

About the author



Natalia Khoma is an internationally renowned cellist. Since winning the All-Ukrainian competition, Ms. Khoma has won top prizes at the Pablo Casals International Cello Competition (*Budapest, Hungary*), the International Instrumental Competition (*Markneukirchen, Germany*), and the International Tchaikovsky Competition (*Moscow, Russia*), as well as first prize in cello at the International Jeunesses Musicales Competition (*Belgrade, Serbia*).

A native of Lviv, Ukraine, Ms. Khoma studied at the Solomia Krushelnyska School for gifted children with Yevhen Shpitzer and at the Moscow Conservatory with Natalia Shakhovskaya. In the United States, Ms. Khoma received an Artist Diploma from Boston University under the tutelage of Leslie Parnas.

The first and only Ukrainian cellist to become a laureate of the International Tchaikovsky Competition, Natalia Khoma has since distinguished herself as a recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout Ukraine and Russia, as well as in the United States, Canada, South America, Germany, Norway, Belgium, Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Eastern Europe, South Africa and the Middle and Far East. She has performed as soloist with such leading orchestras as the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra (*formerly known as the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra*), Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of New York, Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra and has performed solo recitals in Tchaikovsky Concert Hall (*Moscow*), Carnegie Hall (*New York*), Jordan Hall (*Boston*), Konzerthaus (*Berlin*), Palais des Beaux-Arts (*Brussels*), Amphitheatre Richelieu de la Sorbonne (*Paris*), Les Salons de Boffrand (*Paris*), Philharmonic Great Hall of Columns (*Kyiv*) and in a host of other countries around the world. She is often invited to appear at international festivals in Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Canada, Ukraine and the United States, among others.

Natalia Khoma has been hailed around the world as “*technically dazzling*”; “*intense, brilliant, and with perfect structure*”. She has also been praised for “*the precision of her execution, Slavic Zen, full warm cello tone ... and, what a drive!*” Ms. Khoma made her first public appearance on TV at age ten and performed her first concerto with orchestra at age thirteen.

Ms. Khoma has been a professor at the Lviv Conservatory in Ukraine, Roosevelt University Music Conservatory in Chicago, Michigan State University and was a visiting professor at the University of Connecticut Department of Music. In 2011 she was appointed Artistic Advisor and Program Coordinator of the Music and Art Center of Greene County, New York.

Natalia Khoma is an Honorary Professor at the Lviv State Academy of Music, Odessa State Music Academy and the Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine (*aka* the Kyiv Conservatory).

In 2010 Ms. Khoma was featured on a Grammy nominated CD for the Dorian/Sono Luminus label. She has also recorded for NHK-TV (*Japan*), Naxos, TNC/Cambria, Blue Griffin, IMP, Dorian, Centaur and Ongaku labels, as well as for Ukrainian, Russian, German, Spanish, Serbian, Israeli and Hungarian radio and television, and has appeared on WNYC-FM in New York, WGBH-FM in Boston and CKWR in Ontario, Canada. For several years she played the legendary Stradivarius cello.

In 2020, Ms. Khoma embarked upon an extensive North American tour as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, one of the finest symphony orchestras in Europe.

In addition to her performing activities, Natalia is Professor of Cello at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina and Director of the Charleston Music Fest. Natalia serves as organizer of the Children and Music Foundation, which provides musical training, instruments and financial aid to young, gifted Ukrainian students in need.

From the author

I would like to dedicate this book to my wonderful teachers – Yevhen Shpitzer, Natalia Shakhovskaya and Leslie Parnas. Their love of the cello, hard work and commitment to the highest standards inspired me throughout my life.

Natalia Khoma