

### **Short bio:**

**Felipe Avellar de Aquino** is currently a faculty member at the Federal University of Paraíba - UFPB, in his native Brazil, where he holds a full professorship position, combining his cello teaching activities with research and performance. He has played concerts throughout Brazil, as well as in Argentina, Canada, Italy, Germany, Sweden, and the US; and directs the annual UFPB International Chamber Music Festival. He had his education in both Brazil and the United States, having obtained a Doctoral degree in cello performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. For two terms he was a Visiting Professor at Örebro University, in Sweden (February 2020, and May 2023), through the Linnaeus-Palme Program. His articles are published in journals and magazines such as *The Strad Magazine* (London, three articles), *Piano Magazine* (USA), *Music & Musical Performance* (USA), *Revista O Estado da Arte* (Folha de São Paulo), *Revista Opus*, *PerMusi*, and *Musica Hodie* (Brazil). His research is funded by Fapesq, the Paraíba State Research Foundation.

### **Full bio:**

Cellist Felipe Avellar de Aquino obtained his musical training in Brazil, as well as in the United States, where he lived for six years. He has enjoyed an intense and diversified performance career, seeking connections with other forms of arts and humanistic expressions, such as painting, ballet, literature, and philosophy, in various trends of his artistic dimensions. He holds a music degree from the Federal University of Paraíba (Brazil), and a Master's degree in cello performance from Louisiana State University, where he was a Capes scholarship holder between 1992-94. At that University he was a winner of the "92/93 Concerto Competition", having performed as a soloist with the LSU Symphony Orchestra. While at LSU, he was named a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda for his artistic and academic achievements. Between 1996-2000, as a CNPq scholarship holder, he studied at the renowned Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester), in Rochester - New York, where he obtained the title of Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA – in cello performance and literature). His main teachers include Alan Harris, Marcy Rosen (to whom he was an assistant), Dennis Parker, and Nelson Campos, besides lessons with Juarez Johnson and Jorge Román Valenzuela. In addition, he played in the Master-Classes of cellists Janos Starker, Aldo Parisot, Antônio Meneses and Ronald Leonard.

Felipe Avellar de Aquino has been developing intense activity as a soloist and recitalist, having played concerts with American and Brazilian orchestras conducted by Thiago Santos, Paul Chou, Osvaldo D'Amore, Elena Herrera, Akira Mori, Eugene Egan, J. Alberto Kaplan, Carlos Veiga and Wolfgang Groth. As a chamber musician, he was a member of the Cord'Art Quartet in Brazil, and the Artesan String Quartet in the US. In addition, he has played chamber music with musicians such as Guillaume Tardif, Wei-Wei Le, Paul Chou, Sérgio Monteiro, José Henrique Martins, Milton Masciadri, Cinzia Bartoli, Lena Johnson Jasen Todorov, Luiz Gustavo Carvalho, Luiz Amato, Ana Flavia Frazão, Kate Hamilton, John Graham, Daphne Gerling, Pamela Frame and the Ying Quartet, among others. As a member of the Eastman Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, he performed at Alice Tully Hall (Lincoln Center) in New York City. In 2004 he performed a Gala concert at the Itamaraty Palace in Brasília, in an event promoted by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and the Embassy of Canada. He has performed in the main Brazilian cities, in addition to having performed concerts in Argentina, Canada, the United States, Italy, Germany and Sweden.

He is currently a Full Professor of Cello at the School of Music of the Federal University of Paraíba, where he also teaches Chamber Music and develops research on cello performance, pedagogy, and literature. At his University, he coordinated the process of creation and implementation of the Graduate Program in Music.

His cello students have stood out in the Brazilian music scene, obtaining awards in the most relevant musical performance/interpretation competitions, as well as holding positions at important orchestras and universities. Still at UFPB, he coordinates the project Cellos de Câmara – the university cello ensemble.

In addition to his teaching and performance activities, Felipe has developed research and presented lectures on various aspects of the cello literature. His doctoral dissertation, for example, deals with the Brazilian elements present in H. Villa-Lobos' Concerto No. 2 for cello and orchestra. In addition, he published the article "Six-Stringed Virtuoso" in the well-respected British magazine *The Strad* (May 1998), dealing with F. Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata. He has also published articles in scholarly journals such as *Opus Magazine*, *PerMusica Magazine*, *Piano Magazine (USA)*, *Music & Musical Performance (USA)*, as well as books and book chapters. His article entitled "Song of Sorrow" (*The Strad* magazine, March 2006) deals with the use of Russian themes in the Third Suite for solo cello by the British composer Benjamin Britten. His latest article in *The Strad* Magazine pays a tribute to Villa-Lobos, entitled "Villa-Lobos and the Cello: A Voice for Brazil" (London, July 2021).

At the same time, he has been working towards the diffusion of Brazilian music and for the expansion of the repertoire for the cello, having several works dedicated to him, recorded on CDs, broadcast on radio and television, as well as premiered in concert halls.

