

Joshua Halpern has appeared on stages around the world as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral principal cellist. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with artists including Jonathan Biss, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Roberto Díaz, Viviane Hagner, Gary Hoffman, Kim Kashkashian, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Anthony McGill, Olli Mustonen, and Itzhak Perlman, and appeared at music festivals including the Ravinia Steans Institute, Music@Menlo, the Perlman Chamber Music Workshop, the New York String Orchestra Seminar, the Taos School of Music, La Jolla Summerfest, Musikiwest, and Krzyzowa-Music, with whom he has also toured extensively.

An eager advocate of contemporary music, he has worked personally with composers including Bruce Adolphe, Richard Danielpour, Kevin Puts, Dai Wei, Nick DiBerardino, and Kaija Saariaho, and in 2025 debuted *In Real Time*, an expansive commissioning series in which he spends a year in deep collaboration with a single composer to build a program for live performance and recording from that composer's musical world outward. He has served as guest principal cello of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, including on tours to Germany, Taiwan, and China; as cellist with the Banff Competition-winning Rolston Quartet on tour throughout Europe and North America; as guest principal cello with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, including on tour in Hungary; as guest member of the Varian Fry Quartet; with the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic; and throughout the Americas and Europe with Curtis On Tour. He regularly plays as a guest with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

In 2018, Josh curated a solo tour across Colorado to bring classical music to unexpected places, including the state penitentiary, small-town saloons, and bicycle shops. Since then, he has continued bringing music to unique spaces, fostering connection and conversation with diverse audiences. In 2021, he founded the Cultural Caravan, a Colorado-based performing arts series operating at the intersection of small businesses, social-service nonprofits, municipal organizations, and diverse world-class artists. The Cultural Caravan presents artists with global backgrounds in 35+ concerts per year in coordination with dozens of local businesses and community organizations, reinvesting nearly \$1 million into the community to date through inclusive communal cultural experiences. Learn more at culturalcaravan.org.

As a teacher, Josh has presented master classes throughout the United States and South America and has taught at Curtis Summerfest, the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and on faculty at the Brooklyn School of Music.

Josh completed his Artist Diploma at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America with Curtis On Tour and served as principal cello of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra during the 2016/17 season. At Curtis he studied with Carter Brey and Peter Wiley. As an undergraduate at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, he studied with Desmond Hoebig and won the school's concerto competition. From 2021 to 2023, he was a member of the Karajan Akademie of the Berliner Philharmoniker, in which he played 60+ concerts with the Berliner Philharmoniker and was mentored by Ludwig Quandt.

Josh performs on a cello by Domenico Busan, c. 1750, previously owned by his teacher Desmond Hoebig, provided on a generous long-term loan from a member of the Stretton Society. He lives in New York.