

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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## SPECIAL FEATURE on the CELLO-PIANO DUO Wallfisch - York

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formed in 1983

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RAPHAEL WALLFISCH is one of the most celebrated cellists performing on the international stage. He was born in London into a family of distinguished musicians, his mother the cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch and his father the pianist Peter Wallfisch. At the age of twenty-four he won the Gaspar Cassadó International Cello Competition in Florence. Since then he has enjoyed a world-wide career playing with such orchestras as the London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, BBC Symphony, English Chamber Orchestra, Hallé, City of Birmingham Symphony, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Berlin Symphony, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Indianapolis Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic and many others. He is regularly invited to play at major festivals such as the BBC Proms, Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Spoleto, Prades, Oslo and Schleswig Holstein. He is also frequently invited to be a jury member of international competitions such as the Rostropovich International Competition in Paris, the Schoenfeld in China and the Enescu in Romania.

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Raphael has recorded nearly every major work for his instrument. His extensive discography on EMI, Chandos, Black Box, ASV, Naxos and Nimbus explores both the mainstream concerto repertoire and countless lesser-known works. Britain's leading composers have worked closely with Raphael, many having written works especially for him.

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Teaching is one of Raphael's passions. He is in demand as a teacher all over the world and holds the position of professor of cello in Switzerland at the Zürich Hochschule der Kunst. He lives in London with his wife, the violinist Elizabeth, and has three children, Benjamin, Simon, and Joanna.

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Alongside his solo career, Raphael has a long-standing and distinguished DUO with pianist John York. With a rich history of many international recital tours and numerous recordings, the duo celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2017 and look forward to future collaborations. York and Wallfisch recorded the two cello sonatas of Brahms, with the rare posthumously published Sonatensatz, in 2019.

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British Pianist JOHN YORK has become equally well known as a solo pianist, a chamber player, a duo pianist with his wife, Fiona York (she is also an educator). He has recorded a substantial portion of the cello and piano repertory with cellist Raphael Wallfisch. York grew up in the English town of Eastbourne, in East Sussex. He went on to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in the late 1960s, and then studied in Paris and Vienna. He made his recital debut at Wigmore Hall in London in 1974, and that launched a successful solo career that included appearances with the London Philharmonic and the London Mozart Players. Over time, the emphasis in his career turned to chamber music. He founded the York Piano Trio and York Piano Quartet, and he has performed with a roster of top international musicians and ensembles. York taught for many years at the Guildhall and at the St Paul's Girls' School in London. He has also been on the faculty of Switzerland's Astona International Music Academy.

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I, only once, played with John York and I think it was 'only' a masterclass (said respectfully), but it was clear that his musicality oozed out at every moment!

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'documenting the cello'

Please do see other original works for many different instruments and groupings, and also special transcriptions for cellists, and cellists with other instruments on the *Johnstone-Music* web page

Also both general musical and cello based articles, directories of famous historical cellists, and many other items of interest

**DOWNLOADS** - Many downloads on *Johnstone-Music* are now available, for those that are interested, at a *symbolic* payment, which is to help cover the costs of this web site. Some scores/parts are presented in musical edition programmes but generally they are found here in a most “clear” hand-written manuscript copy (the majority to almost a professional copyist standard) and transferred to a PDF file.

As far as *Johnstone-Music* is concerned you are welcome to publicly perform or record any work or piece found in the web; however you DO need to make mention of the name of the composer and the arranger on any printed information (hand programmes, disc covers etc.).

**FREE PUBLICITY** - If you care to inform us of any public performance (no matter how formal or informal the event is), recording or other uses of the original music or arrangements of David Johnstone or of other musical colleagues included in this web, we are happy to give your event free publicity on the *Johnstone-Music* web.

To take advantage of this, try to write to us three weeks or more in advance with any information. Last-minute entries are certainly better than not writing at all - however, understandably, once we have past the calendar month of the event it is not usually possible to add old items to the calendar. It is very interesting for the promoters of *Johnstone-Music* to have knowledge of your activity - and so in return for your information you will be entitled to a free gift of a work/s for every diary addition you tell us about. To find out more about this, please visit the “*Cello Club*” section in the web!