



HELLO CELLO



SWEET CELLO SUITE...

The Six Suites by Johann Sebastian Bach are pieces that every cellist should have on their playlist. These works are arguably the most important pieces performed on the instrument.

Even though they are known as the "Cello Suites", there are some indications that the instrument for which they were written may have been slightly different from the cello as we know it today. For example, the 5th suite the instruments top string is tuned down to a G, instead of an A. The sixth suite is even more intriguing, being originally written for an instrument with five strings! (An E string is

added to the upper register of the instrument.)

In Bach's day string instruments came in many shapes and sizes. This mysterious 5-string cello could have been a "violoncello piccolo", which can have four or five strings, and is played on the arm like a viola. (No wonder those violists are always stealing our Cello Suites!)

Regardless of the instrument for which it was originally intended, the Six Suites are unique and compelling works that are still powerful today, after hundreds of years.

Pablo Casals was the cellist who brought the Six Suites

back into the popular demand in the modern world. Before then, they were often regarded more as studies than concert pieces. Thanks to Casals, they are performed in concert often by cellists around the globe.

Interpretations of these works vary greatly from performer to performer.

Hear are three very different performers of Bach's Six Suites. Look them up on Youtube or iTunes!

- Mstislav Rostropovich
- Anner Bylisma
- Pieter Wispelwey

READ ME!

Important Lesson Info

CELLO RECITAL:
Friday December 16, 2011
4:30pm
Art Gallery of Sudbury.

LESSONS END:
Friday December 16, 2011

LESSONS RESUME:
Monday January 16, 2012
(Your lesson timeslot remains the same.)

It's winter! Be extra careful on the steps!

I will be out of town from December 22nd. I am available for extra lessons between Dec 16-21, by request. Please make arrangements with me.

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HOLIDAY PRACTICE TIPS

The holidays are an especially busy time, and it's often hard to find time with your cello.

The key is to set aside shorter periods of time, earlier in the day if possible. If you can play before or just after breakfast, then the rest of your day is free for all the business of the season.

If you are travelling over the holidays, consider tak-

ing your cello with you! (Remember to use a proper travelling case, especially if travelling by air!) Or, if taking your cello is not possible, consider doing a short-term rental of a cello.

Most major cities have instrument shops which rent instruments short-term. This is a great way to find a cello while away from home. If you are looking to upgrade your instrument,

you can usually borrow an instrument for a few weeks to try it out! (It's like renting, only free!)

If you have guests over the holidays, perform for them! This is a time for giving, and music is something that you can give to your friends and family. Even a few simple Christmas carols will keep you from getting out of shape, and will put you in the holiday spirit!

Performance Listings!

Listen online!

Newsletters online!

www.alexandralee.ca

Or contact me at:

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Dec 4, 12pm** — Cello Café at [Fromagerie Elgin](http://www.fromagerieelgin.com)
- **Dec 7, 12pm** — Cello Café at the Northeast Cancer Centre, as part of the Colin Germond Music Program.
- **Dec 8 & 11** — A Christmas Carol at the STC featuring the SBSQ and local radio celebrities! Family fun! www.sudburytheatrecentre.on.ca
- **Dec 10** — North Bay Symphony www.northbaysymphony.org
- **Dec 15** — Kiwanis deadline
- **Dec 16, 4:30pm** — Cello Recital at the Art Gallery of Sudbury

Mark Your Calendars:

Kiwanis (March 23–April 4, 2012)
 -Registration deadline: **Dec 15, 2011**

RCM Exams:

Registration deadline: **March 6, 2012**
 Theory Exams: May 11-12, 2012
 Practical Exams June 11-30, 2012

No cello ensemble rehearsals on Dec 5 or 7.

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Cello Café at Fromagerie	5	6	7 Cellos at Cancer Centre	8 SBSQ: A Christmas Carol (STC)	9	10 NBSO Concert
11 SBSQ: A Christmas Carol (STC)	12	13	14	15 Kiwanis Deadline!	16 Cello Recital	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day!	26 Boxing Day	27	28			

"IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON.
 GIVE ME EXCESS OF IT."

- William Shakespeare (*Twelfth Night*)

NOVEMBER CELLO CAFÉ

Wow! Our best Cello Café yet! This was our first Cello Café in a public place (i.e. not at my house). We had an excellent turn-out, both from cellists and listeners. Both adult cello ensembles performed a selection of pieces—the highlight being a joined ensemble in the performance of "Greensleeves". Jack Derrenbacker performed a flawless "May Time" (and from memory!), and we enjoyed a beautiful rendition of "Chorus from Judas Maccabeus" by Nicole Sykes. Danielle Braney and I performed "Ave Maria" to great success. A very special performance by Michelle Paquette and Cello Café guest Rana Parsi (flute) was a lovely treat. We even had a photographer from SNAP Sudbury pop by! **Next Cello Café is Sunday December 4, 12pm at the Fromagerie Elgin.**

A. Lee HELLO CELLO!

