



**Tanja Bechtler (Switzerland) - Cellist**

Tanja holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts and a Master of Music Degree from the Manhattan School of Music. She was honored with the prestigious Women of Achievement Award in 2015 from the General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina, an international volunteer service organization. The Women of Achievement Award recognizes outstanding women for their significant contributions to the state of North Carolina. Bechtler served as an orchestral player for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra for 12 years. She is the founder and director of the Bechtler Ensemble, which is in residency at Queens University. She also spearheaded the Charlotte Composers Forum with regional composers from the Carolinas. This music series can be heard at Queens University, Central Piedmont Community College, the Bechtler Museum, Chicago IL, just to name a few. Her film recordings in conjunction with film composer Fred Story include Elie Wiesel's and Robert Shaw's documentaries. She is an active participant in the Practice HORA program ([www.horausa.com](http://www.horausa.com)) that has enabled her to create her career path after she left the symphony. <http://bechtlerensemble.com>

Call to action:

*"To support HORA Youth - it's changed countless lives in so many countries. There is a youth scholarship fund in place for those that can't afford to do this training in Chicago. The website is [www.horausa.com](http://www.horausa.com)" - Tanja*