



© Laure Vasconi

The passing of Roland Pidoux, the soul of the French cello

Paris, September 22nd, 2025

The family of Roland Pidoux is deeply saddened to announce his passing. The internationally renowned cellist, conductor, and teacher died in Paris on September 21st, 2025, at the age of 78, following a serious illness. He leaves an indelible mark on the world of classical music, defined by his immense generosity and insatiable artistic curiosity.

Born in Paris in 1946, Roland Pidoux was one of the most significant figures of the French cello school. He studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, where he graduated at a very young age in 1965 and 1966. Under the influence of his masters Jean Hubeau and Joseph Calvet, he developed a passion for chamber music alongside his career as a concert soloist.

In 1968, he founded the **Ensemble Instrumental de France** with Jean-Pierre Wallez, which would later become the **Ensemble Orchestral de Paris**. He then joined the **Via Nova Quartet** for seven years before forming the **Pasquier Trio** with Régis and Bruno Pasquier. He joined the **Orchestre de l'Opéra de Paris** in 1969, and later served as principal cello of the **Orchestre National de France** from 1978 to 1987.

During these years, he had the opportunity to play with luminaries such as Pierre Fournier, Mstislav Rostropovich, Isaac Stern, and Jean-Pierre Rampal. He formed a celebrated trio with his longtime friend, pianist Jean-Claude Pennetier, and one of his favorite partners, violinist Régis Pasquier, achieving great success in France and abroad, particularly in the United States. He also performed regularly in Japan and dedicated part of his time to conducting.

Passing on his knowledge was at the heart of his life. A professor at the **Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris** from 1988 to 2012, and later at the **École Normale de Musique de Paris - Alfred Cortot**, he shared his expertise in masterclasses around the world (China, Japan, Brazil...). He trained generations of musicians, leaving them with more than just technique: a musical ethic and a profound humanity.

A tireless creator, he was the soul of the **Rencontres de Violoncelle de Bélaise** (Lot, France), serving as its artistic director since its inception in 1989. His commitment to the festival was absolute, and he was an active participant as recently as last August.

Since the 1990s, he has created numerous magnificent transcriptions of operas, symphonic works, and piano pieces, particularly for cello ensembles, thereby considerably enriching the repertoire for these formations. His most recent transcriptions were dedicated to Cello8, the octet of the Talents & Violon'celles endowment fund, of which his son, cellist Raphaël Pidoux, is the artistic director.

His son Raphaël pays tribute to him:

"My father was an absolute musician, but above all, he was someone who passed on his passion. He taught us much more than the cello: a sense of high standards, a curiosity, and a deep love for life. His warm sound, his creative spirit, and his energy will continue to guide us."

Since 2015, Roland Pidoux had been playing a cello by the great French luthier Frank Ravatin.

The funeral service will be held on Tuesday September 30th at 10:30 AM at the Eglise Saint-Augustin, Place Saint-Augustin in the 8th arrondissement of Paris.

Press Contacts

A selection of rights-free photographs is available to the press.

Mina Vandôme

communication@talentsetvioloncelles.com
+33 6 98 00 23 32

Frédérique Pusey

fred@fpa.fr
+33 6 14 79 35 52