

Max Beitan — Biography

CELLIST · FOUNDER, BEITAN MUSIC FOUNDATION ·
LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

"I hear an Italian voice."

— **Riccardo Muti**, on his interpretation of
Vocalise by Sergei Rachmaninoff

A Latvian cellist of exceptional artistry, **Max Beitan** is celebrated for emotive performances and innovative interpretations. He has triumphed in **18 international competitions, including five Grand Prix awards**, and has captivated audiences across Europe, the United States and Asia.

Described by Riccardo Muti as possessing "*an Italian voice*," Beitan's playing merges *bel canto* lyricism with a deeply expressive, almost spoken technique. His signature work is *Carmen Fantasy* by Buxton Orr, exemplifying a virtuosic style that often features his own transcriptions of opera, film scores, and the works of Kreisler and Heifetz.

"Impressive and memorable — deep performance!"

— *Vladimir Ashkenazy, after his performance of Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1*

Beitan's musical journey began at the age of four in Latvia and has been shaped by mentorships with **Johannes Goritzki**, **Victoria Yagling**, **Natalia Gutman** and **Ivo Pogorelich** — the legendary pianist, whose teaching has left an indelible mark on Beitan's approach to performance. He made his international debut at the age of eight and has since performed with esteemed orchestras including the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, the Dresdner Philharmonie and the Saint Petersburg State Academic Cappella.

At the age of nine, he won his second Grand Prix at the **Liezen International Cello Competition** and caught the attention of the legendary cellist **Daniil Shafran**, who invited him to study privately and offered invaluable guidance.

"I found Max Beitan a dedicated and gifted musician with a bright future. He is very determined and his determination will carry him far in life. I wish him all the best and every success in his future endeavours as a performing artist."

— *Ivo Pogorelich*

Beyond the concert stage, Beitan is the founder of the **Beitan Music Foundation**, curating cultural tours worldwide and facilitating collaborations between artists and collectors. He serves as a consultant for fine musical instruments — advising on acquisitions and investments — and has organised exhibitions featuring Stradivari, Guarneri and Amati instruments at **Villa del Balbianello**, **Villa Mozart** and the **Art Museum Rīga Bourse**, the latter as a long-term curatorial partner.

"When I heard Max's performance, I was overwhelmed with positive emotions. Even at such young age he possesses the qualities of a great artist! The most beautiful part is that he retains astonishing technical skills and manages to combine those skills with his emotionality, passion, and creativity."

— ***Daniil Shafran***

In 2024, Beitan had the honour of representing **Latvia at the 75th Anniversary of NATO** in Washington, D.C., performing at the National Library. He has also performed at the **United Nations in Geneva** at an event hosted by the Italian Embassy.

Currently residing in **Lugano, Switzerland**, Beitan performs on distinguished instruments including a **David Tecchler** and an **Antonio Stradivari** cello.

"A very deep musician — with serious and at the same time fresh ideas and a clear personal interpretation."

— ***Andris Nelsons***, *Music Director, Boston Symphony Orchestra*

Education — Royal College of Music, London · Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, Italy · Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano.

Awards — 5 Grand Prix · 18 international competitions · Honorary Swiss Government Grant.

Partners — Fine Violins Vienna · Florian Leonhard Fine Violins · Fondo Ambiente Italiano · Baltic Musical Seasons · LAC Lugano.

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