

Narek Hakhnazaryan

Cello / Conductor

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

Hakhnazaryan is an Honored Artist of Armenia and a recipient of the *Movses Khorenatsi* medal for “outstanding achievements in the field of culture”.

He regularly performs in world's most prestigious venues and 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, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, Barcelona Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony, among many others.

He has collaborated with esteemed conductors such as Gergiev, Jurowski, Koopman, Alsop, Lintu, Petrenko, Sokhiev, Robertson, Honeck, Noseda, Pletnev, Fischer, Netopil, Spivakov, and Guerrero. Hakhnazaryan has toured Spain with the WDR Symphony Orchestra/Saraste, the United States with the Estonian National Symphony/Järvi, and Japan with the Czech Philharmonic/Bělohlávek.

A former BBC New Generation Artist, Hakhnazaryan has performed with all the BBC orchestras and made a sensational debut at the BBC Proms. In 2017, the Wiener Konzerthaus named him a “Great Talent”, presenting him in recital, chamber music, and orchestral performances, including appearances with the Wiener Symphoniker and Hrůša.

In 2025 Hakhnazaryan released his highly reviewed solo album *Chant Du Ménestrel* with Vienna Symphony Orchestra on Ars Produktion label.

A versatile artist, Hakhnazaryan recently made his conducting debut at Hamburg's Laeiszhalle with the Neue Philharmonie Hamburg Orchestra and led a critically acclaimed productions of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* and Rossini's *Barber of Seville* in Armenia.

In 2024, he founded a Chamber Orchestra in Armenia and now serves as its Artistic Director and Chief Conductor. Under his leadership, the orchestra performs in Armenia and internationally, sharing Armenian and global music and culture with audiences around the world.

As a passionate chamber musician, he has performed at leading festivals such as Verbier, Marlboro, Ravinia, and Aspen, and collaborated with artists including Trifonov, Maisky, Kozhukhin, Pressler, Levit, Repin, Matsuev, and others. He is a founding member of the Z.E.N. Trio with violinist Esther Yoo and pianist Zhang Zuo, touring across North America, Europe, China, and Australia. The trio has released two acclaimed albums on Deutsche Grammophon.

In addition to his concert career, Hakhnazaryan has contributed to film, recording soundtracks and appearing in award-winning productions, including Kusturica's *On the Milky Road*, *Yasha and Brezhnev*, and the animated documentary *Aurora's Sunrise*.

Highlights of the 2025/26 season include Hakhnazaryan's tour with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra in Spain, where he will appear as both conductor and soloist, as well as conducting Montenegro Symphony Orchestra in Borodin's *Symphony No. 2*. His cello performances include recitals in Hong Kong, London, Vienna, Copenhagen, Budapest, Montreal, Dresden, Cambridge, Belfast, and Yerevan. He will also appear as soloist with the Athens State Symphony Orchestra, the Arts Symphony Orchestra in Seoul, and the St. Gallen Symphony Orchestra, alongside multiple recital and orchestra tours in major cities across China.

Mentored from the age of 14 by the legendary Mstislav Rostropovich, Hakhnazaryan studied at the Moscow State Conservatory with Aleksey Seleznyov and earned his Artist Diploma from the New England Conservatory under Laurence Lesser. He began cello studies at age six at the Sayat-Nova School of Music in Yerevan with Sarkisyan.

His early achievements include First Prize at the 2006 Aram Khachaturian International Competition in Armenia, First Prize at the 2006 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players, and First Prize at the 2008 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, which led to his debut at both the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall at the age of 19.

Narek Hakhnazaryan plays exclusively on "Larsen Strings".

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