

TALENT HAS HUNGER

A Film by Josh Aronson

Digital (DCP & BluRay) / Documentary / 82 min / 2015 / English



FIRST RUN FEATURES
The Film Center Building
630 Ninth Ave. #1213
New York, NY 10036
(212) 243-0600 / Fax (212) 989-7649
Website: www.firstrunfeatures.com
Email: info@firstrunfeatures.com

Synopsis:

TALENT HAS HUNGER is an inspiring film about the power of music to consume, enhance, and propel lives. Filmed over 7 years, the film is a window into the mysterious world of the artist, the passion that can grip and sustain a young player from childhood through the last days of life and the years of sacrifice and dedication a budding artist needs to fulfill one's talent. The film focuses on the challenges of guiding gifted young people through the struggles of mastering the cello. Through the words and actions of master cello teacher, Paul Katz, it's clear that this deep study of music not only prepares wonderful musicians, but builds self-esteem and a cultural and aesthetic character that will be profoundly important throughout his students' lives.

Talent Has Hunger offers unique front row seat in Katz's New England Conservatory studio as students come for their lessons. Filmed over seven years, we first meet these cellists when they're as young as 10. Katz commands an array of approaches and tools from his 50 years of teaching to engage the variety of temperaments, emotions, and natural talents of his student. His goal is always to elevate the sense of the possible and give students full expressive access to the music within themselves. What is revealed is the meticulous physical detail needed to master technical skills, but also the thrill of watching Katz maneuver the delicate sensibilities and tender young egos, making them feel safe, emotionally open and confident to walk on stage to play their instrument at the highest artistic level.

Paradoxically, the ultimate goal is to hide the years of learning—to make it look effortless as they perform with grace in front of a faceless and often critical audience—overcoming sweat, jitters, nausea and fear.

Talent Has Hunger allows an appreciation of concert musicians in an entirely new light. In the glow of that light, it's even possible that the music itself will have a deeper impact.

What shines through this film, is that the study of music and the cello is a metaphor for the mastery of virtually any human endeavor.

Subjects:

Emileigh Brooke Vandiver

Fascinated by unique cultures, Ms Vandiver has dedicated her life as a musician to exploring the world, cello in tow. Described by the New York Times as “an excellent performer” and by the Boston Musical Intelligencer as a musician bringing “a world of emotional meaning to the cello,” her vast experiences have earned her recognition as a soloist recitalist, chamber musician and teacher.

Ms. Vandiver’s ensemble experiences include performing with the Houston Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Boston Lyric Opera, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, A Far Cry, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and the BalletX Contemporary Dance Company in Philadelphia. She is also principal cellist of the Encounter’s Ensemble at the Peabody Essex Museum. Ms. Vandiver is an active and in demand teacher. She is currently on the cello faculty at the University of New Hampshire and the New England Conservatory’s Preparatory School. Additionally, she is on cello, solfege, and chamber music faculty for Project STEP at Boston’s Symphony Hall.

Nicholas Canellakis

Hailed as a “superb young soloist” (The New Yorker), Canellakis has become one of the most sought-after and innovative cellists of his generation, captivating audiences throughout the United States and abroad. In The New York Times his playing was praised as "impassioned" and "soulful," with "the audience seduced by Mr. Canellakis's rich, alluring tone." In the spring of 2015, Mr. Canellakis made his Carnegie Hall concerto debut, performing Leon Kirchner’s Music for Cello and Orchestra with the American Symphony Orchestra in Isaac Stern Auditorium. Mr. Canellakis is an artist of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, with which he performs regularly in Alice Tully Hall and on tour.

As a member of The Canellakis-Brown Duo, his collaboration with pianist/composer Michael Brown, Mr. Canellakis performs numerous recitals throughout the country each season. A frequent performer at Bargemusic in New York City, he has also been a guest artist at many of the world's leading music festivals, including Santa Fe, La Jolla, Music@Menlo, Ravinia, Verbier, Mecklenburg, Moab, Bridgehampton, Sarasota, and Aspen. He is the co-artistic director of the Sedona Winter MusicFest in Arizona.

Mr. Canellakis was a winner of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's CMS Two international auditions. He was also selected to be in residence at Carnegie Hall as a member of Ensemble ACJW, in which he performed in Weill and Zankel Halls and worked to enhance music education throughout New York City. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and New

England Conservatory, where his teachers included Orlando Cole, Peter Wiley, and Paul Katz. Mr. Canellakis is on the faculty of the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music.

Sebastian Baverstam

Performed his first concerto with orchestra at the age of seven, Sebastian has since led an active concerto career with appearances in the U.S. and abroad. He won the 2009 Concert Artists Guild International Competition and in April, 2011 gave a solo recital in Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall. He was the 2006 winner of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition and in 2007 was asked to substitute for Lynn Harrell, performing with the Cape Cod Symphony.

