

# Cello **Online** city

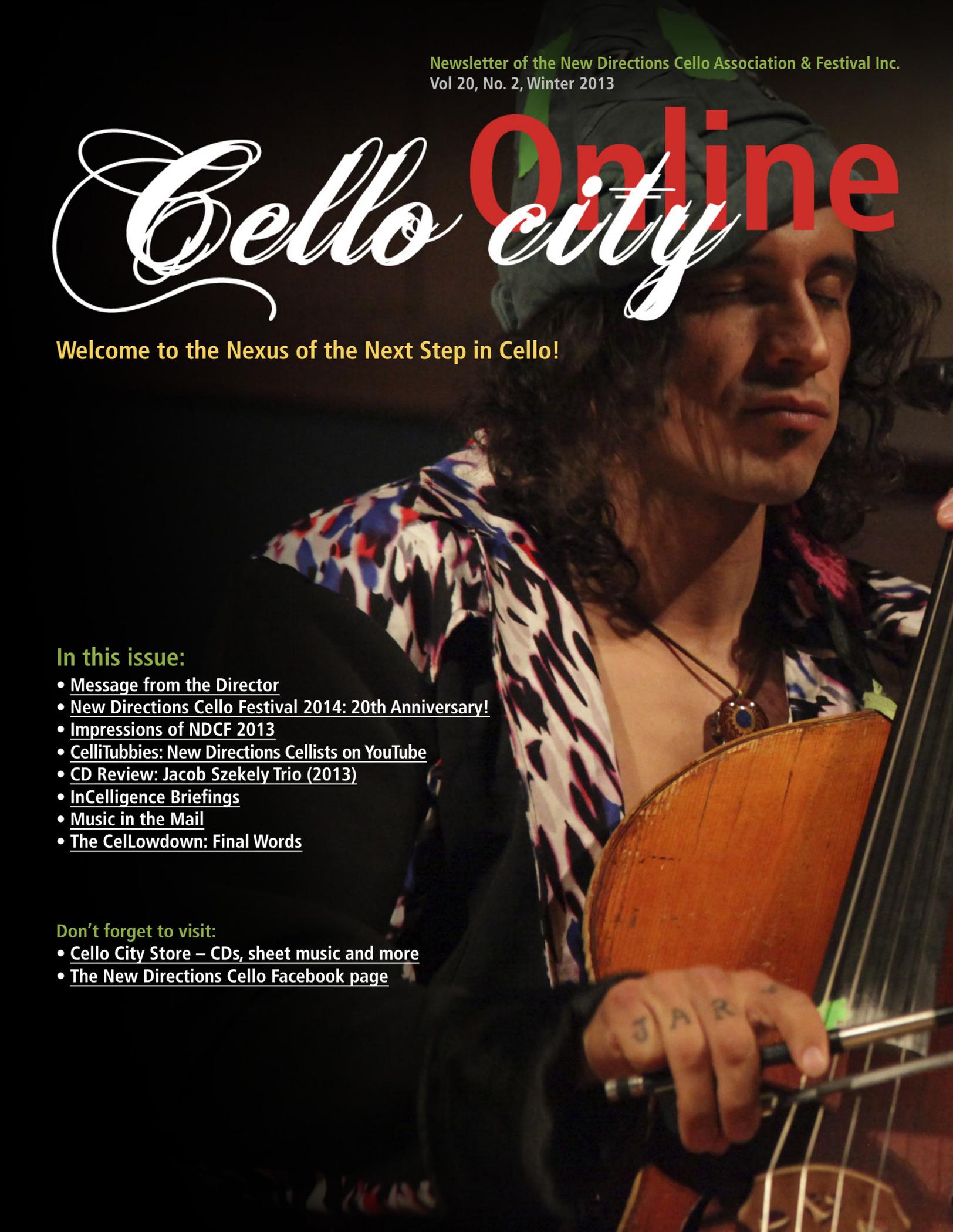
Welcome to the Nexus of the Next Step in Cello!

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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,

We had a great festival back in June with guest artists **Alex Kelly (CA)**, **Cloud Chamber Orchestra (NY)**, **Laura Moody (UK)**, **Ben Sollee (KY)**, **Rushad Eggleston (CA)** and the **Daniel Levin Trio (NY)**. This was our 6th festival in Central New York at Ithaca College in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region.

Now we're getting ready for our 20th annual festival which will be **June 13 – 15, 2014**, again at Ithaca College! For those of you who don't know our history, we began in New York City at the Knitting Factory for the first year, then moved to Berklee College of Music in Boston and then to the University of Connecticut for 6 years. Following this, we moved the NDCF to Lawrence University in Wisconsin for a few years and then on to California State University Sacramento for a couple of years and then to our current home in Ithaca, New York.

