

Heleen du Plessis, cellist

South African cellist Heleen Du Plessis is the newly appointed Williams Evans Executant Lecturer in Cello at the University of Otago, New Zealand appearing internationally as soloist in recitals and with orchestras, part of the TriOtago and principal cellist of the Southern Sinfonia in Dunedin, NZ. She was a member of one of the most prominent South African chamber music groups, the Musaion Trio and lecturer at the University of Pretoria for 15 years.

Post graduate studies were completed at the Conservatory of Geneva in Switzerland with Daniel Groscurin and the Peabody Institute of the John Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA, with Amit Peled. Other mentors include Janos Starker, Mstislav Rostropovich, Heidi Litchauer, Antonio Ménéeses, Carter Brey, Richard Aaron and Burton Kaplan.

Critics have commented that “The cellist produced magical sound contrasts and meaningful phrasing... Du Plessis’ incredibly accurate technical control emphasized attention to fine detail on the one hand and explosive eruptions on the other hand, fully enlightening the contents of the work” (*Beeld-Gauteng Daily Newspaper*). *The Otago Daily Times* commented that “Du Plessis possesses a relaxed, unpretentious delivery with an engaging stage presence, compelling her audience to become immersed in her music-making, ...the pathways of constant instrumental dialogue were concise and intuitive.”