

## ALEXANDER HERSH, cello

### Biography



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2020 Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant and First Prize winner of the 2019 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition, cellist Alexander Hersh is also a winner of Astral's 2019 National Auditions. RTBF Belgian Radio's Musiq3 says, "With his scenic presence and charm, Hersh has everything to become the darling of the public" and The Boston Globe has called his playing, "magnificent — emotionally gripping, precise in its execution, and bearing an unmistakable narrative shape."

Mr. Hersh has also received top prizes from numerous competitions worldwide, including the New York International Artists Association, Friends of the Minnesota Orchestra, Ima Hogg, Schadt, Artist Concerts Series National Solo, Hellam Young Artist, Boston Pops/New England Conservatory, Jefferson Symphony International Young Artists, and the Society of American Musicians competitions, as well as a Luminarts Classical Music Fellowship, the Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award, and awards from the Saint Paul String Quartet and Fischhoff National Chamber Music competitions.

Mr. Hersh has appeared as soloist with the Houston Symphony and the Boston Pops. Also a passionate chamber musician, he has performed the complete string quartets of Béla Bartók and Alban Berg, and has appeared in the music festivals of Marlboro, Caramoor, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Music@Menlo, I-M-S Prussia Cove, Kneisel Hall, Lucerne, Domaine Forget, and the Meadowmount School of Music, as well as the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, the Piatigorsky International Cello Festival, New York String Orchestra Seminar, and the Amsterdam Cello Biennial.

Mr. Hersh is Co-Artistic Director of NEXUS Chamber Music, a collective of international artists committed to stimulating interest in serious chamber music. NEXUS presents a two-week chamber music festival across the city of Chicago each August, featuring new and lesser-known works alongside standard works of the chamber music canon. NEXUS plays to non-traditional and intimate venues, with the mission of breaking down barriers that often separate performers from audience members.

Raised in Chicago, Alexander Hersh began playing the cello at the age of five. He studied with Steve Balderston and Hans Jørgen Jensen, and attended the Academy at the Music Institute of Chicago. A fourth generation string player, his parents are both active professional violinists. His grandfather is professor of viola and piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and his great-grandfather was a member of the WQXR and Stuyvesant String Quartets, and principal violist of the Dallas and Atlanta symphony orchestras. Mr. Hersh holds a Bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory, with academic honors, where he was a student of Laurence Lesser and a recipient of the Clara M. Friedlaender Scholarship. He also holds a Master's degree from NEC, under Paul Katz and Kim Kashkashian. A recipient of a Frank Huntington Beebe Fund for Musicians fellowship, for studies in Berlin, he continues to study with Nicolas Altstaedt at Berlin's Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik.

Alexander Hersh plays a G.B. Rogeri cello, on generous loan from a sponsor through Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins in Chicago.

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