For our 20th annual festival next June we want to bring back a few past favorites for a reunion of sorts and also invite some new cellists. We are excited that **David Darling**, **Zoe Keating** and **Mike Block** (with **Sandeep Das**, tablas) can join us again, and that Montreal-based cellist and singer **Jorane** can join us for the first time. We are still waiting to get confirmation from a few other fantastic guest artists, so stay tuned in to our website and Facebook page for updates. Of course we will offer dozens of new and unique cutting-edge workshops and all the other things that make our festival a memorable and valuable experience for cellists of all persuasions – like our exhibition room and the incredible late-night jam sessions.

If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to contact me!

Cellistically Yours,

– Chris



**Chris White, Founder & Director**

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# New Directions Cello Festival 2014: 20th Anniversary!

## Ithaca College, Ithaca NY, June 13 - 15, 2014

### Join us for the 20th annual New Directions Cello Festival

New Directions 2014 is shaping up to be a very special festival. The great [David Darling](#) (if New Directions Cello had a Yoda, this man would be him). [Mike Block](#) and [Zoe Keating](#) are also confirmed guest artists at this time. More to be announced soon.

The festival will be held June 13-15, 2014 at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY.

New Directions Cello Membership: sign up for or renew your annual membership [here](#).



# Impressions of NDCF 2013

By Brandon Voo



*Rushad Eggleston and Ben Sollee*



*Laura Moody*

As a cellist from Singapore, I had long known about the alternative strings movement in the United States, but had yet to experience it first hand. Cellists of all backgrounds and ages were at the NDCF 2013 this year, many with their own individual accomplishments. It was a mind-blowing experience. For years, I had been brought up with notions that my only role models for cello playing were a select group of executive musicians from a certain kind of background. What a surprise to find that cellists of all abilities and backgrounds could find their own voice and learn to express themselves. It was a wonderful celebration of diversity, and I looked forward eagerly everyday to the workshops at the NDCF.

From **Rushad Eggleston**, **Stephen Katz** and **Ben Sollee**, I learnt more about how we could incorporate guitar-strumming techniques onto the cello. **Barry Kornhauser** gave us another perspective on how we could expand our harmonic vocabulary by rethinking the way we see positions on the fingerboard. From **Alex Kelly**, I was introduced to the exciting new world of amplification and looping. **Chris White**, **Daniel Levin** and the group **You Me + Radio** encouraged us to improvise and take the sound of the cello beyond the rounded, classical timbres we were accustomed to. Getting all these wonderful new discoveries from the perspective of a cellist was liberating, but for me, the challenge was getting to the source and finding the context where all these ideas came from, before I could successfully apply them myself. Long conversations with guitarists and drummers, when I returned home to Singapore, added flesh and blood to the skeletal forms I received in Ithaca.

The big band performance added a little more structure to our daily routine. It was the only item on the festival program that required reading music instead of improvisation, but I was glad that one of the pieces had a middle section with chord symbols that gave us a context for our improvisations. The more confident and experienced improvisers in our group took to the solos and walking bass lines like a fish to water. I, on the other hand, found

my own space by playing syncopated rhythms with the root and seventh, trying my best to imitate the trombone lines I heard in my head. Although the workshops were wonderful, it was the live performances by the guest artists and the participants at the open mic that inspired me greatly, proving that the cello is a viable medium for self-expression and creativity. The jamming session at night in the dorms was the best part of the festival, as we all just let our hair down.

The NDCF 2013 was certainly one of the best experiences of my life, and I hope that the festival would continue to inspire more cellists in the years to come.



*Daniel Levin*



*Chris White*



*Daniel Levin and You Me + Radio*

# CelliTubbies

## New Directions Cellists on YouTube

An old joke, but it's relevant here:

Q: What's the difference between a violin and a cello?

A: There is no difference – the violinist's head is bigger.

Next, the Cellosphere. Hopefully cellist Carol Thorns isn't claustrophobic...



# CD Review

## Jacob Szekely Trio (2013)

When a full-length studio album is recorded in four hours, the results can be mixed. Thankfully, the Jacob Szekely Trio's eponymously titled 2013 release is anything but. Here, the quickness of the recording only serves to make the music and vibe as alive and as fresh as possible.

Szekely's cello playing and soloing is daring, original and passionate. In certain moments, his barely controlled soloing reminds me of early **David Darling** at his very best. Szekely is completely surrendered to the moment and the music; as we say in Canada – "givin' er" – with no holds barred. The other instruments – piano (**Josh Nelson**) and drums (**Christopher Allis**) are also spot on.

Another thing worth mentioning about this album is the fact that it has excellent tunes. They're jazz, but very much in the original vein – these are not some cats trotting out "Donna Lee" with a cello (though were Szekely to do that, he would doubtless play it with aplomb; he's done his homework).

It's exciting and heartening to see more cello-led jazz outfits by younger players springing to the fore (**Will Martina**, **Lucio Amanti**, **Guillaume Latil** come to mind). May the tradition continue!



# InCelligence Briefings

Pioneering jazz cellist **Fred Katz** died earlier this year.



