

Erica Piccotti is an Italian cellist born in 1999. She is currently pursuing her Professional Studies degree with Frans Helmerson at the Kronberg Academy for Young soloists. She graduated at 14 years old obtaining the highest degree cum laude and honors at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Rome under the guidance of F. Storino. She continued her studies with Antonio Meneses at Hochschule der Künste in Bern, at Walter Stauffer Academy in Cremona and at Accademia Chigiana in Siena.

She has participated in masterclasses with Antonio Meneses, Frans Helmerson, David Geringas, Jens Peter Mainz, Truls Mork, Mario Brunello, Julius Berger, Thomas Demenga, Christophe Coin.

She won first prizes in national and international competitions including "Premio Nazionale delle Arti" run by Italy's Ministry of University and Scientific Research, earning herself the title of "Best Cellist of the Italian Conservatories", "Premio Città di Padova", "Jugend Musiziert" Nuremberg, "NYIAA Competition" whose victory allowed her to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York, "10th International Competition Antonio Janigro" for young cellists and "Premio Crescendo" in Florence. In 2017 she won the 2nd prize at the "International Johannes Brahms Competition" in Pörschach, Austria.

She also has been awarded the "Landgraf von Hessen Preis" by Kronberg Academy, "Premio Giannuzzi" as the best cellist in the Santa Cecilia Conservatory, the "Rotary Club Cremona" prize, the prize "Banca Monti dei Paschi di Siena" for the young talents of the "Accademia Chigiana di Siena", the "Inner Wheel" prize. She was awarded the Scholarship of "De Sono Associazione per la Musica", "Foundation Boubo-Music", and "Filarmonica della Scala", since 2017 she is supported by the "Associazione culturale Musica con le Ali".

She performed in prestigious festivals, such as "Janigro Festival" in Porec, "Chamber music Connects the world" in Kronberg, "Verbier Festival Academy", "La Musica Festival" in Sarasota, "Festival des Nuits du Chateau de la Moutte" in Saint Tropez, "Aurora Festival" in Vanersborg, "International Cello Festival Alfredo Piatti" in Bergamo, Rome Chamber Music Festival, Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, "Chigiana International Festival" in Siena.

As soloist she played with "Zagreb Soloists", "I Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestra", "Sinfonica Abruzzese Orchestra", "Orchestra della Toscana", "Teatro Carlo Felice Orchestra", "Serbian National Theater Orchestra of Novi Sad", "Kodaly Philharmonic Orchestra Debrecen", "Orchestra Sinfonica del Estado del México".

Highlights of her 2018-2019 season include performances at Berlin Konzerthaus, "Al Bustan Festival" in Beirut, "Paganini Genova Festival" in Genova, "La Verdi" in Milano.

She has given performances as chamber musician with Gidon Kremer, Sir András Schiff, Christian Tetzlaff, Antonio Meneses, Mario Brunello, Augustin Dumay, Louis Lortie, Miguel Da Silva, Itamar Golan, Massimo Quarta, Bruno Giuranna, Salvatore Accardo, Julius Berger, Andrea Lucchesini, Robert McDuffie.

On 8th March 2013, the President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano has awarded her the Certificate of Honor "Alfiere della Repubblica" for outstanding achievements in music obtained at a very young age.

In 2018 she recorded her debut CD for the label *Warner Classic* playing with pianist Itamar Golan.

She plays a cello Francesco Ruggeri (Cremona, 1692) kindly loaned by the "Fondazione Micheli" of Milan.