

**Vid Veljak** (Rijeka, 1996) began with the cello lessons from the age of three under the mentorship of prof. Tatjana Skljarenko, and shortly after with prof. Mauro Šestan at the Music School Ivan Matetić Ronjgov in Rijeka. Recognizing Vid's talent at a very early age, prof. Valter Dešpalj invites him to his class at the Music Academy in Zagreb, where he successfully passes the entrance exam as a fourteen year old. He graduated cello in 2017. While studying, he perfected his skills at the International Musical Academy of Principality Liechtenstein in the class of prof. Jens Peter Maintz and prof. Valter Dešpalj from 2012 – 2015. From 2016 he has been trained in the class of prof. Romain Garioud in Paris.

He attended master courses of eminent cello pedagogues such as Monika Leskovar, Giovanni Sollima, Enrico Bronzi, László Fenyő, Miklós Perényi, Gustavo Tavares, Enrico Bronzi, Michael Flaxman, Xenia Janković and others. He is the winner of numerous competitions, including the international competitions Antonio Janigro in Poreč and the Distant chords in Split, and in 2015 he was the finalist of the prestigious cello competition "Guilhermina Suggia" in Portugal. As a soloist he performed with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Zagreb Soloists, the Rijeka Chamber Orchestra, the HRT Symphony Orchestra and the Cantus Ensemble. In Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Liechtenstein, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal and the People's Republic of China he has performed as soloist and chamber musician. He is a member of the Quartet Veljak and is the founding member of the Rijeka Piano Trio. He was awarded the Dean's Award in 2016. Already during his studies, he has been performing contemporary cello-repertoire, with a special emphasis on the premieres of contemporary Croatian composers, many of whom wrote for him (he is the youngest Croatian cello player with a concert dedicated to him, Asterion by Oliver Tomislav). With further training, he is currently working on recording his first album, which will feature songs from Croatian composers for the cello solo.

Since March 2019 he has been engaged as a principal cello in the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra.