

# theStrad

VOICE OF THE STRING MUSIC WORLD SINCE 1890

April 2008

## **A CELLIST'S COMPANION: A COMPREHENSIVE CATALOGUE OF CELLO LITERATURE**

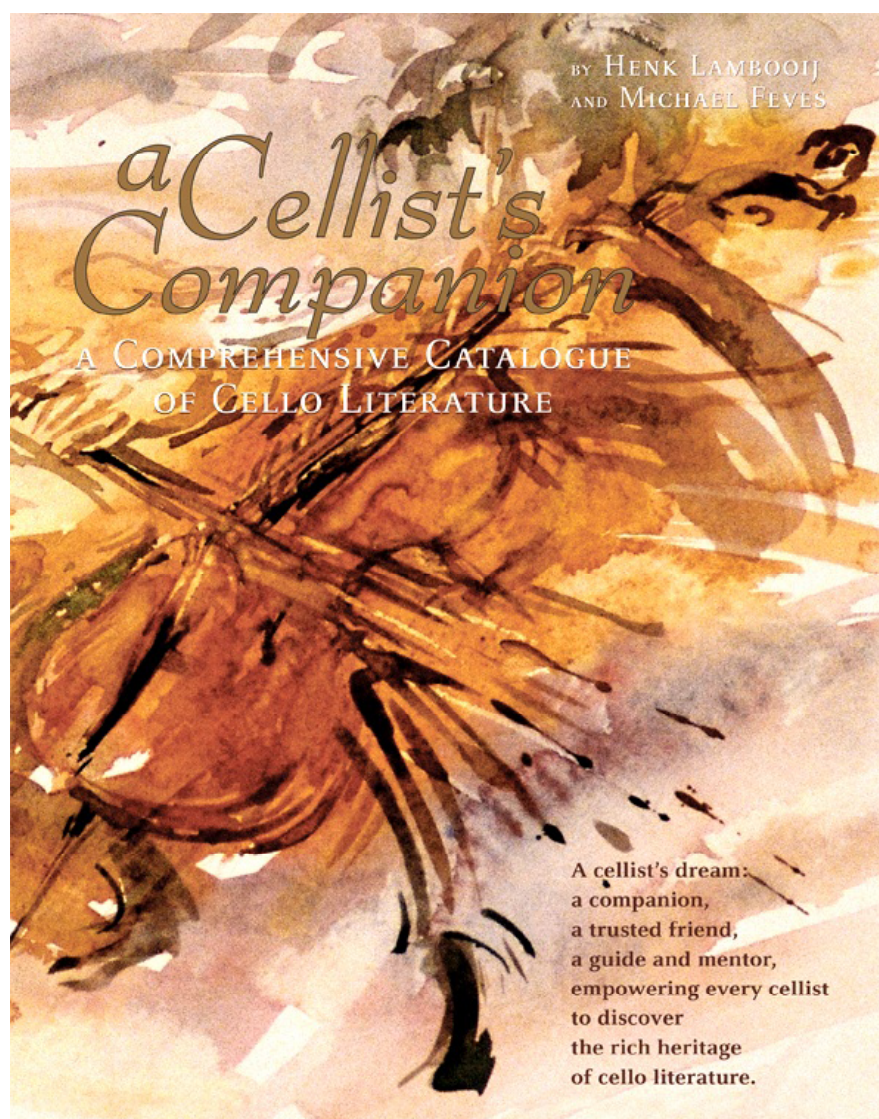
Henk Lambooij and Michael Feves

ISBN 9789090223711 (hardback)

ISBN 9781847990051 (paperback)

Stichting The Cellist's Companion €149 (hardback)

€95 (paperback) [www.cellocompanion.com](http://www.cellocompanion.com)



This remarkable book is the result of a monumental research project (lasting 35 years) that was undertaken by the two authors with the intention of unearthing every work written for cello, both published and unpublished. They have succeeded remarkably well – the book includes more than 44,500 titles by more than 15,000 composers – and have produced a reference work that is more than simply a list of what has been written for the cello. While being most valuable to cellists, the book will also be useful to researchers and other musicians. For example, the list of publishers, which includes the names and locations of virtually every organisation that has produced any music for the cello, is probably one of the most comprehensive lists ever compiled for any instrument.

To keep length to a minimum, entries use a great many abbreviations whose deciphering takes a bit of getting used to, but which are nevertheless logical and consistent. A number of listings also include timings, a particularly useful feature. Entries for the more important cellist-composers have short biographical paragraphs that, besides the expected information on where they were born, died, studied and worked, often also contain a list of the figure's more prominent students. Cellists whose contributions to the repertoire

were more as editors than as composers are also listed by name, and all of their editions are catalogued.

Although chamber music is not included unless a work features a cello, duos with other instruments are featured, as are works for multiple soloists and orchestra – making this book a useful resource for wind players, singers and conductors. An index aids searches by category: the book's content is divided into cello solo, cello solo with electronics, two or more cellos, cello and violin, cello and other instruments, two or more soloists with orchestra, cello and voice, methods and studies.

Cellists, of course, will use this book as if it were a huge reference library to explore the repertoire. However, since the volume is a comprehensive historical compendium, many of the works listed will be out of print and difficult to find – but that is another problem. Simply browsing through various entries presented me with fascinating nuggets of information, such as the specific musicians portrayed in each of Piatigorsky's *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* (I knew some, but not all) and the fact that the orchestration of the work was made by Ralph Berkowitz, Piatigorsky's long-time accompanist.

As exhausting and meticulous as the research behind this work was, any book such as this is bound to have omissions and errors – and obviously it will become out of date as new editions appear. In order to update and continue to improve future editions, the authors welcome ideas, suggestions, new information and corrections at [www.cellocompanion.com](http://www.cellocompanion.com).

JEFFREY SOLOW

[www.thestrad.com](http://www.thestrad.com)