

Ilse-Mari Lee

Born in South Africa, **Ilse-Mari Lee** studied with Barbara van Wyk, Adolph Hallis, Stephanus Zondagh, Betty Pack, Raya Garbousova, Gordon Epperson, Robert Muczynski, and Irene Sharp.

Active as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician, Ilse-Mari has served as principal cellist of the Intermountain Opera Company since 1990 and performs regularly with the Grand Teton Music Festival.

In 1991, she was awarded the Montana Arts Council Individual Fellowship Award, and was selected to perform at the American Cello Congress in Phoenix. She has collaborated in performances with the Moscow and Muir String Quartets. CD releases include *The Duet Album* with classical guitarist Stuart Weber.

Ilse founded the MSU Cello Ensemble in 1998, which has toured throughout the Northwest, Italy, Europe, and China with the ensemble. Her compositions have been performed in South Africa, Canada, Europe, Southeast Asia, and in China. In 2002, she premiered her Cello Concerto "Mandela" with the Billings Symphony. Her film scores for *Certain Green*, *Forced into Comfort*, and *Fighting for Apology* were awarded gold medals and Director's Choice Awards at the Park City Film Music Festival.

A dedicated teacher, MSU awarded her the "Mortar Board Professor of the Month," the Wiley Award for Meritorious Research (2008), and the prestigious President's Excellence in Teaching Award (2006). In 2000, 2008, and 2009 the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce honored her with the "Excellence in Teaching" Award. She currently serves as the Director of the University Honors Program.