

SPECIAL FEATURE on MISCHA MAISKY

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Born: January 10, 1948 - Riga, Latvia (former USSR)

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The Latvian-born Israeli cellist, Mischa [Misha] Maisky, was born as the younger brother of organist and harpsichordist Valery Maisky (1942-1981). Mischa received his first music lessons there at the Children's Music School and Conservatory. In 1962 he entered the Leningrad Conservatory. In 1965 his debut with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra at age 17 earned him the nickname "Rostropovich of the Future". In 1966 he won 6th Prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and began his studies with Mstislav Rostropovich at the Moscow Conservatory while already pursuing a concert career throughout the former Soviet Union.

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Maisky seemed set for a brilliant career, but then his sister emigrated to Israel, and this put Maisky himself under suspicion. After committing a minor crime (buying then considered a 'black market' tape recorder), Maisky was imprisoned for 18 months in a labour camp. When he emerged, he was drafted into the Soviet military, but avoided service by checking himself into a psychiatric facility. Finally, Maisky was allowed to emigrate to Israel on the condition that he pay back the entire cost of his education. Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek arranged for support from U.S. sources, and Maisky moved to Israel in 1972; he did not return to Russia until 1995. He toured with the Israel Philharmonic, including in the U.S. and there, in California, he met Piatigorsky, who agreed to take Maisky on as his final student. Mischa Maisky has therefore the distinction of being the only cellist in the world to have studied with both Mstislav Rostropovich and Gregor Piatigorsky. Mstislav Rostropovich has lauded Mischa Maisky as "*... one of the most outstanding talents of the younger generation of cellists. His playing combines poetry and exquisite delicacy with great temperament and brilliant technique.*" He was now totally ready for an amazing performing and recording career!

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Mischa Maisky has worked in long-standing partnerships with artists such as: the pianists Valery Afanassiev, Martha Argerich, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Boris Berman, Pedro Burmester, Hélène Grimaud, Evgeny Kissin, Evgeni Koroliov, Konstantin Lifschitz, Radu Lupu, Boris Petrushansky, Peter Serkin and Sergio Tiempo; the violinists Janine Jansen, Gidon Kremer, Julian Rachlin, Dmitry Sitkovetsky and Maxim Vengerov; the violists Nobuko Imai and Maxim Rysanov, the oboist Alexei Ogrintchouk; and the conductors Vladimir Ashkenazy, Daniel Barenboim, Leonard Bernstein, Howard Griffiths, Zubin Mehta, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Vladimir Ziva and many others. Maisky's friendship with Martha Argerich has led to many performances together, such as the world premiere of Rodion Shchedrin's double concerto *Romantic Offering* in 2011 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

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As a Deutsche Grammophon artist during the last 25 years, he has made over 50 recordings, including many with such symphony orchestras as: the Wiener Philharmoniker, Berliner Philharmoniker, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Dresdner Philharmonie, Dresden Staatskapelle, Münchner Philharmoniker, Philharmoniker Hamburg, Bamberger Symphoniker, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orquesta Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, Residentie Orkest Den Haag, Royal Flanders Philharmonic Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra; as well as with chamber orchestras including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, Wintherthur Musikkollegium, Kammerorchester Basel, Festival Strings Lucerne, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi, Kremerata Baltica, Polish Chamber Orchestra, Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim, Bayerische Kammerphilharmonie, Pforzheim Chamber Orchestra, Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn.

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Some of Mischa Maisky's most noted recordings, out of so many, include:
J.S. Bach: Six Suites for Solo Cello BWV 1007-1012 (3 complete recordings:
1984, 1986 [DVD] and 1999);

Joseph Haydn: Cello Concertos (Deutsche Grammophon);

Johannes Brahms: Concertos (Deutsche Grammophon);

L.v. Beethoven: Cello Sonatas, Op. 5 (Deutsche Grammophon);

Edward Elgar: Cello Concerto; Tchaikovsky (Deutsche Grammophon);

Maisky & Argerich 'Live in Japan' (Deutsche Grammophon)

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