



## Raphaël Pidoux Takes Cello8, the Octet of Talents & Violon'celles, on a Summer Tour

**For the seven talented young cellists at the end of their studies or on the threshold of their professional lives, it is a wonderful opportunity to access the stage and the great repertoire.**

**This essential support from the Talents & Violon'celles foundation is in addition to the loan of instruments.**



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Internationally renowned cellist and member of the Trio Wanderer, Raphaël Pidoux is also the artistic director and founding vice-president, since 2010, of the Talents & Violon'celles foundation.

Talents & Violon'celles aims to support future musicians by loaning them an instrument that will enable them to develop their full potential: to continue their studies under the best conditions, to enter international competitions, and to launch and develop a career.

In 2021, he launched the octet **Cello8**, thus continuing his project of professionalizing young talents who succeed one another.

A project made possible by the support of **Joël Rousseau**, President of the Strategic Council of the **NGE** construction group, a loyal patron of Cello8.

# Cello8's 2025 Summer Tour

Since its creation in 2021, Cello8 has performed on many stages and festivals, both in France and abroad: including La Folle Journée de Nantes, the Cello Biennale Amsterdam, the International Cello Festival of Beauvais, the Melle Festival, the Pablo Casals Festival of Prades, the Beaulieu Classic Festival, the L'Ecrin musical Festival, the Musée des Invalides, and many more.

In 2025, after participating in La Folle Journée de Nantes and a concert at the Musée des Invalides, Cello8 continues its journey with a beautiful summer program:

- **13-14 June** : Musique[s] Festival in Saint-Félix-Lauragais (France - Haute-Garonne)
- **2 July** : Château de Chambord (France - Loir-et-Cher)
- **8 July** : Festival Rosa Musica in Sainte-Cécile-les-Vignes (France - Vaucluse)
- **29 July** : Fondation Carmignac in Porquerolles (France - Var)
- **31 July** : Festival de la Vézère (France - Corrèze)

## The Lineup

Raphaël Pidoux is accompanied by seven young cellists who play on fine instruments loaned by Talents & Violon'celles, with the support of its patrons.

### Élise Comte

Violoncello by Francis Kuttner  
Talents & Violon'celles Patrons: Shushanik Karapetyan and Joël Rousseau

### Enguerrand Bontoux

Violoncello by Bernardel Sr.  
Talents & Violon'celles Patron: Rosoor Family

### Irène Magloire

Violoncello by René Quenoil  
Talents & Violon'celles Patron: Bernard Horreaux

### Juliette Gaudin

Violoncello by Léon Bernardel  
Talents & Violon'celles Patron: Edwige Della Valle

### Michelle Tang

Violoncello by Joël Klépal and Jean-Louis Prochasson  
Talents & Violon'celles Patron: Denis Marchand

### Soni Siecinski

Reversed violoncello, collective construction (Savine Delaporte, Joël Klépal, Antoine Lescombe, Virginie Pezet-Berton, Jean-Louis Prochasson)  
Patron: Talents & Violon'celles

### Victor Lancelot Mahé

Violoncello by Roland Houël  
Patron: Talents & Violon'celles

## A unique event

As part of the Musique[s] festival in Saint-Félix-Lauragais, Soni Siecinski, one of the seven cellists of the octet, will host, alongside the Toulouse luthier Fabien Peyruc, a workshop for young people curious to discover violin making and will offer a concert with the violin class of the Castelnau-d'Aud conservatory.



**Soni Siecinski** is a 24-year-old cellist whose talent and determination have overcome numerous obstacles. Born with a malformation in his left hand, Soni has shown extraordinary resilience to reach the heights of classical music. He wishes, through his journey, to inspire musicians facing a physical disability:

*« I want to be considered as a musician with a disability in full possession of his technical and artistic abilities. My project is to become a soloist and have an international career. I know what I will do with my fame in the coming years: change things so that no person with a disability is hindered in their ambition to become a professional musician. So that they know it is possible and that their path can be facilitated. »*



## Cello8, a remarkable vehicle for progress for young talents, serving the repertoire

### Eight cellos for an essential vocation

Cello8, the octet of Talents & Violon'celles (patronage Joël Rousseau), aims to allow young talents supported or having been supported by the

Talents & Violon'celles foundation to gain stage experience and professional visibility.

The octet and its multiple polyphonies, halfway between a string quartet and a small string orchestra, is the ideal formation to showcase the greatest number of young cellists.

