



Susanna Mendlow, cellist, is a versatile performer, arranger, and educator living in Washington D.C. She is a member of Kassia Music and Cello, World and is the most recent cellist of QuinTango. Susanna plays a variety of genres, including western classical, world music, experimental jazz, and pop. As both a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, South America, and Central Asia.

Susanna's various projects have brought her to such venues as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Miller Theatre, Symphony Space, Le Poisson Rouge, the Verizon Center, the National Gallery, the Kennedy Center, and the National Cathedral. As a freelance musician, she has played with the Washington Concert Opera, the American Pops Orchestra, Richmond Symphony, and Post-Classical Ensemble. She has collaborated with numerous artists, including Alan Kay, Frank Morelli, Dmitri Berlinsky, Colin Carr, and members of the Emerson Quartet. She also has worked with composers

Kaija Saariaho, Marc Neikrug, Julia Adolphe, Frank Stemper, Stacy Garrop, Judith Shatin, and Noam Faingold, premiering works by the latter four.

Susanna holds degrees from Columbia University, Michigan State University and SUNY Stony Brook. During her studies at Michigan State University, Susanna and three jazz musicians formed Moyindau, an experimental jazz and ethnic folk quartet. Moyindau performed throughout the contiguous US before touring Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic as part of a project to build cross-cultural connections through music. Subsequently, Susanna continued her exploration of arranging, improvising, and performing non-Western music at SUNY Stony Brook. Her doctoral paper, "Musical Transcription and Arrangement in the 21st Century: The Challenges of Reinterpreting a Traditional Bulgarian Folk Song", uses a personal case study to explore the concept of authenticity in modern music performance. Susanna studied with Suren Bagratuni, Misha Quint, and Colin Carr.

After moving to Washington DC in 2015, Susanna joined Kassia Music, where she has premiered several works and reintroduced lesser-known classical works to audiences. From 2015 to 2023, she toured as a member of QuinTango, spreading the love and artistry of tango both domestically and abroad. In 2019, she and cellist Devree Lewis formed the multi-genre duo Cello World, which performs original arrangements of classical and world music. In 2021, the duo presented a series of free interactive concerts to residents of short-term housing facilities in the District, a project generously funded by the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities.

As an educator, Susanna strives to provide a well-rounded music-learning experience, which includes exploring multiple genres, improvisation, and music theory in a supportive and engaging environment. From 2015 to 2019, Susanna served first as Administrative Director and then as Executive Director for Cellospeak, a non-profit devoted to the education of adult cellists. She then continued her relationship with the organization as a member of the faculty, coaching small ensembles and teaching classes on technique, musicianship, stage fright, and improvisation. Susanna currently runs a small private studio and serves on the faculty of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD.

In 2020 and 2021, Susanna earned an artist fellowship from the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities as well as an Emergent Seed award for writing Cello, World's "Variations on Avre Este Abajour". Her debut album, which features her cello arrangement of Mendelssohn's third violin sonata and works for solo cello by Julia Adolphe and Noam Faingold, is anticipated for release later this year.