

## **The Dvořák Cello Concerto**

Theodore Buchholz

### **Course Overview**

This four-week course will explore the greatest cello concerto ever written for the cello, Antonín Dvořák's *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra*. Through engaging presentations and performances, we will examine the evolution of the concerto as a genre, delve into Dvořák's biography, understand musical forms as powerful narrative vehicles, and explore the history and lore surrounding the performance history of the concerto. These two-hour sessions will feature live performances by Theodore Buchholz and the outstanding cellists from the University of Arizona Cello Studio.

### **Week 1: *The History of the Concerto as Genre***

This session will offer an overview of the concerto as a genre including:

- The origins and evolution of the concerto;
- A comparison of different composers' use of the cello (from Vivaldi, Boccherini, Haydn, Schumann, Saint-Saëns, to Tchaikovsky);
- Live performances and demonstrations of the important cello concerti featuring outstanding cellists from the UA Cello Studio.

### **Week 2: *A Hero's Journey***

This session will include:

- Exploring the life of Dvořák;
- A discussion of sonata form as a narrative journey;
- A discussion of how composers use and develop thematic motives;
- An analysis of the structure and motives of the first movement of the *Cello Concerto*;
- Live performance of the first movement of the *Cello Concerto*;
- Comparisons of the eminent recordings.

### **Week 3: *A New World***

This session will examine:

- Dvořák's life while living in America;
- Other works written in this time including the *New World Symphony* and *American String Quartet*;
- Comparisons of the eminent recordings;
- The history of the cadenza;
- Live performance of the second movement of the *Cello Concerto*.

### **Week 4: *Going Home***

The fourth week will offer a summation and conclusion of the four-week course and include:

- Dvořák's return to his Czech home;
- Comparisons of the eminent recordings;
- Live performance of the finale of the *Cello Concerto*;
- The future of cello concerto repertoire including works by Elgar, Shostakovich, and Strauss.

**Instructor Bio**

Theodore Buchholz is the cello professor at the University of Arizona. Described by critics as a “virtuosic cellist” with a “beautiful, warm sound,” he has recorded for Centaur, Toccata, and Lorelt Records, and he performs internationally as soloist and chamber musician. Dr. Buchholz served as the Cello Forum Editor for the journal *American String Teacher*. A fervent believer in the power of music education to transform lives, he is the Director of the University of Arizona String Project. Dr. Buchholz will perform the Dvorak Concerto with the orchestras across the country and in Tucson in the spring of 2025.

**Resources and References**

*Dvorak: Cello Concerto* by Jan Smaczny (Cambridge Music Handbooks).

Available on YouTube:

Pablo Casals’s recording with George Szell and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

Jacqueline DuPre’s recording with Daniel Barenboim and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Pierre Fournier’s recording with George Szell and the Berlin Philharmonic.

Rostropovich’s recording with Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic.