



Vahur Luhtsalu is cellist, music educator, performing and recording artist, publicist, living and working in Indonesia since 2016 sharing his time until recently between Indonesia and Singapore leading Cello, Chamber Music, Symphonic Orchestra study programs at the Universitas Pelita Harapan, Conservatory of Music in Tangerang, Indonesia and teaching Cello in Tanglewood Music School in Singapore. He had premiered, recorded many solo cello, chamber music and orchestral works of Estonian and Indonesian composers, among others Arvo Pärt, Ananda Sukarlan, Urmas Sisask, Mirjam Tally, Ivan Tangkulung, Wishnu Dewanta, Wilbert Deil and Amanda Chikita.

Over the years he had collaborated with number of international performing artists - conductors Arvo Volmer, ikolai Alexeev, Gevorg Sargsyan, Therese Wirakesuma, violinists Tomislav Dimov, Maano Männi, Amelia Tionanda, Danny Robertus, German Dmitriev, pianists Andres Paas, Amelia Santoso, Stefina Wibisono, jazz pianist Glen Dauna

and vocalist Artidewi.

Vahur Luhtsalu was born in Tallinn, Estonia and started his cello studies there at the age of 8. Over the years he had been instructed by a number of Estonian, Hungarian, Israeli and American cellists - Lembi Mets, Istvan Csurgay, Csaba Onczay, Uzi Wiesel and Bai-Chi Chen. After receiving his Master degree from Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary in 1997 he pursued an active career as cello artist and chamber music teacher at Tallinn Georg Ots Music High School. Since then he has appeared in concerts, music festivals in many countries of Europe and Asia, performing mostly classical chamber music repertoire for cello and piano. Over the years he had been principal or member of the cello section of many orchestras in Estonia, Hungary, Turkey and Indonesia - Budapest Operetta Theatre orchestra, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Istanbul SO, Borusan SO, Jayakarta SO and Universitas Pelita Harapan SO. He had recorded classical works for cello and piano for Estonian, Hungarian national radio stations and as a member of orchestra CDs under various labels (Consonant Works, Alba). Due to the medical condition of his left hand he had a career break of 15 years as a performing artist. Before relaunching his musical and educational career, he had worked in various positions in international affairs at Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Central Bank in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. While being stationed at Estonian Embassy in Turkey, as Deputy Head of Mission, he initiated and organised a number of Estonian cultural events in Turkey, most notably IsTallinnbul – Estonian Cultural Season in Istanbul, then European Capital of Culture in 2010.

He publishes regularly in Estonian, Indonesian newspapers, online media outlets and has participated in TV shows in many countries about music and societal matters. He has appeared in more than 30 countries around Europe and Asia as a music performer and public speaker. His current mission as music educator and performer is to encourage young and emerging musicians to attain fine skills and artistry in cello, chamber music and orchestral performance. He also appears regularly as cello instructor and adjudicator in masterclasses, music competitions. Many of his former cello and chamber music students perform regularly as solo artists or as members of professional collectives in the international music scene. His notable cello students include Rachman Noor, Jonathan Wiliam Abraham and Heidi Imanda Cahyadi, the latter currently continuing her cello studies in the USA.