

# 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## of the Talents & Violon'celles foundation



Talents & Violon'celles celebrated its 15th anniversary on Tuesday, 11th February 2025, with a sold-out concert at the Salle Cortot in Paris. Patrons and luthiers were present for an exceptional and emotionally rich concert, taking the audience on a musical journey from Astor Piazzolla to Bach, encompassing Prokofiev along the way.

Over 15 years, the instrumental fund is composed by nearly 120 instruments, including 30 crafted on the foundation's initiative and a further 10 under construction. Talents & Violon'celles aims to reach 200 instruments by 2028. More than 120 musicians annually benefit from the invaluable support of Talents & Violon'celles as they progress toward professional careers.

# A Rich Musical Programme Featuring Around Forty Musicians on Stage

Raphaël Pidoux curated an eclectic programme, showcasing a diverse range of composers and musical styles. Patrons had the opportunity to experience the joy emanating from these young musicians, whose talent shines thanks to instrument loans by Talents & Violon'celles, and to appreciate the foundation's substantial instrument collection.

The evening commenced with an Astor Piazzolla tango, followed by Ernest Bloch's «Prayer,» masterfully performed by Cello8, a cello octet, a creation of Talents & Violon'celles. The programme continued with a Prokofiev sonata for cello and piano, followed by the Parhémie trio performing a work by Mel Bonis.

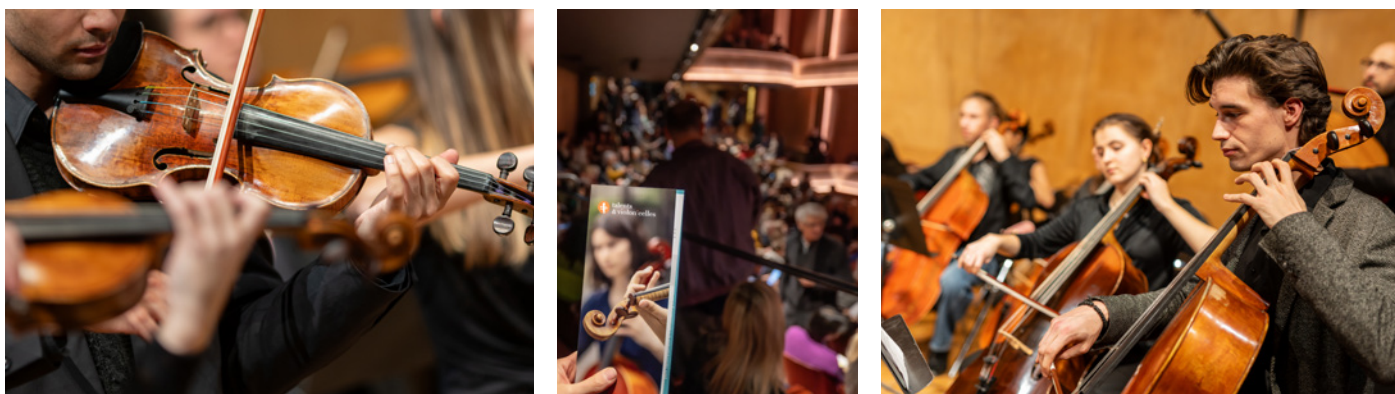
A deeply moving moment ensued with a new composition by Thomas Préchal, played by himself, on a cello loaned to Talents & Violoncelles by an anonymous patron. He composed the piece at the age of 16, and it was particularly poignant given the context of its creation—the night of the Russian declaration of war on Ukraine (February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023).

Then came a moment of grace featuring Sora Lavorgna, the youngest musician within the Talents & Violoncelles initiative, who at just 11 years old, performed a Wieniawski variation accompanied by Mélanie Bracale on the piano. Her skill and musicality captivated the audience.

The performance then shifted to Baroque music, highlighting the diversification of the T&V's offerings. The foundation is currently commissioning six Baroque instruments (a cello and violin, a bass viol, a seven-string viola da gamba, a treble viola da gamba, and a tenor viola da gamba). The presence of Antoine Touche, principal cellist of the Pygmalion ensemble, underscored the T&V's commitment to lending instruments to established professionals.

The evening concluded with a dazzling performance involving 40 performers, both onstage and throughout the hall, playing the "Marche pour la cérémonie des Turcs" by Jean-Baptiste Lully.