**Raphaël Pidoux**, co-founder, vice-president, and artistic director of Talents & Violon'celles, explains: *« For the young cellists we support by loaning instruments, participating in the Talents & Violon'celles Octet is the opportunity to perform in concerts professionally, to record, to meet specialists from the musical world, whether they are concert producers, programmers of the musical scene, journalists, etc. Thus, we accompany them one step further. And every time they play, they highlight the extreme richness of the creation of contemporary French violin making to the public. »*



### An evolving formation by nature, interpreting an «augmented» repertoire!



**Juliette Gaudin** testifies:

*« When I played this cello for the first time, I immediately knew I wanted it. What a difference in sound compared to mine! I needed an instrument like this to take a step further and couldn't afford to finance such an expensive cello.*

*I have multiple projects! Continue chamber music with the trio I co-created, be a soloist, pursue baroque cello, as early music interests me greatly, as well as orchestral conducting, which I am training in. »*

The composition of the Cello8 Octet has an evolving vocation, depending on the curriculum of the young cellists, their projects, their geographical availability, and the ongoing Talents & Violon'celles instrument loan, in order to accompany as many young musicians as possible while creating a group dynamic and an ambitious artistic project over time.

The musical potentialities of this cello octet are remarkably highlighted by the transcriptions that the great cellist **Roland Pidoux** has made for it. This contribution of new repertoire is meant to be listened to but also shared, since most of the scores for eight cellos are or will be available at a very modest price on [www.talentsetvioloncelles.com](http://www.talentsetvioloncelles.com).



## Joël Rousseau, a committed music lover for the Octet of Talents & Violon'celles



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In January 2023, on the occasion of La Folle Journée de Nantes, a first album was released by Mirare under the title «Ode à la Nuit» with transcriptions for cellos written by Roland Pidoux.

**Joël Rousseau**, President of the Strategic Council of the **NGE** construction group, which he founded, has supported the Octet of Talents & Violon'celles since 2022 and financed its first recording, released by Mirare.

A private philanthropic patron, altruistic and a music lover, he sees his patronage as an essential act towards young people who need to be helped, whether they are future engineers or budding young cellists.

A generous benefactor of Talents & Violon'celles since 2018, he immediately adhered to the project. He testifies: *« I found all the values that drive me. Bringing together transmission, talent, heritage, culture, is a wonderful idea, perfectly clear, which creates meaning and makes us transmitters. »*

Joël Rousseau patronized the construction of four cellos and four bows that enrich the Talents & Violon'celles fund since 2019. One of these cellos, built by the great luthier Francis Kuttner, is played by Élise Comte within Cello8. This loan was granted to her in September 2023.

With Marie-France Giret at the CRR in Paris, Élise Comte was already developing her passion for chamber music, particularly in piano trios and string quartets. Then at the CNSMDP, she founded the Quatuor Zied and the Trio Kundera, with whom she regularly performs in concerts. She benefits from the advice of François Salque, Louis Rodde, Jean Sulem, and the Danel Quartet with whom she studies at the NSKA as part of the Quatuor Zied. She is also part of the Duo EØS cello-accordion since 2023.

*« This instrument helps me to push much further the search for different sounds and projection, which are essential parameters in the playing of a chamber musician and soloist. »*



**Enguerrand Bontoux** recounts:

*« I am lucky to play a quite exceptional cello made by Pierre-Auguste Bernardel, a French luthier from the end of the 19th century. It is one of the instruments of excellence in French violin making.*

*Obviously, I would never have imagined playing an instrument of such quality one day. It is loaned to me by Talents & Violon'celles. It has a sound, a timbre, which is very rare to find on a cello.*

*I am extremely grateful to Talents & Violon'celles for giving me this opportunity. »*

## Talents & Violon'celles: instruments of excellence for talented musicians

Noting that the acquisition of a quality instrument can represent an inaccessible investment for a musician, the Talents & Violon'celles foundation supports talents by loaning an instrument that will enable them to develop their full potential: to continue their studies under the best conditions, to pass international competitions, to launch or develop their career.

Through its actions, Talents & Violon'celles highlights the instrumental and musical heritage and constitutes a fund of instruments from the excellence of violin making.

Thanks to the support of private or institutional patrons, Talents & Violon'celles currently manages a collection of 120 string quartet instruments (violins, violas, and cellos), 30 of which were built at its initiative, in addition to the 10 currently in production - some of which are from the Baroque period, such as the tenor viola da gamba, the bass violin, the bass viola, the treble viola.

The originality of the project lies in its three convergent ambitions: heritage, social, and cultural. These three components shared among talented musicians, craftsmen, and donors are a source of excellence.

> [www.talentsetvioloncelles.com](http://www.talentsetvioloncelles.com)

## Press Contacts

Detailed programs, visuals, audios, videos, and artist biographies available upon request.



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