

ZIHENG (JESSE) YU

Cellist | Composer | Music Educator

Chengdu, China

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Conservatoire-trained cellist, composer and music educator with degrees from the Royal College of Music and Conservatorium Maastricht. Experience includes individual cello teaching, principal cello leadership, symphonic and operatic performance, screen-music recording and listener research. Interested in music, cello and strings, orchestra and ensemble, and composition or music-technology teaching roles.

Core strengths: individual cello teaching; orchestral leadership; composition and screen music; recording; interpretation; bilingual communication.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Private Cello Teacher 2023-2024

Individual tuition delivered during the fourth year of the BMus

- Taught five cello students, from complete beginners to players with prior instrumental experience.
- Designed individual lessons in posture, bowing, left-hand coordination, intonation, reading, repertoire and practice.
- Prepared students for performance recording, with feedback on interpretation, technique and takes.
- Applied DipABRSM instrumental-teaching principles to lesson planning, explanation and demonstration.

EDUCATION AND ARTISTIC TRAINING

Master of Music in Cello Performance Sep 2024-Jul 2026

Conservatorium Maastricht, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences | Maastricht, the Netherlands

- Cello studies with Alexander Chaushian and Gustav Rivinius.
- Screen and film composition studies with Mark Pütz.
- Received additional artistic guidance from playwright and director Wajdi Mouawad.

Bachelor of Music (Honours) Sep 2020-Jul 2024

Royal College of Music | London, United Kingdom

- Principal cello studies with Alexander Chaushian.
- Cello coaching with Amanda Truelove and Hélène Dautry; one year of Baroque cello with Catherine Rimer and one year of jazz cello with Mark Armstrong.
- Composition studies with Edwin Hillier and Gerardo Gozzi.
- Recipient of a Henry Wood Trust Award.
- Contributed to the Chinese translation of an Alexander Technique booklet for musicians.

Six-year Pre-college Cello Programme 2014-2020

Middle School Affiliated to Sichuan Conservatory of Music | Chengdu, China

- Studied cello with Yimin Zhang. (Professor of Cello at Sichuan Conservatory of Music)

QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

DipABRSM - Principles of Instrumental Teaching (Cello) 2023

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

- Awarded in the third BMus year; focused on cello-teaching principles, explanation and demonstration.

NL-Zuyd Excellence Scholarship (NL-ZES) 2024-2026

Zuyd University of Applied Sciences

Henry Wood Trust Award During BMus

Royal College of Music

Hong Kong International String Competition 2019

1st Place, Sichuan Division | 3rd Place, National Final

SELECTED PERFORMANCE AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Principal Cellist - La prova di un'opera seria <i>Conservatorium Maastricht Opera production in collaboration with Opera Zuid and Toneelacademie Maastricht</i> Led the cello section in Francesco Gnecco's comic opera under conductor Federico Santi.	Feb 2026
Principal Cellist - Lyrical Landscapes <i>Conservatorium Maastricht Symphony Orchestra Theater aan het Vrijthof, Maastricht</i> - Led the cello section in performance with violin soloist Boris Belkin under conductor Martin Sieghart. - Programme: Noel Aiyar, Meditations by the Jeker; Bruch, Violin Concerto No. 1; Brahms, Symphony No. 4.	25 Jun 2025
Orchestral Cellist - Turangalila-Symphonie <i>Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London</i> Performed Messiaen's Turangalila-Symphonie under conductor Jac van Steen.	1 May 2024
Orchestral Projects under Vasily Petrenko <i>Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra London</i> - March programme: Bacewicz, Overture; Saint-Saëns, Cello Concerto No. 1 with Shizuku Tatsuno; Richard Strauss, Also sprach Zarathustra. - November programme: Beethoven, Egmont Overture; Sofia Gubaidulina, The Wrath of God; Prokofiev, Symphony No. 5.	2023
Orchestral Projects under Sakari Oramo <i>Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra London</i> Worked with Sakari Oramo on multiple RCM projects, including Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 (13 October 2022).	During BMus
String Octet Collaboration with the Harlem Quartet <i>Royal College of Music London</i> Performed Kenji Bunch's the still, small voice with the Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet.	Oct 2022
Orchestral Cellist - Orpheus in the Underworld <i>Royal College of Music Opera Studio London</i> Performed Offenbach's opera under conductor Michael Rosewell.	Nov 2022
Cello Soloist and Chamber Ensemble Performer <i>Chengdu City Concert Hall Chengdu, China</i> Performed as soloist in Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor and in a chamber ensemble work by Astor Piazzolla.	Oct 2020
Additional Orchestral, Recital and Masterclass Experience <i>Royal College of Music and cultural venues across England</i> - Performed solo and chamber music across English churches, libraries and cultural spaces, spanning Baroque repertoire to contemporary works, including at Willesden Gallery and St Mary Abbots Church, London. - Performed in RCM projects under Martyn Brabbins and others, and in Maxim Vengerov's orchestral masterclass.	2020-2024

COMPOSITION, RECORDING AND TRANSLATION

- Composed original music for Floor Starmans' experimental film project Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit (2026). - Co-composed original music and contributed to the musical development of Being Nomadic (2024), a multiscreen moving-image installation by Royal College of Art Photography MA artist Samantha Jiaxuan Wang, presented at the RCA Degree Show. - Studied composition with Edwin Hillier and Gerardo Gozzi, and screen and film composition with Mark Pütz. - Recorded student screen-music projects in non-commercial sessions led by conductor Ben Palmer. - Experienced in rehearsing and recording new works, collaborating with composers and adapting interpretation for recorded media. - Contributed to the Chinese translation of an Alexander Technique booklet for musicians.	
--	--

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS

Master's Research Project - Cross-cultural Preferences for Cello Interpretation <i>Conservatorium Maastricht</i> LANGUAGES & DIGITAL: Mandarin (native); English (professional) Cubase, Sibelius, audio editing, screen composition.	2025-2026
--	-----------