

# GERALD PEREGRINE 'cello

'Gerald Peregrine plays the cello as if born to it' - Irish Times

## Background

Gerald Peregrine is an established soloist, chamber and orchestral musician who performs regularly in Ireland, Europe and the USA. The youngest member of a large, well-known Irish musical family, Gerald began studying music at the age of three in his native Dublin.

He then began commuting regularly to London at the age of fifteen for tuition with his late mentor William Pleeth O.B.E. At eighteen, he was awarded a foundation scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music, London, with the renowned American pedagogue Steven Doane. On completion of his studies, Gerald was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to continue his studies at Bloomington, Indiana University, receiving tuition from Emilio Colon and Janos Starker. In 2007 he received a first class honours Masters in chamber music from Limerick University, where he was also RTE lyric fm artist-in-residence during his studies.

In 1996 Gerald won the String Category of the RTE Musician of the Future competition. He was awarded many Arts Council scholarships and several college prizes, including the Anna Shuttleworth Bach prize.

On his return to Ireland, Gerald was awarded the prestigious National Concert Hall Début Recital, which he gave to critical acclaim in 2003. Gerald has since been busy performing as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer, including many broadcasts for RTE and BBC radio and television.

## Solo Performance

He has appeared as concerto soloist with all the major Irish orchestras: RTE National Symphony Orchestra (Elgar concerto, Saint Saens concerto, Tchaikovsky Rocco Variations), RTE Concert Orchestra (Haydn C major), Irish National Youth Orchestra (Elgar concerto, Kol Nidrei), Orchestra of Saint Cecilia (Haydn C major) and Dublin Orchestral Players (Schumann Concerto). He presented two successful three-concert recital series in the National Concert Hall, featuring the complete works for cello and piano by Beethoven, Bach and Brahms, broadcast by RTE lyric fm. Recent highlights have included performances at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival, the Camerata Ireland Clondeboy Festival, as well as trio recitals in France, London, Portugal, Spain, Italy and around Ireland.

September 2007 saw the release of Gerald's first commercial solo CD, 'Heavenly', a collection of popular song standards and cello classics. This was followed up by a nine date national tour in Spring 2008. More information can be found at [www.geraldperegrine.com](http://www.geraldperegrine.com).

## Chamber Music

Gerald is a founding member of the critically acclaimed piano trio Ensemble Avalon, with Ioana Petcu-Colan and Michael McHale. Since their inaugural concerts together in the summer of 2006 the trio have enjoyed acclaimed concert series and tours, including performances in Italy, UK and Ireland, with regular broadcasts on radio and television.

Following their successful February 2008 tour, Ensemble Avalon recorded their debut CD in St. Peter's Church, Drogheda with producer Jonathan Allen from Abbey Road, London. The resulting disc has won universal praise both at home and abroad, and was recently featured CD Chamber Selection in The Strad magazine: "Sunlit playing....one of the highlights of my listening year" (Julian Haylock). Classical Music magazine's Philip Sommerich wrote that 'the Beethoven (Ghost Trio) is in the front rank of modern versions on disc'.

Featuring piano trios by Bax, Bernstein and Beethoven, the programme on the disc was specially chosen to reflect the theme of the inaugural Ensemble Avalon Winter Chamber Festival (held in Wexford in November) and the recording is on general release on the RTE lyric fm label and through [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com). Recent and future plans include performances from Belfast to West Cork, including the National Concert Hall in Dublin, and further concert tours both in Ireland and abroad. Ensemble Avalon are also in collaboration with the 'Sundays at Noon' concert series at the Hugh Lane Gallery and with Trinity College in Dublin on a long-term project to include didactic and outreach elements alongside performances of established repertoire and new works. They also plan to release a second disc in late 2010 to coincide with their Wigmore Hall debut recital.

Gerald is also a founding member of the Dublin String Trio, performing education workshops for primary school children around Ireland. Formed in 2006 the trio present week-long residencies across Ireland, performing to around 8,000 children per year.

'Gerald Peregrine stole the show in the long, romantic cello solo in the slow movement of the Franck' Irish Times 2008

## Orchestral Experience

In addition to solo and chamber performances, Gerald is a keen orchestral performer. He held a sub principal contract (No.3) in the RTE National Symphony Orchestra (2003-2005), has been guest leader of the Wexford Opera Festival Orchestra, current principal of the orchestra of the National Concert Hall, guest principal Camerata Ireland, (USA Tour 2008) under the direction of Barry Douglas, sub principal of the RTE Concert Orchestra and has deputised with the St. Cecilia Chamber Orchestra and The Irish Chamber Orchestra. Future engagements include guest principal of the Castleward Opera Festival (Summer 2009).

As a session musician, Gerald has recorded and performed with the following artists: Katie Melua, Andrea Bocelli, Jamiroquai, Josh Groban, Sinéad O'Connor, The Priests, Daniel O'Donnell, Paul Byrom, Frank Patterson, Moya Brennan, The Chieftans, Colm Wilkinson, Celtic Woman, Celtic Thunder, Luka Bloom, Brian Kennedy, Sharon Shannon, Phil Coulter and Secret Garden.

'he has the gift of sharing a composer's inspiration, delivering the music with its full emotional charge intact' - Irish Times 2000

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## Links

[www.geraldperegrine.com](http://www.geraldperegrine.com) & [www.musicnetwork.ie](http://www.musicnetwork.ie)

[www.ensembleavalon.net](http://www.ensembleavalon.net) & [www.myspace.com/ensembleavalon](http://www.myspace.com/ensembleavalon)