Between February and March 2007, Prof. Avellar de Aquino gave recitals, master-classes and lectures at Louisiana State University (USA), Nicholls State University and the University of Alberta (Canada). In the program of these recitals, works by Brazilian composers Walter Burle Marx (*Sambatango de Concerto*) and Liduino Pitombeira (*Sonata No. 2*, dedicated to the performer), as well as Pietro Locatelli (*Sonata - Arrangement by A. Piatti*), Benjamin Britten (*Suite No. 3*), Frank Bridge (*Sonata*). On the occasion, he presented a lecture entitled "The Use of Russian Themes in Britten's Third Cello Suite", a tribute to the great Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, who passed away on that very same year.

In 2012, he published the book "VIOLONCELLO XXI: Studies to learn to play and appreciate the language of contemporary music" (Editora Urbana, 2012) in collaboration with cellists Fábio Presgrave and Tereza Cristina Rodrigues (Available at [Loja Clássicos](#)).

In 2014 he presented a series of cello and piano recitals in the cities of Buenos Aires (Argentina), in the Liguria Region (Italy), as well as in João Pessoa and Florianópolis. Three concerts in music festivals in Italy, on the Italian Riviera, in cities such as Genoa,

Savona, and Santa Margherita Ligure - within the festivals Il Concerti di Primavera and the Corzi Internazionali di Alto Perfezionamento Musicali 2014. In 2016 he toured with violinist Guillaume Tardif and pianist José Henrique Martins, in a tour through the university circuit that included, in addition to UFPB, the Universities in Maceió (UFAL) and Rio de Janeiro (UniRio and UFRJ).

He is frequently invited to several Festivals in Brazil, such as the Vale Veneto Festival (Santa Maria - RS), Eleazar de Carvalho Festival (Fortaleza), among others. In 2017, he participated in the Beethoven Festival promoted by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, when he performed alongside Cristina Capparelli Gerling and Fredi Gerling (UFRGS), as well as Victor Rosenbaum (New England Conservatoire).

In February 2020 and May 2023, he served as a Visiting Professor at Örebro Universitet (Sweden) with the support from the Linnaeus-Palme Academic Exchange Program from the Swedish Higher Education Agency. Throughout the pandemic period, he taught cello Masterclasses through digital platforms at the State University of New York (SUNY-Fredonia), Louisiana State University (LSU), University of North Dakota (UND), and the University of Memphis (United States); in addition to lectures and masterclasses at events promoted by the University of Alberta (Canada), UFPA, UFMG, UniRio, UFRGS, UFSM, University of the State of Amazonas (UEA), UFAL, and UFPI.

In 2022 and 2023 he toured Europe, performing in Italy, Sweden and Germany. Including an artistic residency at the University of Münster, Germany, with the support of the CAPES PrInt Program and a concert at the Brazilian Embassy in Stockholm. Last May, he performed in the cities of Stockholm, Örebro, Eskilstuna (Sweden), as well as Rome (in the sumptuous Palestrina Hall at the Palazzo Pamphilj – Brazilian Embassy in Roma) and in Milan, at the prestigious Puccini Hall of the traditional Milan Conservatory.

He has performed at Alice Tully Hall (New York/USA), Kilbourn Hall (Rochester-NY/USA), Sala Poulenc (Buenos Aires/Argentina), Villa Durazzo Palace (Santa Margherita Ligure - Italy), Sala Palestrina (Rome/Italy), Puccini Hall of the Milan Conservatory (Italy), Södra Latin School (Stockholm), Concert Hall at the Örebro University School of Music (Sweden), Itamaraty Palace (Brasília), Sala Cecília Meireles and Sala Villa-Lobos (Rio de Janeiro), Pernambuco Academy of Letters (Recife), Teatro de Santa Isabel (Recife-PE), Auditorium Tasso Corrêa (Porto Alegre), Teatro Treze de Maio (Santa Maria), Teatro do SESI (Goiânia-GO), and Sala Bangüê (João Pessoa). In addition, he has performed in Art Galleries and Universities such as Memorial Art Gallery (Rochester/New York), St. John Fisher College (NY/USA), Elmira College (NY/USA), Nicholls State University (USA), Louisiana State University (USA), University of Alberta (Canada), UFRN School of Music, Brasília School of Music, Pernambuco Conservatory of Music, Federal University of Campina Grande, Santa Catarina State University, Institute of Arts of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, University of Pisa (Italy), Södra Latin School (Stockholm), among others.

Felipe Avellar de Aquino is the founder and artistic director of the PPGM-UFPB International Chamber Music Festival, now in its 7th edition, in addition to coordinating the PPGM International Concert Series, which enriches the cultural life of the Federal

University of Paraíba, as well as the city of João Pessoa, bringing artists from the USA, Canada, Europe and Asia. Website: <http://felipecello.homestead.com> .