

Cellists' Corner

Brief Career Details of Important Cellists

prepared by David Johnstone from public information

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SPECIAL FEATURE on RAPHAEL WALLFISCH

Wallfisch was born into a family of distinguished musicians; his father was the pianist Peter Wallfisch and his mother is the cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, one of the last known surviving members of the Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz. He studied under teachers including Amaryllis Fleming, Derek Simpson (my teacher at the London Royal Academy of Music!) and Gregor Piatigorsky, among others. He is a prizewinner at the International Gaspar Cassadó Cello Competition in Florence, Italy.

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Wallfisch has recorded on the EMI, Chandos, Black Box, ASV, Naxos and Nimbus labels. He has made CD recordings of almost the entire cello repertoire, including works by Shostakovich, Bloch, Ravel, Busch, Schumann, Zemlinsky and Tchaikovsky. He has recorded a wide range of British cello concertos, including works by James MacMillan, Finzi, Delius, Walton, Bax, Bliss, Britten, Moeran and Leighton. With a discography of over 70 discs Raphael Wallfisch is certainly one of the most recorded classical artists in the world, and these of great artistic level! For example, a BBC survey named Wallfisch's recording of the Dvorak Cello Concerto as the best recording of the work in the past 25 years.

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With concert appearances around the world, Wallfisch is at the height of his powers with a masterful technique and a soaring, singing sound that evokes a tradition continued from his last teacher, Piatigorsky. Raphael Wallfisch has been at the forefront of playing and commissioning new works by contemporary composers, working with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Kenneth Leighton, James MacMillan, Rodion Schedrin, John Tavener and many others.

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He has been appointed to the faculties of the Konservatorium Zürich Winterthur and the Musikhochschule Mainz. He also gives master classes and short courses around the world...



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