



**A Cellist and Her Cello:
A Live Performance by Dr. Paloma Ferrante
Wednesday May 2, 2018 at 3:00 PM**

Although the cello has gained favor as a solo instrument in classical music today, this has not always been the case. Few pieces were composed for solo unaccompanied cello until the early 20th century when Pablo Casals changed its image. He astounded audiences with his performances of the Bach 'Six Suites for Solo Cello' forcing the instrument to center stage. His performances served as the catalyst that created a vast outpouring of 20th century solo unaccompanied works. This included the 'Suite for Solo Cello' (1926) composed by his student Gaspar Cassado.

Paloma Ferrante began her musical studies at age four and has been playing the cello since she was eight. In addition to her solo musical studies, Paloma was part of a number of youth orchestras on Long Island and New York City. In high school she studied at the Pre-College division of the Manhattan School of Music. She continued her studies in college where she obtained both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Cello Performance at the Royal College of Music in London studying with Leonid Gorokhov. She was awarded a full scholarship as a teaching assistant at Michigan State University where she earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree studying with Suren Bagratuni.

Today, Paloma plays in chamber groups with solo and orchestral musicians from the New York area. She also freelances with symphonic and chamber orchestras around the country. As a solo and chamber recitalist, she has performed at Lincoln Center's Rose Studio, the Ukrainian Institute, Steinway Hall, WMP Concert Hall in New York City, in addition to venues across North America and Europe.

In addition to performing, Paloma loves teaching the cello and chamber music and is a former faculty member of Long Island Conservatory, Great Neck Conservatory, the Herald School and Friends Academy on Long Island.

In this session we will discuss the history of the cello and Pablo Casals' performances of the Bach 'Six Suites for Solo Cello' and Gaspar Cassado's 'Suite for Solo Cello' performed live by Paloma Ferrante.