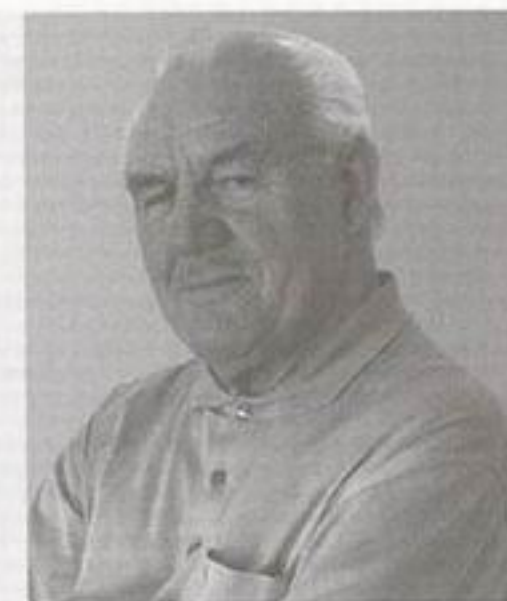




*Natalia Shakhovskaya* (Cello)

Born in Moscow in 1935, Natalia Shakhovskaya studied at the Gnessin School of Music and later at the Moscow Conservatory under S. Kosolupov. Her final studies were with Mstislav Rostropovich in the Conservatory. She has won the most important performance competitions, both Russian and international – among these being the Tchaikovsky Competition, in which she was awarded the First Prize and Gold Medal. Natalia Shakhovskaya has pursued an active professional career, giving both solo recitals and also playing with the best orchestras and conductors. She is currently a professor in the Moscow Conservatory, where she held the Chair of Cello and was Director of the Department of Double Bass between 1974 and 1995. This was after Rostropovich relinquished these posts on his departure from Russia. Mme Shakhovskaya may be credited with more than forty pupils who have won prizes in international competitions. She is regularly invited to give Master Classes throughout the world and to be a member of juries in international performance competitions. She is Head Professor of the Chair of Viola at the *Reina Sofia School of Music*.



*Ludwig Streicher* (Double Bass)

Born in Vienna, Ludwig Streicher completed his studies in the Austrian capital's Academy of Music. From 1945 to 1973 he was a member of the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Opera of Vienna. In 1966 he began teaching in the *Musikhochschule* of Vienna. He was appointed to the Chair of Double Bass in 1973 and this led him to abandon his orchestral work.

Beginning in 1966, his career as a soloist has included recitals in Europe, Africa, America and Japan and performances in concert with numerous orchestras. He has also made extensive recordings for radio and television.

Streicher's teaching career includes performing and giving advanced classes in international festivals and courses. He has made seven LP records and has also published a book: *My Way of Playing the Double Bass*. He is Head Professor of the Chair of Double Bass at the *Reina Sofia School of Music*.