

Victoria Yagling in memoriam


An outstanding cellist and composer, Professor Victoria Yagling died suddenly in Helsinki on 1 August 2011. Her playing had a unique natural musicality, a very beautiful sound and an absolute purity. She was also a prolific composer.

VICTORIA YAGLING was born in Moscow on 14 May 1946. At the age of 23 she won the Gaspar Cassadó International Violoncello Competition in Florence and the following year, in 1970, took second prize at the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow.

She studied the cello for 11 years under the tutelage of **Mstislav Rostropovich**, who held his student in high esteem. Having started composing early on, Victoria Yagling complemented a cello degree at the Moscow Conservatory with a degree in composition, in which she was taught by such notable composers as **Dmitry Kabalevsky**. As part of her music studies, she attended lectures by great Russian artists such as **David Oistrakh** and **Emil Gilels**. All of this served to open up a wide-ranging and diverse world of music to the young Yagling.

Victoria Yagling forged a successful, international career as a soloist, playing with many major orchestras and conductors. In 1990 she moved with her son – the pianist **Victor Chestopal** – to Finland, where she taught at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and composed; she also continued her career as a soloist, giving concerts all over the world. She taught many international masterclasses and served on international competition juries.

Victoria Yagling's playing had a unique natural musicality, a very beautiful sound and an absolute purity. These elements were also a feature of her teaching, which soon brought about good results. One of her students, **Sennu Laine**, accompanied by **Anastasia Injushina**, won the prestigious cello-piano duo competition in Munich.

Central to Victoria Yagling's prolific oeuvre as a composer are her pieces for cello: three concertos , a suite for cello and string orchestra, four sonatas and numerous other works. She also wrote orchestral music, two string quartets, pieces for piano and a lot of vocal music – settings of poems by, among others, **Anna Akhmatova** and **Arseniy Tarkovsky**. Her music is profoundly lyrical yet full of energy and temperament, and her contrapuntal thinking is artful. Hopefully her compositions will one day receive the full recognition they deserve.

I got to know Victoria Yagling as a wonderful musician and a kind-hearted friend.

