in.

Track eleven: yet more slow pizzicato.

Track twelve: cello and voice! It’s nicely rendered, if a bit left field. Another “huh?” moment, though a pleasant one.

Tracks thirteen and fourteen: they appear to be the same recording, except fourteen has an echo effect on it. This is full out, passionate, vibrato-heavy, bowed cello. Goodbye Bach, goodbye New Age. This style of playing would suit a 19th century cello concerto just fine.

Track fifteen: as you could doubtless guess by now: more ambient pizzicato.

Savasana never had it so good.

– Corbin



# Music in the Mail

Every so often a package lands on the NDCA's doorstep. It is usually unexpected, and may come from near or far. Many thanks to those who have sent these gems. Here are the CD's that have arrived since our last issue.

## **Deep Strings – Façon** (2011)

Featuring Stephan Braun – cello, double bass and percussion, Anne-Christin Schwarz – vocal and cello, and Rhani Krua – percussion on 3 tracks. Jazz, bossa and related genres. Anne-Christin sings in French and English.



## **Nesrine Belmogh – NES** (EP, 2015)

Nesrine – cello and vocals, Matthieu Saglio – cello, vocals, sampler, David Gadea – percussion. Songs in English and French in various styles with much cello.



## **Artyom Manukyan – Citizen** (2015)

Artyom – cello, Tim Lefebvre – bass, Jamire Williams – drums, Troy Ziebgler – electronics, and many others on certain tracks. Contemporary jazz with a little tango, flamenco, hip hop, classical and other influences.



# The CelLowdown

## Final Words

Cello City Online has an important mission, which is to inform people about what is new exciting and different in the world of cello, especially cello which spans genres, techniques and technologies that expand beyond the classical tradition. What would make this mission even more successful? You! Ideas, pitches for articles, how-to-columns, cds to review... You name it.

[Chris White](#), director  
[Corbin Keep](#), editor

To keep abreast and abow of all things New Directions Cello, visit the [official New Directions site](#), as well as the [New Directions Cello Facebook Page](#).

For New Directions Cello style recordings, sheet music and method books, visit the [Cello City Store](#).

New Directions is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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"Scroll," by Kapyrna (page 7)