He first performed at Weill Hall in 2002 and has appeared multiple times on the radio program *From the Top*, as well as in a PBS documentary filmed in Carnegie Hall. Sebastian has attended many summer festivals, including the Aspen Festival, the Verbier Festival Academy and the International Music Academy of Switzerland, directed by Seiji Ozawa. He finished his studies with Paul Katz at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Lev Mamuya

Lev showed an extraordinary interest in music very early and began cello lessons at age three. Presently a sophomore in the Harvard-New England Conservatory dual degree program, he studies with Paul Katz. Previous teachers include Michael Reynolds, Laura Blustein, and Debbie Thompson. He gave his first solo recital at age five and made his orchestral debut at eight with the Cape Cod Symphony. Mamuya has subsequently appeared with many other orchestras including the Boston Pops, the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, the Florida Orchestra, the Buffalo Symphony Orchestra, the Ann Arbor Orchestra, and the Cleveland Orchestra. An alumnus of the PBS radio program *"From the Top"*, he was the Junior Division First Place Laureate in the 2013 Sphinx Competition.

An experienced chamber musician, Mamuya spent seven summers at the Perlman Music Program under the chamber music tutelage of Merry Peckham. Mamuya is also an active composer, and a founding member of the Composer Performer Repertory Ensemble. He has performed contemporary music of his own and others with this group at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, New England Conservatory, and the Rivers School. He was commissioned to compose and perform in several pieces for Winsor Music, including a work titled *"The Eagle,"* written to commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11th. Mamuya performs on a Moes and Moes cello.

Paul Katz

Paul is known to concertgoers the world over as cellist of the Cleveland Quartet, which, during an international career of 26 years, made more than 2,500 appearances on four continents. As a member of this celebrated ensemble from 1969 to 1995, Katz performed at the White House

and on many television shows, including "CBS Sunday Morning," NBC's "Today Show" and "The Grammy Awards" (the first classical musicians to appear on that show).

Katz has received many honors, the most recent including the "Chevalier du Violoncelle," awarded by the Eva Janzer Memorial Cello Center at Indiana University for distinguished achievements and contributions to the world of cello playing and teaching; The Richard M. Bogomolny National Service Award, Chamber Music America's highest honor, awarded for a lifetime of distinguished service in the field of chamber music; an Honorary Doctorate of Musical Arts from Albright College; and the American String Teacher's Association "Artist-Teacher of the Year 2003." Katz is a passionate spokesperson for chamber music the world over, and served for six years as President of Chamber Music America.

In 2011, declaring that "our art is passed from one generation to the next, not by books but by mentoring," Katz launched CelloBello, a website designed to connect cellists of all ages and performance levels. Among the site's resources are "Cello Lessons," consisting of footage filmed in Katz's studio with NEC students; "Legacy" videos from Katz's own mentors; and a blog coauthored by more than a dozen prominent cellists. Through this medium, Katz is digitizing his own life experience as a student, teacher, and artist of his instrument.

Katz has appeared as soloist in New York, Cleveland, Toronto, Detroit, Los Angeles, and other cities throughout North America. He was a student of Gregor Piatigorsky, Janos Starker, Bernard Greenhouse, Gabor Rejto and Leonard Rose. In 1962, he was selected nationally to play in the historic Pablo Casals masterclass in Berkeley, California. He was a prizewinner in the Munich and Geneva Competitions and for three summers, he was a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival.

Katz's recordings include Dohnanyi's Cello Sonata for ProArte Records, and the Cleveland Quartet's recording on Sony Classical of the Schubert two-cello quintet with Yo-Yo Ma. The Cleveland Quartet has nearly 70 recordings to its credit on RCA Victor, Telarc International, Sony, Philips and ProArte. These recordings have earned many distinctions including the all-time best selling chamber music release of Japan, 11 Grammy nominations, Grammy Awards for Best Chamber Music Recording and Best Recorded Contemporary Composition in 1996, and "Best of the Year" awards from Time magazine and Stereo Review. In September of 2001, Paul Katz joined the New England Conservatory faculty, following five years at Rice University in Houston, and twenty years of teaching at the Eastman School of Music.

Katz has mentored many of the fine young string quartets on the world's stages today including the Ariel, Biava, Cavani, Chester, Harlem, Jupiter, Kuss, Lafayette, Maia, Meliora, Parker, T'ang, and Ying Quartets. One of America's most sought after cello teachers, his cello students, in addition to membership in many of the above quartets, have achieved international careers with solo CDs on Decca, EMI, Channel Classics and Sony Classical, have occupied positions in many of the world's major orchestras including principal chairs as far away as Oslo, Norway and Osaka, Japan, and are members of many American symphony orchestras such as Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, National Symphony, Pittsburgh, Rochester, and St. Louis.

Filmmaker Biography:

Josh Aronson

After starting his career as a still photographer for Time Life, Aronson began directing television films and commercials. Through Aronson Films, he directed MTV videos, television pilots and specials and over 500 commercials before turning to documentaries in 1999. Since then, Aronson has made award winning documentaries on a fascinating variety of topics. He is also a concert pianist and regularly plays chamber music in New York and at the Telluride Musicfest, the chamber music festival he founded in 2002 with his wife, violinist Maria Bachmann.

