

**Steven Elisha** was recognized by Janos Starker as a cellist “in the front ranks of his generation’s musicians,” Steven Elisha performs throughout the United States and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. Elisha’s New York debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and premiere performance of *Cry of the Dove* (a cello concerto written by his sister, Adrienne Elisha) received critical acclaim. As an honorary member and returned guest of the Beijing Cello Society, he has extensively concertized and taught master classes in conservatories throughout mainland China. He has also performed and taught throughout Europe, Brazil, Israel, Norway, Taiwan and the United States. Dr. Elisha taught cello at the Bergen Conservatory (Norway), where he was interim Co-Principal of the Bergen Philharmonic, the University of Toledo, Connecticut College and Pittsburg State University.

Dr. Elisha holds a BM degree from Indiana University School of Music where he was a student of distinguished cellist Janos Starker, a MM degree from Yale University School of Music where he was a student of and Teaching Fellow for Aldo Parisot, and in 2007, a DMA degree from KU.

Currently, Dr. Elisha is Director of String Studies at Washburn University, Principal Cellist of the Topeka Symphony, and Conductor of the Topeka Symphony Youth Orchestra. He and his wife, TSO Concertmaster Dr. Larisa Elisha, are co-founders of the *Elaris Duo* and *Elaris Duo & Friends* Chamber Music Series. Dr. Elisha regularly gives master classes and workshops/residencies throughout the United States, including his innovative **Mr. Cello Stories** program for audiences of all ages. Director of the TSO Summer Youth Orchestra Academy, he performs regularly at the Sunflower Music Festival and other music festivals throughout the country. Dr. Elisha has recorded for Delos and Musical Heritage Society, including a Grammy-nominated MHS recording of New England piano trios. The **Elaris Duo**, recently featured as soloists with Taiwan National Arts Orchestra in the famed National Hall, received the 2008 Kansas Governor’s Arts Award in the category *Artist*. Their recent CD, *DUO VIRTUOSO*, released on MSR-Classics Recordings, was featured in *Fanfare Magazine*. Other performances have included recitals at the Bergen International Festival, The Grieg Conservatory of Music (Norway) and solo appearances with the Gulf Coast, Sunflower Festival Chamber Orchestra, Topeka Symphony and Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestras.