

Cellist Raphael Wallfisch explores a season of British music on disc and in concert with the Philharmonia performing Tavener's *The Protecting Veil* on 25 November

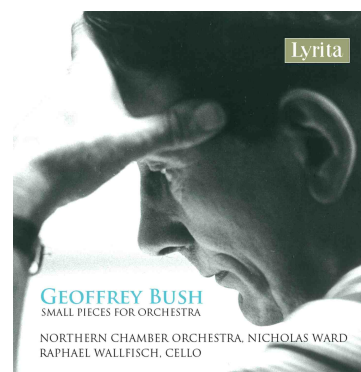
25 November 2014 - 7:30pm
Royal Festival Hall

Sir John Tavener *O where, tell me where?* (UK premiere)
Sir John Tavener *The Protecting Veil*
Sir John Tavener *Song for Athene*
Sir John Tavener *Requiem*

Philharmonia Orchestra
Raphael Wallfisch *cello*
David Hill *conductor*



Released 3 November
Lyrita
SRCD.344



Released 3 November
Lyrita
NI5916

"The performances are quite outstandingly eloquent, the sound sumptuous and true" - Gramophone Magazine

Firmly positioned at the forefront of championing British music of the 20th century, renowned cellist **Raphael Wallfisch** performs the late **Sir John Tavener's** *The Protecting Veil* with the **Philharmonia Orchestra** at the Royal Festival Hall on **25 November** in a tribute concert that includes the **UK premiere** of Tavener's *O Where, tell me where?* for chorus and tubular bells. This coincides with the release of 2 CDs of British music on the **Lyrita** label in November including a disc of cello concertos written for Wallfisch by British composers **John Joubert** (b.1927), **Robert Simpson** (1921-1997) and **Christopher Wright** (b.1954). Also released on the Lyrita label is the premiere recording of **Geoffrey Bush's** *Sinfonietta Concertante for Cello* in which Wallfisch is joined by the **Northern Chamber Orchestra**.

Earlier this year, Wallfisch released a recording of **British music for cello and piano** on Naxos with pianist Raphael Terroni which was *The Strad Magazine's* recommended CD of the month. Reviewer Joanne Talbot commented **"Raphael Wallfisch is the right cellist to bring this repertoire to a wider audience."** Last year Wallfisch gave a performance of 20th Century British composer Sir Granville Bantock's *Sapphic Poem* at the BBC Proms. *The Evening Standard* concluded that Wallfisch **"enchanted his audience with the cello's delightfully mournful tones."**

As Wallfisch explains:

"I have had the opportunity during the course of my career, to explore and rediscover real gems of our repertoire by over 40 British composers. My passion for British music has naturally led to my friendships with many contemporary composers, several of whom have written new works for me,

including Kenneth Leighton, James MacMillan, John Tavener, Graham Fitkin and Peter Maxwell Davies.”



Adding to a staggering discography of nearly 80 CDs, Wallfisch also releases a disc of Russian piano trios with Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch on the Nimbus label. The programme includes Rachmaninoff's *Elegiac Trio*, Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2 and Anton Arensky's Piano Trio No. 1. Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch's last CD of works by Ravel and Fauré on Nimbus was BBC Music Magazine's "Recording of the Month" with the magazine commenting "The recording is excellent, with Raphael Wallfisch's *pianissimos* to die for."

Wallfisch's upcoming concert appearances include a performance of Ernest Bloch's unpublished *Sonate pour piano et violoncelle* at the Central Synagogue in London on 17 December with his long-term duo partner John York. In January 2014, Wallfisch released a disc of Jewish music including Bloch's *Schelomo* with his son Benjamin Wallfisch conducting the BBC National Orchestra of Wales on the Nimbus label. The CD received excellent reviews with The Arts Desk describing it as a "marvellous anthology."

