

Michael Atkinson BMusHons (RCM)

Michael was born on Teesside and after learning with Joan Dutton and Caroline Dale won a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in London with Andrew Shulman. Whilst at the College Michael won most of the cello and chamber music prizes as well as rehearsing Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the English Chamber Orchestra in preparation for a performance by Rostropovich.

In 1994 Michael co-founded the Fidelio Trio which with whom he toured to Hong Kong and France as well as giving the UK premiere of Takemitsu's Between Tides at the South Bank Centre.

In 1999 Michael joined the New Music Players as they embarked on a 3 year residency at York University. They also held residencies at Bristol University and Dartington International Summer School.

Michael joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 2001 with whom he has also appeared as guest principal. The orchestra performs 12 concerts at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall every year in addition to its season at the Barbican Centre and international touring.

Since teaching for the Newham Music Trust whilst at the RCM Michael has taken a keen interest in education. For ten years he conducted the Hillharmonic and Mid Herts String Orchestra in Hatfield. He has also regularly coached the Hertfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra and Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra.

As a key member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra learning department he has devised many projects with young musicians, including performances at the Barbican and the BBC Proms. Michael has also performed in fusion projects with musicians from Iran, Japan and Bali.

Under the auspices of the British Council Michael has travelled to Dubai and Japan coaching chamber music and training musicians in leading creative workshops.

Michael plays a cello by Thomas Kennedy c 1800 on long term loan from Mrs Joan Dutton.