

BIOGRAPHY

Steve Kramer, cellist

“A musical genius. A positive joy to hear.” – The Times

Since immigrating to the United States of America in 2010, the enchanting and dexterous cellist, Steve Kramer, has proven to be one of the most prominent and colorful musicians of today, ascending into classical music's highest class of performance and musical education. His silvery, singing tone, perspicacious intelligence, musical inquisitiveness and charismatic personality have led him to build memorable bridges to his audience while exploring versatile repertoire from the four corners of the world. His childhood experience playing chamber music with Yehudi Menuhin has most certainly contributed a significant element to his enlightening style and the invigorating and very expressive musical individuality that distinguishes his playing and teaching.

Dr. Kramer is the award-winning recipient of the internationally prestigious Jacob Gade Foundation's 36th Grand Prize. The prize supports an outstanding musician who possesses progressive and penetrating musicality and pizzazz and who desires to have a life-long career as a major international artist and performer. Since receiving the award in 1998, Dr. Kramer has collaborated with composers from all over the world. In the near future he will perform contemporary music by David Finko, Ben Steinberg, Daniel Dorff, Sidney Grolnic and Eleonor Sigal, as well as compositions by Scandinavian composers. Furthermore, Dr. Kramer was awarded the 1994 Bernhard Rosenfeld Foundation Artist Prize, supporting outstanding musical children from families who emigrated from the former Soviet Union. In addition, he was awarded the Talent Prize and Gold Medal at the national music competition, the Berlingske Music Competition, in Copenhagen, Denmark, and garnered the Most Promising Young Artist Prize given by Pope John Paul II in Orvieto at the Orvieto Musica festival in Italy. Numerous Danish foundations, including the Royal Danish family and English benefactors, generously subsidized Dr. Kramer's education.

In the 2014-15 season, Dr. Kramer makes his appearance as a soloist and chamber musician at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, Lincoln Center in New York and the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

His recent invitations by patrons will bring Dr. Kramer to central Europe, Scandinavia and Brazil. In the U.S. Dr. Kramer will continue his passionate involvement with educating less privileged young people. He will emphasize the utmost importance of training children in classical music as part of their academic education.

In 2012-13 Dr. Kramer debuted at the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall and Perelman Theater and the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Internationally, Dr. Kramer has worked with such prominent European orchestras and chamber ensembles as the Yehudi Menuhin Orchestra, led by violinist Yehudi Menuhin; the Detmold Chamber Orchestra, led by violinist Tibor Varga; the Malmo Music High School Orchestra, led by violist Josef Kodousek, and the Royal Danish Symphony Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra and Dresden Staatskapelle. He has also performed chamber music and recitals all over Scandinavia, in the Concertgebouw and Hermitage in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; the Wiener Musikverein, in Vienna, Austria; Barbican Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, England; and Le Corum in Montpellier, France.

Dr. Kramer has performed as soloist or chamber musician for violinist Isaac Stern, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, violinist Maricio Fuks, violinist Milan Vitek, cellist Vladimir Chevel, cellist Heinrich Schiff, the Alban Berg Quartet, the Amadeus Quartet and the Borodin Quartet. He has extensive experience playing in orchestras led by conductors such as Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Yuri Temirkanov, Kurt Masur, Bernhard Haitink, Neemi Jarvi and Mikhail Jurowski. Dr. Kramer has appeared at festivals such as the International Kammermusik-Akademie Kronberg in Taunus, Germany; the Manchester International Cello Festival RNCM, in England; the Cervo Music Academy and Orvieto Musica in Italy; La Fete de la Musique in Nice, France; Festival de Radio France in Montpellier, France; the Jeunes Prodiges Au Palais in La Grand Motte in France; and in Ajacio, Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio, Corsica. Dr. Kramer has also worked for composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and adventurer and film-director Ivars Silis. He received artistic guidance and inspiration from Martha Casals and composer Ib Norholm.

Born in 1978 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Dr. Kramer started playing the violin at the age of three with his grandfather, Vladimir Yeshayavitch Novak. Picking up the cello at age five, Mr. Kramer soon continued his studies with his first formal cello teacher, Erling Blondal Bengtsson. He made his debut at 12 years of age, playing as a soloist while touring with orchestras in Scandinavia. He further developed his musicianship under the supervision of five other giants of classical music: violinist Yehudi Menuhin and pianist and composer Peter Norris, with whom Dr. Kramer studied chamber music at the Yehudi Menuhin School in London; cellist Karine Georgian at the Hochschule fur Musik-Detmold in Germany, cellist Boris Pergamentshikov in Berlin, Germany, and cellist Alexander Sinelnikov in Jerusalem, Israel.

An American immigrant since 2010, Dr. Kramer now divides his time between the European continent and the United States, where he has been a most active performer and artist in residence at the String Theory High School in Philadelphia. Dr. Kramer devotes much of his time performing for the sick and infirm.