2015 marks the final year of production and the launching of Aronson's **Talent Has Hunger**, the 7 year odyssey following the cello students of master cello teacher Paul Katz at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. The film premieres in Boston in early 2016 and then will roll out across America before its television broadcast.

2010-2012 took Aronson all over the world in the making of **Orchestra of Exiles**, his film about Bronislaw Huberman, the Polish violinist who founded the Israel Philharmonic.

In 2008 Aronson produced a series of short films celebrating our dynamic relationship with the Hudson River Valley. The series contains 20 shorts designed for interstitial programming on PBS stations. The films focus on individual stories and characters found up and down the Hudson and will build awareness of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's first trip up the Hudson in September of 1609.

Josh Aronson was the Director/Executive Producer of *Sound and Fury*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, was distributed theatrically in 2000 and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary.

Selected Credits:

A Film by
JOSH ARONSON

Executive Producers
NANCY AND RICHARD LUBIN

Editor
MARK JUERGENS

Cinematography
JOSH ARONSON & BRIAN DOWLEY

Associate Producer
NINA KRSTIC & MARGARET METZGER

The Students
2007-2009 Cello Studio
LEV MAMUYA
SEBASTIAN BAVERSTAM
EMILEIGH VANDIVER
NICK CANELLAKIS
SUJIN LEE
JACQUELINE CHOI
HYUN JIN WON
HAN-BIN YOON
TONY RYMER
KEE-HYUN KIM

2015 Class Discussion
CLARE BRADFORD
JAMIE CLARK
DANIEL HASS
LELAND KO
MARZA WILKS
PAUL VAN DER SLOOT

Pianists
PEI-SHAN LEE
CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY

NEC Studio Pianists
YOKO KIDA
CONSTANTINE FINEHOUSE
JAYOUNG KIM
KAI-CHING CHANG

Promotional Judges
NATASHA BROFSKY
PAUL KATZ
YEESUN KIM
LAURENCE LESSER

Conductors
JOHN PAGE, NEC SINFONIETTA
BEN ZANDER, BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY
LEON BOTSTEIN, AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Additional Photography
Frank Stanley
Stephen McCarthy
Paul Sanderson
Boyd Estes
Sound Mixer & Sound Editor
CJ Degennaro

Music
J. S. Bach: Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor
Sebastian Baverstam, Emileigh Vandiver, Paul Katz, cello
Edouard Lalo: Cello Concerto in D minor
Han Bin Yoon, Emileigh Vandiver, cello
Antonín Dvořák: Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104
Lev Mamuya, cello
Antonin Dvořák: Symphony #8 in G Major
NEC Student Orchestra
Frédéric Chopin: Cello Sonata in G minor
Emileigh Vandiver, Paul Katz, cello
Johannes Brahms: Sonata No. 1 in E minor Op. 38
Sebastian Bäverstam, cello
Pei-Shan Lee, Constantine Finehouse, piano
Luigi Boccherini: Cello Sonata in A major
Nick Canellakis, cello
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Variations on a Rococo Theme
Jacqueline Choi, cello
Antonin Dvořák: String Quartet No. 12 in F major "American"
Cleveland Quartet, Paul Katz, cello solo

Zoltán Kodály: Sonata in B minor for Solo Cello
Sebastian Bäverstam, János Starker, cello
Edward Elgar: Concerto Concerto in E minor Han Bin Yoon, Emileigh Vandiver, cello
Sergei Prokofiev: Sinfonia Concertante for Cello and Orchestra
Youth Philharmonic Orchestra Benjamin Zander, Conductor
SuJin Lee, cello
J. S. Bach: Cello Suite No. 6 in D major
Tony Rymer, cello
Frédéric Chopin: Mazurka in A minor Op. 68 #2
Pieter Wispelwey, cello Dejan Lazic, piano
Ernest Chausson: Piano Trio in G minor
Trio Solisti
Osvaldo Golijov: Omaramor
Jacqueline Choi, cello
Robert Schumann: Adagio and Allegro, Op 70
Jacqueline Choi, cello
Bernhard Romberg: Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major
Emileigh Vandiver, cello
Dmitri Kabalevsky: Cello Concerto No. 1 in G minor
Lev Mamuya, cello
Joseph Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major
Cadenza composed and performed by Lev Mamuya
Sebastian Bäverstam: Variations on Frère Jacques
Sebastian Bäverstam, cello
Antonin Dvořák: String Quintet in E flat major
Sebastian Bäverstam and friends
Claude Debussy: Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor
Emileigh Vandiver, cello Kai-Ching Chang, piano
Leon Kirchner: Music For Cello and Orchestra American Symphony Orchestra. Leon Botstein,
Conductor Nick Canellakis, cello
Handel-Halvorsen: Passacaglia for Violin and Cello
Lev Mamuya, cello Max Tan, violin
Ludwig Van Beethoven: Sonata No. 1 in F major for Piano and Cello
SuJin Lee, cello Pei-Shan Lee, piano