



## LOUIS MARIE FARDET ARTIST BIO

(October 2024)

Born in Rochefort, France, cellist Louis-Marie Fardet after beginning at 9 years old his cello studies with Lilliane Léger moved to Paris to attend the prestigious cello Class of Xavier Gagnepain at Boulogne-Billancourt Conservatory (1990-1992) and the renowned Lycée Racine for pre-professional musicians from 1990-93. He was accepted at the Paris Conservatory in 1992, in the studio of Philippe Muller, graduating in 1996. The following two years he studied with Michel Strauss in the Perfectionnement cello class, then came to Houston and earned his Master's Degree at Rice University. Returning to France in 2001, he became a tenured member of the prestigious Paris Opera Orchestra in 2002, six months after being appointed on an unanimous committee vote. After a five-year tenure with Opéra de Paris, Fardet moved back to Houston in late 2006, where he served since 2007 as Assistant Principal Cellist for the Houston Grand Opera and Ballet until 2015, when he won the fourth chair cello position with the Houston Symphony. He serves occasionally as acting principal cellist with the Houston Symphony.

Since 2018 Louis-Marie has been invited to perform every summer with his Francœur Trio at the Round Top Music Festival, and since 2022 they have been additionally teaching as Faculty members and performing for Festival Hill Music Academy of Round Top.

Locally, since almost 2 decades Louis-Marie has been performing for early music ensembles such as Mercury Baroque, Ars Lyrica and Houston Bach Society, where he's has been consecutively invited to Present performances of the Bach Suites for solo cello on February 2024 and February 2025. Including the use of Baroque piccolo cello and viola da gamba in the program.

Louis-Marie participated in both the 1998 and 2000 Ravinia Festival Steans Institutes. In 2000 he played in "Jerusalem Chamber Music Encounters" with Isaac Stern, and in 1999 in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop at

Carnegie Hall. In 1999 he also toured France as a soloist with La Camerata Chamber Orchestra. Fardet was a finalist in the 2001 Houston Symphony Ima Hogg Competition, a semi-finalist in the 1998 Maria Canals Sonata Competition (Barcelona, Spain), a 1996 semi-finalist in the Antonio Janigro International Cello Competition (Zagreb, Croatia), and a recipient of a « Prix special » award at the closure of the 1995 Maurice Ravel Academy given by renowned American cellist Faculty Gary Hoffman,

Louis-Marie Fardet is the founder of Francoeur Chamber Music Society in Houston.