NAREK HAKHNAZARYAN

Cellist & *Conductor*

Since winning First Prize and the Gold Medal at the XIV International Tchaikovsky Competition at just 22, Armenian cellist and conductor Narek Hakhnazaryan has established himself as one of the most captivating and sought-after musicians of his generation. Described as "dazzlingly brilliant" (*The Strad*) and "nothing short of magnificent" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), he made his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, prompting the *Los Angeles Times* to declare, "His command of the instrument is extraordinary."

He has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Orchestre de Paris, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker, Sydney Symphony and NHK Symphony. He has worked with conductors such as Gergiev, Jurowski, Alsop, Sokhiev, Honeck, Noseda and Pletnev. A former BBC New Generation Artist, he has performed with all the BBC orchestras and at the BBC Proms. He is an Honored Artist of Armenia.

Alongside his career as a cellist, Hakhnazaryan is building a growing career as a conductor. He made his conducting debut at Hamburg's Laeiszhalle with the Neue Philharmonie Hamburg and has led critically acclaimed opera productions in Armenia. Recent and upcoming engagements include tours and concerts with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra as soloist and conductor, including at the Wiener Konzerthaus. He has also appeared with the Montenegrin Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonietta de Braga and the Subotica Symphony Orchestra, and opened Emir Kusturica's Kustendorf festival. In 2024 he founded a chamber orchestra in Armenia, where he serves as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor.

A passionate chamber musician, he has performed at the Verbier, Marlboro, Ravinia and Aspen festivals and collaborated with artists including Trifonov, Maisky, Levit and Repin. He is a founding member of the Z.E.N. Trio, whose two albums were released on Deutsche Grammophon. His latest solo album, *Chant du ménestrel*, recorded with the Wiener Symphoniker, was released on the ARS Produktion label in 2025. He has also recorded film soundtracks and appeared in award-winning productions, including Kusturica's *On the Milky Road* and the animated documentary *Aurora's Sunrise*.

Mentored from the age of 14 by Mstislav Rostropovich, Hakhnazaryan studied at the Moscow State Conservatory and the New England Conservatory. He first came to international attention by winning the 2008 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, which led to his debuts at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall at 19.

Narek Hakhnazaryan plays exclusively on Larsen Strings.

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