



American **cellist Dakota Cotugno** started playing cello at 12 years old and has loved it ever since.

He recently graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder on a full scholarship with a degree in cello performance. He will be continuing his education at the University of Michigan, studying with Richard Aaron, in pursuit of a master's degree. Dakota has studied with Heather Plattenberger, Charles Lee, Thomas Heinrich and is currently studying with David Requiro.

Dakota has taken part in competitions such as the Undergraduate Division Honors Competition at CU Boulder, winning first

place, and was a prizewinner at the T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition in 2018. He is the 2019 Second Prize winner of the Irving M. Klein International String Competition, in which he also garnered the Pablo Casals Prize for Best Performance of Bach.

He has attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival and the Accademia Musicale Chigiana program in Siena, Italy and has participated in masterclasses with Joshua Roman, Narek Hakhnazaryan, Asier Polo, and the Takacs Quartet.

This summer, Dakota will be attending the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival. Dakota has a passion for teaching, and currently has a private cello studio of over 20 students.

