

SUE-ELLEN PAULSEN

cello

Sue-Ellen Paulsen can't remember a time when she did not want to play the cello. She began cello studies at the age of ten in Port Moresby, receiving lessons from an amateur cellist. As a school boarder in Queensland she had no cello teacher, but after the family moved to Brisbane she learnt from Queensland Symphony Orchestra cellist Ray Scott.

Pursuing tertiary studies at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Sue-Ellen Paulsen had lessons with Richard Dedecius, student of legendary cellist André Navarra. As an undergraduate, she performed as soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Conservatorium Orchestra and Queensland Youth Orchestra. In 1980 she won the ABC Concerto Competition (now the Young Performers Award) and was awarded a scholarship enabling her to pursue two years of postgraduate study in Vienna with André Navarra.

Sue-Ellen Paulsen's professional career began in Armidale, where she played for three years with the resident New England String Quartet. She assumed her current position with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO) in 1986. Since then she has been guest principal with the Sydney Symphony, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and in 1988 was one of two Australians invited to play in the World Philharmonic Orchestra in Montreal.

An experienced soloist, Sue-Ellen Paulsen regularly appears with the TSO and other Australian orchestras. In 2006 she performed the Walton Cello Concerto with the TSO. She performs as recitalist around Tasmania and in 1997 toured the Czech Republic with English pianist Michael Allan. She performs regularly in a trio with pianist Duncan Gifford and violinist Susan Collins. In 2006 she was invited to perform at the Four Winds Festival in Bermagui, NSW, and in 2007 she performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville.

A strong advocate for contemporary music, Sue-Ellen Paulsen has commissioned and premiered many new Australian works including one written especially for her by Andrew Ford. She has featured as soloist in CD recordings of works by Peter Sculthorpe, Richard Mills and Gordon Kerry.