

Andy Ly

Professional Biographies

1. SHORT BIO

For programs, 50-70 words

Andy Ly is an American cellist whose work spans solo recitals, chamber collaborations, and orchestral performances throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. A winner of the San Francisco State University Concerto Competition, he studied with Daniel Gaisford, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Matthew Owens, and Sandy Wilson. Andy has performed with ensembles including the Berkeley Symphony and Vallejo Symphony and maintains a private teaching studio in Pleasanton, California.

2. STANDARD BIO

150-180 words

Andy Ly is a professional cellist based in the San Francisco Bay Area, performing a wide range of solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire. He appears regularly with the Berkeley Symphony and Vallejo Symphony, and his performance experience spans concert halls, intimate recital settings, and private engagements throughout California.

Andy studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music before completing his degree at San Francisco State University, where he won the university's Concerto Competition performing Bloch's Schelomo. His artistic voice was shaped through extensive mentorship with cellist Daniel Gaisford, whose influence continues to inform Andy's approach to tone, structure, and expressive clarity.

Beyond performing, Andy maintains a selective teaching studio in Pleasanton, where he works with dedicated students of all ages. His teaching emphasizes strong technical foundations, thoughtful musicianship, and a grounded, honest relationship with the instrument. Whether performing onstage or teaching in the studio, Andy's work reflects a commitment to depth, intention, and musical integrity.

3. EXTENDED BIO

300-350 words

Andy Ly is an American cellist recognized for his expressive sound, nuanced interpretations, and thoughtful approach to the craft of music-making. Active throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, Andy performs a wide spectrum of repertoire, from Baroque and Classical masterworks to contemporary works, and appears in solo recitals, chamber music collaborations, and orchestral performances. His recent engagements include appearances with the Berkeley Symphony, Vallejo Symphony, and other regional ensembles, working under conductors such as Gerard Schwarz, Michael Morgan, and Joana Carneiro.

Andy's musical training began at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and culminated at San Francisco State University, where he was awarded first prize in the university's Concerto Competition with Bloch's *Schelomo*. His artistic development was shaped most profoundly through extensive study with Daniel Gaisford, whose mentorship emphasized tone production, conceptual clarity, and the deeper emotional architecture of sound. Other influential teachers include Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Matthew Owens, and Sandy Wilson.

In addition to performing, Andy is a committed educator. He maintains a selective private studio in Pleasanton, where he works with students across a wide range of levels and aspirations. His teaching philosophy centers on cultivating strong fundamentals, personal expression, and a grounded relationship with music—one that encourages curiosity, resilience, and authenticity.

Andy's repertoire includes major concertos by Dvořák, Elgar, Haydn, Lalo, Saint-Saëns, Schumann, Shostakovich, and Tchaikovsky; recital works spanning Beethoven to Stravinsky; and the complete unaccompanied Bach Suites, Kodály Sonata, Britten Suite No. 1, and other 20th-century masterworks. He is also active in private and special-event performances, curating lyrical, atmospheric programs for weddings, receptions, and intimate gatherings.

Whether performing or teaching, Andy's work reflects a commitment to depth, sincerity, and musical connection—values that continue to shape his growing artistic profile.