

**Melissa Coleman** was born in 1968 in Melbourne, Australia and began her musical education with piano lessons at the age of 7.

She studied cello with Henry Wenig and performing arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, where she graduated with distinction 1981 - 1990.

The VCA granted Melissa the loan of a valuable Auguste Sebastian Bernadel cello for 3 years and she was subsequently awarded the prestigious »Peers Cotemore Scholarship« for further studies overseas. She was the recipient of the »Herbert N. Davis Chamber Music Award« from the Musical Society of Victoria in 1987 and the »Hephzibah Menuhin Award for string soloists« in 1989, both presented by Lord Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

In 1990 Melissa resided in London and attended private masterclasses throughout Europe including lessons with Mischa Maisky, Mark Dobrinsky and William Pleeth.

In 1991 she moved to Klagenfurt, Austria to study with Milos Mlejnik and in 1992 she was the first prizewinner at the International Cello competition in Liezen Austria.

Since 1992 Melissa Coleman has lived in Vienna and performs and tours as soloist, chamber and ensemble musician in renowned classical, modern, jazz and world music festivals throughout the world. She also works with music concept, as a composer, arranger and experimental improviser together with individual artists, modern dance, theater productions (Burgtheater Vienna) and multimedia projects. Melissa Coleman has recorded over 40 CDs with diverse ensembles and bands since living in Vienna.

[www.melissacoleman.at](http://www.melissacoleman.at)