

12th December 2023

Dear Colleague,

We are contacting you from Music for Galway, with information about an exciting opportunity for your cello students.

In 2020, Galway was designated European Capital of Culture and hosted a year-long programme of cultural and artistic events. As part of the programme, Music for Galway created a new cello festival entitled Cellissimo. The festival was reimaged due to COVID-19; world class cellists travelled to Galway and the week-long festival was delivered online, bringing breathtaking music to people's homes.

Cellissimo in three minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c04vu7jrYZc>

An exceptional programme of masterclasses formed part of the festival, click below to view some of the sessions;

Marc Coppey masterclass: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9osSyi17pY>

Hannah Roberts masterclass: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IG-OWkX40>

In 2024, we will once more celebrate the cello with Cellissimo. We look forward to welcoming people to Galway, delivering nine days of wonderful music performed by top musicians from around the world. These will include Camille Thomas, Alban Gerhardt, Natalie Clein, Jakob Koranyi, and many more.

Cellissimo will include an International Student Programme (ISP) and we are contacting all music conservatoires in Europe to encourage your cello students to apply.

The ISP will take place from 20-25 May here in Galway City. Cellissimo will include an International Student Programme (ISP) which will take place from 20-25 May here in Galway City. There will be eight three-hour masterclass sessions across the week.

- Each student will receive a minimum of **three one-to-one Masterclasses** of 40 minutes, given by our inspirational cellists.
- Students will also have the opportunity to perform **pop-up concerts** across the city and to perform in the **student showcase concert** on May 24th.
- In addition, participants of the ISP will perform in **The Cellissimo Spectacular** on May 25th, where we will create a large cello ensemble made up of professionals, students and members of the community, which will feature solos by star visiting cellists, including **Nicolas Altstaedt**.

Accommodation will be provided for the duration of their stay.

The entry requirements are as follows:

- applicants must be a full time music student or a recent graduate (within two years)
- applicants must be 18 to 26 years at the time of the festival
- applicants must cover the cost of their travel

Please note that sustainability and environmental awareness are key themes of Cellissimo 2024. It is a **requirement** that all participating students travel slow/green to and from Galway. This includes avoiding air travel; see attached information sheet. Assistance and advice will be provided to the successful applicants if needed.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 12th January 2024 at 5pm GMT**. The application form is attached; we would appreciate it if you could distribute this information to your cello teacher colleagues and your cello students.

If you have any queries or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us on the email address below.

Warm wishes,

Finghin Collins,
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