**This excerpt** from the 1958 documentary *Jazz on a Summer's Day* (which, as a lovely glimpse into a bygone era, is very much worth the watch in its own right) is my favourite video footage of Katz. Though he can briefly be seen onstage with the **Chico Hamilton** quintet at another point in the same film, unfortunately he can't really be heard. The only other videos I could find where Katz is more prominently featured are more recent. **Here's** something from 1989, in which he is reunited with Chico, playing *My Funny Valentine*. Katz' playing may not always be "technically" perfect in this take, however his connection to and deep understanding of "real" jazz is both undeniable and lovely to behold.

It's interesting to note that for the most part, the melodies are quite sweet (not a hint of **metal**) this despite the fact that those melodies are what operates tanks and other weaponry, with enough firepower to take on four other (non cello playing) opponents.

Maybe a kid having his cello hooked up to a kill-em-all video game will motivate him to practice more, however even if that were proven to be the case, I don't think I'll be setting one up in my studio anytime soon!

# Music in the Mail

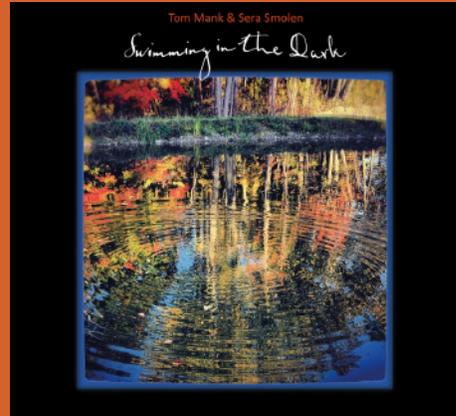
Sometimes cello CDs arrive, unbidden, in our mailbox. They are always a welcome surprise. Here are the latest offerings:



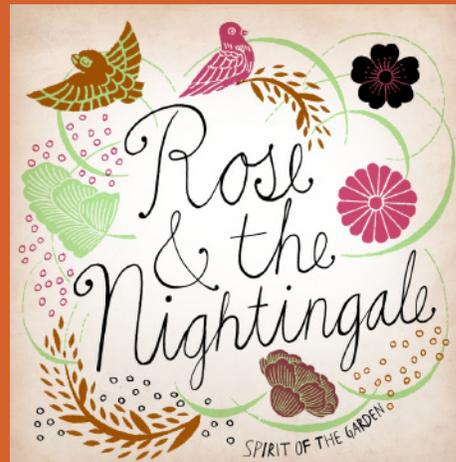
Peter Lewy – Some Other Way (2011)



Kye Marshall – Pencil Blues (2013)



Sera Smolen & Tom Mank – Swimming in the Dark (2013) **Sera:** cello. **Tom:** guitar and vocals. Songs and compositions by Tom Mank with Sera Smolen and others.



Rose & the Nightingale – Spirit of the Garden (2013) **Jody Redage:** cello and voice. **Sara Caswell:** violin and mandolin. **Leala Cyr:** voice and trumpet. **Laila Biali:** voice and percussion. Mostly originals by Jody inspired by botanical gardens the world over, and the sense of contemplation and connection one can experience in these special spaces.



**Hilst & Coffey – The Lonely Grange Sessions** (2012)

**Kat Hilst:** cello and vocals. **Tim Coffey:** guitar, vocals and stompbox. **Franchot Tone:** guitar and bass. **Adam Topo:** percussion. **Keith Banning:** shaker. **Susan Bonacker:** fiddle. Original acoustic instrumental music and songs (Americana, Celtic and more) by both Hilst & Coffey.

**Ashia & the Bison Rouge – Diesel vs. Lungs** (2013)

**Ashia:** cello and vocals, **Todd Bayles:** drums and bass. **Patti King:** guitar and glockenspiel. **Wojciech Orszewski:** guitar. **Michal Lasoto:** drums. **Lucia Conrad and Patti King:** violin. **Hillary Shoap:** viola. And many more. Compositions and songs by **Ashia Grzesik**. Multi-stylistic. Recorded in Portland and Poland.



**Calum Ingram – Making It Possible** (2012)

**Calum:** cello/NS electric cello, vocals, chord organ and glockenspiel. **Jay Rudolf:** drums and percussion. **Nathan Goheen:** upright bass. **Peter Gasarove:** alto sax. **Jessie Arlen:** vocals. **Aleks Podrasa:** Wulitzer piano. Original blues, jazz, funk and other styles.

**Gillet Singleton Duo – Ferdinand** (2013)

**Helen Gillet:** cello and effects. **James Singleton:** bass, effects and pocket trumpet. All instrumental – various styles.

**Sean Grissom – Song Without Words** (2013)

**Sean:** cello. All original solo cello compositions from a variety of genres. Endpin Music Publishing (212) 580-0366.

# The CelLowdown

## Final Words

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](#) (at the time of this writing, 523 members strong, from all over the world, and each and every one a New Directions cellist in their own right).

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

Questions, comments, contributions: please email the editor, [Corbin Keep](#).

