*David Liam Roberts – Cellist*

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A 2022-23 Debut Atlantic Touring Artist, David Liam Roberts is establishing himself as one of the most exciting and promising Canadian cellists of his generation. Named one of Canada’s “30 Hot Classical Musicians under 30” by the CBC in 2019, Roberts has been described as a “deeply thoughtful and soft-spoken artist”  (Winnipeg Free Press). Roberts was the 2021 winner of the prestigious Canada Council for the Arts' Michael Measures 1st Prize, as well as the 2021-22 recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation's Developing Artist Grant for Canadian instrumentalists. Most recently, he was awarded 1st Prize of the 2022 biennial WMC McLellan Competition, following a performance of the Schumann Cello Concerto with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Meastro Daniel Raiskin.

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Upcoming engagements include a 10-concert tour of the Canadian Maritimes with pianist LaLa Lee through Debut Atlantic, as well as several concerts in the Prince Edward County Chamber Music Festival as the festival's 2023 Young Artist in Residence. Recent highlights include recitals presented by Cecilia Concerts in Halifax, Virtuosi Concerts in Winnipeg, and the Women’s Musical Club of Winnipeg, as well as appearances at Winnipeg’s Rosamunde Festival and the Lunenberg Academy of Music Performance, Nova Scotia.

Originally from Winnipeg, Roberts is pursuing an Artist Diploma as a student of Hans Jørgen Jensen and Andrés Díaz at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, where he holds the prestigious Temerty Fellowship. Roberts has participated in masterclasses in Poland, Slovenia and Italy, where he has worked with many of the world's finest musicians and pedagogues, including Jens-Peter Maintz, Claudio Bohórquez, Adrian Brendel, Laurence Lesser, and John Kadz. Some of his most formative mentors have been Yuri Hooker, Bryan Epperson and Joseph Johnson.

As a regular extra with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Roberts has worked under conductors such as Gustavo Gimeno, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Daniel Raiskin, and Sir Andrew Davis, and has performed as principal cellist with the Royal Conservatory Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada and the Ontario Philharmonic.

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For many years, Roberts was a leader of the “Back to BACH” Project, a global non-profit organization to inspire and encourage children to learn musical instruments and instil in them a love of music. Passionate about educational outreach, he continues to give online presentations to children around the world as a Back to BACH Soloist.

Roberts plays a Ruggieri-model cello that was made for him in 2017 by Canadian luthier, Garth Lee. His bow is crafted by Canadian maker, Eric Gagné.

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