

David Chew

David Chew was born in England and studied with William and Tony Pleeth at the Guildhall School of Music. He followed this with a postgraduate degree at the University of Hull where he specialised in Brazilian music. A member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for three years, he worked under some distinguished conductors including Pierre Boulez. He later spent a number of years with the BBC and the London Mozart Players in London before accepting the position of principal cello with the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra in 1981.

Since his arrival in Brazil, David Chew has been one of the most active cellists in the country. A founding member of the Fluminense Federal University String Quartet, Duo Rio Strings and the Santa Ursula University Trio, he also founded the Brazil Consort and the Rio Strings Chamber Orchestra, and the Rio Cello Ensemble, which have toured and recorded extensively over the past few years. In 1995, David founded the Rio International cello Encounter and has been their director ever since. This annual event has gathered together a great number of international musicians to perform more than 50 concertos of chamber music and teach less well-off students.

He has won many international awards for his interpretation of Brazilian music, including being indicated for a GRAMMY and been made an honorary citizen of Rio de Janeiro for his work with the poor communities and contributions to culture.

In 2008, David Chew was appointed associate Professor of cello at the University of Northern Colorado. In 2010, he was awarded an OBE, received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, for services to music in Brazil. In 2011,

In 2011, Professor Chew participated as a member of the International Jury of the XXXV International Music Competition in Chile. In 2012, he was invited as a jury member of the Mravinsky competition in St Petersburg. In 2012, David was awarded Doctor Hon. Clausa by the University of Hull. In 2014 he was awarded the Carlos Gomez medal of merit for services to culture.

David Chew inaugurated a Post Graduate course in Chamber Music at The Brazilian Conservatoire of Music and continues to give lectures and masterclasses in South America, USA, Canada and Europe. As President of the GNO OMUSIC David continues working with local communities and hospitals in the State of Rio de Janeiro, bringing music to those in need.