



Luka Coetzee, violonchelo.

Canadian-South African cellist **Luka Coetzee** has quickly established herself as one of the most compelling artists of her generation. Described by *Fanfare Magazine* as “tonally, technically, and musically superb,” her playing is recognized for its expressive honesty, fearless virtuosity, and remarkable artistic maturity.

Raised in a musical family in Canada, Coetzee began playing the cello at the age of one on a viola adapted for cello playing. By eleven she had already made her professional concerto debut, performing Tchaikovsky’s *Rococo Variations* with the Calgary Civic Symphony, marking the beginning of an international career.

Her breakthrough came in 2023 when, at just eighteen, she became the youngest and first Canadian winner of the International Paulo Cello Competition in Helsinki. She is also a First Prize winner of the Pablo Casals International Award and the Johansen International Strings Competition in Washington, D.C., and received the Frans Helmerson Promotional Award from the Kronberg Academy. In 2025 she was named to CBC’s *30 Under 30*, recognizing her as one of Canada’s leading young musicians.

As a soloist, Coetzee has appeared with orchestras including the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Oulu Symphony Orchestra, Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de Cannes, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, collaborating with conductors such as Osmo Vänskä, Rumon Gamba, Tabita Berglund, Rune Bergmann, Fawzi Haimor, Jessica Cottis, Dawid Runtz, and Holly Hyun Choe.

Highlights of the 2026–2027 season include performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Quebec Symphony Orchestra, Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, Orquesta de Córdoba, Kremerata Baltica, and the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra. Recital appearances with Jon Kimura Parker include Toronto’s Koerner Hall, the Vancouver Recital Society, and Pro Música in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

An active recitalist and chamber musician, Coetzee has performed at festivals including the Festival de Pâques, Pau Casals Festival, Dresden Musikfestspiele, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Paliesiaus Dvaras Festival, Festival Les Étoiles du Classique, classicAscona, Rheingau Musik Festival, Verbier Festival, and Festival Bach Montréal, collaborating with artists such as Gidon Kremer, Mikhail Pletnev, and Frank Braley.

Her debut recording with the LGT Young Soloists on Naxos, featuring Beethoven’s A Major Cello Sonata arranged for cello and strings, was recorded at Berlin’s Teldex Studio with Grammy Award winning engineer Christoph Claßen. The album reached No. 1 on the Apple Music Classical charts in more than 40 countries and received widespread critical acclaim. *Fanfare Magazine* praised her playing as possessing “joy, freshness, poise, clarity and naturalness,” while *Gramophone* described her as “a joy to hear.”

Coetzee studied at the Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary and earned ARCT diplomas in both cello and piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is currently mentored by Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt at the Kronberg Academy in Germany through the Casals Patronage.

Beyond the concert stage, she is committed to expanding access to classical music through educational outreach, inspired by the humanitarian legacy of Pau Casals.

Luka Coetzee is represented worldwide by Sheldon Artists and in Spain and Portugal by Agencia Camera. She performs on a c. 1712–15 Giuseppe Guarneri “filius Andrea” cello and a François Nicolas Voirin bow, both generously provided by Canimex Inc., Drummondville, Québec. She is also a Violin Channel Artist and an Endorsing Artist for Thomastik-Infeld strings.