

Petr Pitra is an acclaimed cellist whose career spans solo, chamber, and orchestral music, as well as decades of dedication to music education. A recipient of numerous accolades, Petr first gained national recognition in 1987 with an award at the Czechoslovak Interpretation Competition, setting him on a path to perform and teach internationally.

Born into a musical family, Petr's father was an accomplished country guitarist whose band was recognized as one of the best in the genre nationwide, while his mother was a professional singer. Although he began formal music training at age 12, studying both singing and cello, Petr's talent soon became evident. Within just four years, he was accepted into the prestigious Teplice Conservatory.

Under the tutelage of Daniel Veis, widely recognized as the finest Czech cellist since winning the Silver Medal at the 1978 Tchaikovsky International Competition and the First Prize at the 1976 Prague Spring International Competition, Petr developed his craft. Petr further broadened his skills through interpretation courses in Germany and Spain before continuing his studies at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, where he graduated with distinction under Doc. Bedřich Havlík.

Petr's professional journey includes a long tenure with the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, where he advanced from section member to concertmaster and soloist, performing works by Haydn, Dvořák, Brahms, Beethoven, and Martinů across Europe.

As an educator, Petr has served as Director of the Art School in Bečov nad Teplou since 2009, nurturing young musical talent. He rejoined the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Concertmaster in 2011 and continues to be actively involved in chamber music collaborations.

Recognized for his inspirational teaching, Petr is frequently invited to lead master classes across Europe and the United States. In 2024, he joined the faculty of the Mizner Society of Performing Arts in South Florida, where he mentors young cellists as part of their Summer Intensive Chamber Program.

Petr Pitra resides in and continues to teach in Karlovy Vary and Bečov nad Teplou, leaving an enduring legacy through his students, many of whom are emerging as accomplished musicians in their own right.