

FROM SHANGHAI TO THE WORLD STAGE: Passion, Perseverance, and Inspiration

Sifei Wen - “The Cello Bel Canto” - Critical Acclaim and Artistic Vision

American cellist Sifei Wen is celebrated for her impeccable technique, expressive musicality, and exceptional tonal colors. Audiences around the world have been moved by her artistry, which is rooted in a journey marked by dedication, courage, and resilience. She recalls a pivotal moment before a major concerto performance with the USC Thornton Symphony, standing backstage with her heart racing. The anticipation of the audience’s applause was both exhilarating and daunting. “Music became more than notes—it became a way to share my soul,” she reflects. This experience deepened her resolve and shaped her commitment to a career in music.

Early Life and Crossing Continents

Born in Shanghai, China, Sifei began playing cello at the age of eight, studying under Professor MeiJuan Lui at the Shanghai Conservatory. At thirteen, she and her family relocated to the United States, seeking new opportunities and support for her musical potential. The transition was challenging, but Sifei found comfort and hope in music. She notes, “Each note reminded me of home and the dreams before me.” This major move expanded her horizons, exposing her to new teachers, cultures, and musical experiences.

Education, Mentorship, and Growth

Upon arriving in Los Angeles, Sifei continued her studies with Professor Eleonore Schoenfeld at the USC Thornton School of Music. After Schoenfeld’s passing, she pursued further studies with Aldo Parisot at the Yale School of Music in New Haven. Each step—first to Los Angeles, then to New Haven—brought its own challenges, yet each transition deepened her versatility and musicianship. “Every city added something to my musical voice,” Sifei remembers.

Competition Success and Community Recognition

Sifei has earned Top Prizes in Several Competitions, including the USC Thornton School of Music Strings Concerto Competition, the 25th Kingsville International Young Performers Competition for Bowed Instruments, and the 51st Young Musicians Foundation Debut Concerto Competition. Judges praised her Bach interpretations as “breathtaking—she makes the cello sing.” Such words helped sustain Sifei during difficult moments. Her accolades also include recognition from the National Debut Concerto Competition, Torrance Symphony Young Artists Concerto Competition, ASTA National Solo Competition, and the Music Teachers’ Association of California VOCE Solo State Competition. After one performance at the Festival de San Miguel

de Allende, a young audience member expressed, “Your music made me believe in dreams”—a sentiment that left a lasting impact.

Professional Affiliations and Artistic Development

Active in Organizations such as the American String Teachers Association, Los Angeles Violoncello Society, and Chinese Bowed Instruments Association, Sifei has always sought to give back to her musical community. In 2008, she began private study with Bulgarian violinist Daniel M. Tringov. His mentorship led her to develop a hybrid cello-violin technique, which became a hallmark of her artistry. Sifei notes, “Daniel taught me to experiment, to be fearless, and to find my unique sound.”

Performance Highlights and Collaboration

A Career Highlight was her 2014 interpretation of Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” with the Sofia Soloists at Bulgaria Hall. The energy in the packed venue inspired her: “I played not only for myself, but for everyone who supported me.” The enthusiastic response led to further engagements with orchestras across Bulgaria. In 2016–2017, Sifei performed chamber music with pianist Georgii Tcherkin and co-founded the String Art Quartet with Tringov, where she performed viola parts on the cello, exploring new musical textures.

Recording Projects and International Recognition

Between 2018 and 2020, Sifei recorded Three Albums at Dorian Gray Studio: “Vivaldi – Four Cello Seasons,” “Bach – Six Cello Solo Suites,” “Brahms – Two Cello and Piano Sonatas,” and “Schumann – Cello and Piano Pieces.” These recordings garnered international attention and led to performances at the Mondo Musica International Exhibition in Cremona, Italy, as well as collaborations with **the German Fashion Brand PLAKINGER.**

Entrepreneurship and Recent Endeavors

In 2019, Sifei co-founded the German record label Deutsche Classical in Munich with Daniel M. Tringov. She has since been appointed Director of GOD Art Universe, Global APP Network, and Global ART Entertainment, fostering new platforms for artistic creativity. In 2021, Sifei became a YouTube Artist with her solo album “Noel Cello Angel,” also released on Apple Music and other platforms. Performing this album live at Arsenal Hall in Kazanlak, Bulgaria during the Rose Festival was a meaningful experience: “Music brought together people of all ages and backgrounds.”

Looking to the Future

Sifei Wen’s artistic journey continues. In 2025, she will release a music video of Nimrod Borenstein’s “Soliloquy,” further expanding her creative reach. Through constant reflection and dedication, Sifei’s story remains a testament to the transformative power of passion and music.