Click [here](#) to listen to Wallfisch and John York on BBC Radio 3 'In Tune'

Recent Press Quotes:

"Soloist Raphael Wallfisch enchanted his audience with the cello's delightfully mournful tones." - Evening Standard

"There is some exquisite music-making here; the Welsh players excel in Bloch's Voice in the Wilderness and Schelomo, underpinning Raphael's gloriously rich, sonorous solo lines." - The Observer

"Raphael Wallfisch played it as though he really believed in it ..." - Guardian

"Wallfisch was gloriously equal to its demands ... his first movement became an unfolding of the most gripping, characterful, spontaneous sort" - Financial Times

"Raphael brings impressive colour and characterisation to the cello part - bold, dramatic and magically sensitive" - The Strad

"Raphael Wallfisch was a superlative cello soloist. Performances as brilliant as this can "make" a piece." - Classical Iconoclast

Upcoming highlights include...

Sunday 09 November

King's Place, London

Sonatas by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov

Raphael Wallfisch *cello*

John York *piano*

Friday 21 November

Teatr Wielki Poznan, Poland

Elgar Cello Concerto

Orchestra of the Opera of Poznan

Raphael Wallfisch *cello*

Gabriel Chmura *conductor*

Tuesday 25 November

Royal Festival Hall, London

Tavener *The Protecting Veil*

Philharmonia Orchestra

Raphael Wallfisch *cello*

David Hill *conductor*

Friday 05 December

Schwerin, Germany

Beethoven Sonatas

Raphael Wallfisch *cello*

John York *piano*

Wednesday 17 December

Central Synagogue, London

Beethoven, Schumann, Rachmaninov, Bloch

Raphael Wallfisch *cello*

John York *piano*

Raphael Wallfisch

“Wallfisch was a superb soloist.” - Guardian

With a prolific discography and concert appearances with many of the world's greatest orchestras and conductors, Raphael Wallfisch is at the height of his powers as a performer. With a masterful technique and a soaring, singing sound that evokes a tradition continued from his teacher, Piatigorsky, he can now claim to be the most recorded contemporary cellist and perhaps the most recorded British string player in history.



Wallfisch was born into a family of distinguished musicians, his father the pianist Peter Wallfisch and his mother the cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch who, having survived Auschwitz is one of the founding members of the English Chamber Orchestra. Wallfisch's son, Benjamin, is swiftly making a name for himself as a sought-after composer and conductor, having studied in London with Charles Mackerras and Vernon Handley. Benjamin composes film music and currently works in Hollywood.

Recently he has performed with the Auckland Philharmonia, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Vancouver Symphony, Västerås Sinfonietta and BBC Philharmonic as well as the London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic and many others. A popular visitor to major music festivals worldwide, he has played at the BBC Proms, the Edinburgh International, Aldeburgh, Spoleto, Prades, Bergen International, Montpellier, Pablo Casals, Wratislavia Cantans and Schleswig-Holstein Festivals. Wallfisch celebrated his 60th birthday in 2013, marked with a host of prolific recording releases and concert appearances.

As a performer and recording artist, perhaps more than any other cellist Wallfisch has championed British music, releasing critically-acclaimed recordings of works by MacMillan, Finzi, Delius, Bax, Bliss, Britten, Moeran and Leighton. Many of Britain's leading composers have worked closely with Raphael Wallfisch, several having written works especially for him. These include Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Kenneth Leighton, James MacMillan, Paul Patterson, John Joubert, Robert Simpson and Sir John Tavener. Raphael Wallfisch's extensive discography includes recordings of both the mainstream concerto repertoire - many widely considered to be benchmark performances - and countless lesser-known works by Dohnanyi, Respighi, and Martinu, as well as Richard Strauss, Dvorak, Kabalevsky and

Khachaturian.

Raphael Wallfisch plays a 1760 Gennaro Gagliano cello and the 1865 Vuillaume “Sheremetev”.

<http://www.raphaelwallfisch.com/>

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