## The Inspiring Story of Talents & Violoncelles: Supporting Emerging Talent and Enhancing Musical Heritage

In 2010, Raphaël Pidoux, cellist of the Trio Wanderer and professor at the CNSMDP, sought to address the financial challenges faced by young musicians in acquiring instruments. His focus was on cellos, given their size and consequently high cost within the string quartet.

He assembled a diverse team united by a shared vision:

- > François-Xavier Anscutter, former CEO of a major construction company, serves as chair of the board
- > Arnaud Blanchet, chartered accountant, acts as treasurer and administrator.
- > Frédérique Pusey, head of a communications agency, is secretary-general and administrator.

**Talents & Violon'celles was founded with the objective of ensuring that all young talented musicians have access to the stringed instruments they need.** A decade later, the team expanded to include Elena Esper, Mélanie Bracale, and Mina Vandôme.

### A Three-Pillar Approach: Heritage, Social, and Cultural

Patrons support contemporary luthiers and musical heritage (antique instruments). They also aid musicians by providing instrument loans, especially during the challenging transition from academic study to professional careers. Talents & Violon'celles facilitates collaboration between luthiers, musicians, and patrons, unifying their efforts in support of a shared cause.

Currently, **130** corporate (including Caisse d'Épargne, Cofidec, Fondation Belle Main, Fondation d'Entreprise Safran pour la Musique, etc.) and private patrons contribute through instrument fabrication, donations, instrument loans, bequests, and targeted initiatives.

This collaborative approach has enabled Talents & Violon'celles to extend its reach to other string quartet instruments – **violins and violas** – under the guidance of Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabédian, violinist for the Trio Wanderer and professor at the CNSMDP.

## An Initiative Extending Beyond Instrument Loans

Over time, the initiative has expanded beyond instrument loans to include:

- > Since 2020, **annual masterclasses** provide young soloists with the unique opportunity to perform with an orchestra.
- > In 2021, **Cello8, a cello octet**, was established; the group has performed at various festivals and recorded an album.
- > In 2022, in partnership with the Musée de la Musique – Philharmonie de Paris, Talents & Violoncelles launched a biennial **international lutherie competition** (cello, violin, and viola editions).
- > In 2024, a dedicated **department for early music** was created, resulting in the commissioning of six instruments. The year also witnessed the acquisition of additional prestigious instruments.



A huge thanks for this exceptional event! The hall was magnificent, the selection of pieces incredibly varied, and the talent of all these young people impressed me.

I am so very happy to have been able to hear one of my grandfather, Jean Petitcolas', instruments played. Thank you to the whole team for the organization and for this joyful and festive atmosphere!

Thank you so much for this wonderful anniversary evening for Talents & Violoncelles. A superb programme and true talent. What great work has been accomplished over fifteen years!

It was a complete success, felt and shared by everyone!

How can I not thank you for your kind invitation that allowed me to attend this superb musical evening in such a magical place...? And what a warm welcome that reminded me of the fabulous times spent in your company a few years ago. When you see all these young virtuosos, you can only rejoice at the work accomplished.

Thank you again for this magnificent evening. It was beautiful, virtuosic, and very cleverly thought out, even for novices like us. We send you our love!



A magnificent and moving concert with a remarkable eclecticism in the programme, the quality of the musicians, the relaxed yet high-level atmosphere. In short, a great success that bodes well for the future.

## Talents & Violon'celles: Instruments of Excellence for Young Musicians

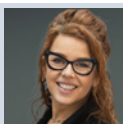
Established in 2010, the Talents & Violoncelles foundation aims to commission contemporary string instruments from master luthiers and to acquire a collection of fine antique instruments, thanks to the support of private and institutional patrons.

This support extends to instruments for string quartets (violin, viola, cello) and early music, notably Baroque music (viol da gamba, violone, bass viol, treble viol). The aim is to provide talented young musicians with high-quality instruments to excel in their studies, compete internationally and establish successful careers.

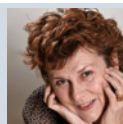
The foundation manages more than 120 instruments, including 30 crafted on its initiative and ten currently in progress. In 2024, 120 young musicians, including 36 new recipients, benefitted from instrument loans.

> **For more information, visit** [www.talentsetvioloncelles.com](http://www.talentsetvioloncelles.com)

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