**Francesco Stefanelli - cello**
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**Francesco Stefanelli**, born in 29/10/1999 in San Marino, has shown an extraordinary passion and dedication for classical music since the age of seven.

He has received prizes at several major international competitions including 4th prize at the Classic Cello International Competition 2026 and Special prize for the best semifinal performance, 3rd prize Belgrade International Jeunesses Competition 2022 WFIMC, 2nd prize at the Krzysztof Penderecki International Cello Competition 2018, 3rd prize at Rahn Music Prize in Zurich 2018, 1st prize at the Antonio Janigro competition in Croatia 2016, 1st prize "Maura Giorgetti" of the Filarmonica della Scala 2015 as best young Italian cellist. Furthermore, he won the audition for the Principal Cello position of the Orchestra della Fondazione Arena di Verona in 2023.

He has also been awarded numerous prizes at prestigious international chamber music competitions performing in Duo with pianist Nicola Pantani including 3rd prize at the Premio Trio di Trieste 2026, together with the “Renato Zanettovich” Special prize for Best Duo and Young Award, 2nd prize at the Pinerolo International Chamber Music Competition 2025 WFIMC, a recognition that had not been awarded to an Italian ensemble for twenty years, and recently 1st prize at LFN International Chamber Music Competition 2026.

He represented his country, San Marino, during the Eurovision Young Musicians 2016 and 2018, where he played with the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln in Cologne Roncalliplatz.
He has performed as a soloist in the following locations: London Amarylis Fleming Hall with Philarmonia Orchestra, Belgrade Koralac Foundation Hall with the Serbian Radio Television Symphony Orchestra, Prague Smetana Hall with the North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Parma with Orchestra Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, Macerata with the Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana, Padova with the Solisti Veneti, Caserta with Orchestra Sinfonica Italiana.

He has been a guest as soloist and in duo with piano at festivals such as Unione Musicale Torino, Ente Concerti Pesaro, Sagra Musicale Malatestiana, Musikamera Venezia, MITO Settembre Musica, Associazione Scarlatti Napoli, Amici della Musica Firenze, Amici della Musica Padova, Amici della Musica di Verona, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Accademia Filarmonica Romana, Solisti di Pavia, Fondazione Boccadoro Lugano, Amici della Musica Verona, Ceresio Estate Lugano, Onde Musicali Zone, Associazione il Timbro Torino.

He recorded David Fontanesi's cello concerto with the Orchestra "I Virtuosi Italiani" for Da Vinci Classics, Castelnuovo Piano Quintets with Naxos label and duo album with Chopin and Enescu Cello Sonatas for Da Vinci Classics.

After graduating at only 15 years of age, he was admitted at a very young age to the Master of Arts in Music Performance at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano in Enrico Dindo's class. He recently graduated from the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome with Giovanni Sollima. He studied at the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid with Jens Peter Maintz thanks to the Fundación Albéniz. He’s currently continuing his studies at Accademia Stauffer with Frans Helmerson. He received the prestigious Diploma of honour from Accademia Chigiana di Siena during the masterclass with Maestro David Geringas.
He has attended masterclasses with Antonio Meneses, Thomas Demenga, Ivan Monighetti, Marianne Chen, Alban Gerhardt, W.E. Schmidt, Young-Chang Cho, Asier Polo.

He received scholarships from Switzerland government “ESKAS per l’Eccellenza”, De Sono Associazione per la Musica Torino, Musikakademie Liechtenstein, Fondo per l’Eccellenza San Marino, SUMS San Marino.