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PROGRAM BIOGRAPHY

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Please destroy any material dated prior to September 2023

Camille Thomas, cello

Optimism, vitality, and joyful exuberance are elements of Camille Thomas's rich and compelling personality. The young Franco-Belgian cellist, who signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 2017, understands art's power to bring people together, and to unite individuals from diverse cultures, countries, and backgrounds. Her charismatic artistry is driven by a passion for life and a desire to inspire others to open their hearts to the wonder and emotion of classical music. "Music gives hope for the beauty and greatness of the human soul," she says.

Camille's recent debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Paolo Bortolameolli and the Houston Symphony and Gemma New, and recitals in Boston and New York captivated her audiences and inspired standing ovations at all her performances. Her obvious passion for sharing her love of music created a special bond with her listeners.

Camille Thomas's 2023/2024 season is set to be another remarkable year. She will kick off the season with a series of concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, followed by recitals in Duzniki, Biarritz, and the Kronberg Festival. In addition, Camille Thomas will make her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC under the baton of Gustavo Gimeno and her recital debut in the Bay area with San Francisco Performances. She will also showcase her talents at summer festivals across Europe and at Tippet Rise Art Center, and with the Portland (ME) Symphony Orchestra, Stuttgart Philharmoniker, Sinfonieorchester Aachen, and Philharmonie Zuidnederland.

In addition to her live performances, Camille released in June 2023 a new project with Deutsche Grammophon: "The Chopin Project," which pays tribute to Chopin's favorite instrument, the cello. It is a trilogy of albums that showcases Camille's deep understanding of Chopin's music and its relationship with the cello. The first chapter, "The Franchomme Legacy," explores the close relationship between Chopin and his cellist colleague Auguste Franchomme. The second chapter, "Complete Chamber Music," features a complete collection of Chopin's works for chamber ensemble, performed by Camille and a group of world-class musicians. The third chapter, "Cello Arrangements," presents a unique collection of Chopin's most famous works arranged for the cello by great musicians from all times.

Ms. Thomas is conquering the world stage at a staggering pace. She has already worked with such conductors as Gemma New, Paolo Bortolameolli, Paavo Järvi, Mikko Franck, Darrell Ang, Kent Nagano, and Stéphane Denève and with the Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Academia Santa Cecilia, Staatsorchester Hamburg in the Elbphilharmonie, the Orchestre National de Bordeaux, Brussels Philharmonic, RTE National Symphony Ireland, and the Korean Symphony Orchestra in Seoul.

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Recent international appearances include her June 2022 debut in Japan with Ryusuke Numajiri and the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, concertos with Paavo Jarvi in Bremen, with Mikko Franck at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and the Orchestre Philharmonique de France, with the Lucerne Festival Strings in Munich, and with Alondra de la Parra at the renowned Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. Camille Thomas made her Canadian debut in Montreal at the Salle Bourgie and returned recently to Quebec for the debut performance of Clemens Schuldt as music director of l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec.

Camille made her highly anticipated U.S. debut at the Brevard Music Festival in 2019 performing the Elgar Concerto under the baton of Keith Lockhart. Her whirlwind season then brought her to a number of other leading series and orchestras, in person and online, including Purdue Convocations, The Cliburn, Houston's Society of the Performing Arts, Interlochen Presents, Wisconsin Union Theatre, Emory University, Peoples' Symphony Concerts (her New York City debut at Town Hall), and the Delaware and Illinois Symphony Orchestras.

Voice of Hope, her second DG album, was released internationally in June 2020 to great acclaim. At its heart is the world premiere recording of Fazil Say's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra 'Never Give Up', the composer's response to terrorist attacks on Paris and Istanbul, written expressly for Thomas, who gave its world premiere performance in Paris in April 2018. It is the first classical album recorded in partnership with UNICEF, reflecting the cellist's desire to help others through her music. Her remarkable series of videos, sharing music from empty museums in Paris during lockdown, have been transformative experiences for many thousands of viewers.

Camille studied in Frans Helmerson's and Wolfgang-Emmanuel Schmidt's classes at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin, after working with Marcel Bardon and Philippe Muller in Paris and Stephan Forck in Berlin.

Camille plays the Stradivarius "Feuermann" (1730) cello thanks to the generosity of the Nippon Music Foundation and uses a bow by Eugène Sartory kindly on extended loan from the Fondation Roi Baudoin - Fonds Bollandsee.

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Camille Thomas records exclusively for Deutsche Grammophon. Please visit Ms. Thomas online at camillethomas.com, and on Facebook (@CamilleThomasCellist), Twitter (@camillethomasOF), and Instagram (@camillethomascello) for additional information about touring, recordings, and special projects.

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