

# CELLISSIMA!

## Cello Quartet

It all began with three passionate women: Anne Gastinel (France), Natalie Clein (England) and Raphaela Gromes (Germany). At a cello festival in Taiwan in autumn 2025, these three met for the first time — and in that first moment of musical dialogue, human connection and mutual admiration, they knew immediately: this cannot stay a fleeting encounter. They wanted to meet again, to create something lasting together. They decided then and there: let us add a fourth voice. And so they turned to their dear colleague and friend, Emmanuelle Bertrand (France), inviting her into the fold. The result: a quartet of four remarkable solo cellists, each with her own voice, each bringing a distinct character, and together creating one radiant musical whole.

What defines this quartet is not only virtuosity, but a profound sense of mutual support and shared curiosity — four women who listen, uplift, and breathe as one. Each brings her own sound world and interpretive voice, and together they embark on a journey of free, expressive, sung-tone music making, following where the phrasing wants to go, exploring timbre and breathing life into every bar. What unites them is a deep love for the music itself and a humility before the intentions of the composers whose voices they bring to life.

Their collaboration is a celebration of musical sisterhood — a festival of artistry, femininity and freedom. It is not about competition but communion, not about uniformity but about unity through individuality.



A close-up portrait of Anne Gastinel, an elderly woman with short, light-colored hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a light-colored top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Anne Gastinel

**One of France's most admired cellists, renowned for the nobility and depth of her sound. Her artistry combines elegance with emotional truth, earning her distinction as both performer and mentor. She is a professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon and a regular juror for major international competitions an artist who embodies the French cello tradition at its most refined.**




A close-up portrait of Natalie Clein, a woman with long, wavy brown hair and light blue eyes. She is smiling gently and looking directly at the camera. Her hands are visible in the foreground, holding a cello, though the instrument itself is mostly obscured by her face and hands. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Natalie Clein

**A British cellist celebrated for her deeply human interpretations and her wide-ranging repertoire, from Bach to Bloch to contemporary works. Her recordings on Hyperion and EMI have been widely acclaimed and she was honoured with an O.B.E for her contribution to the British musical landscape. Beyond the concert stage, she directs the Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival and teaches at the Hochschule für Musik Rostock, inspiring the next generation of musicians.**



# Raphaëla Gromes

A close-up portrait of Raphaëla Gromes, a woman with dark, wavy hair and bangs, resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a dark, textured top and a ring on her finger. A violin is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its scroll and f-hole visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

A Sony Classical artist known for her lyrical intensity and her dedication to rediscovering neglected music. With her albums *Femmes* and *Fortissima* she has given voice to forgotten female composers and brought their works back to the stage. Her book *Fortissima* continues this mission, telling the stories of those women and their fight for artistic freedom — a heartfelt call for equality and visibility in classical music.



A portrait of Emmanuelle Bertrand, a French cellist. She is shown from the chest up, holding a cello. She has long, dark hair styled in a braid and is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a solid, warm orange color. The text 'Emmanuelle Bertrand' is written in a large, bold, dark red font in the upper right corner.

# Emmanuelle Bertrand

**An iconic figure in French cello culture, her numerous recordings for harmonia mundi have received the highest accolades. She is renowned for her radiant tone and insatiable curiosity for lesser-known repertoires. A professor at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris, she is the first woman to hold this position in the history of the institution founded in 1795. She is admired by both her students and colleagues for the generosity of her musical talent and her openness to artistic exploration.**