

## Cellist Raphael Wallfisch champions neglected composers: Bloch, Weinberg & Clarke



### ***Voices in the Wilderness: CD Releases***

**Bloch** *Symphony for Trombone or Cello* **FIRST CELLO RECORDING** –  
**Ben-Haim** *Cello Concerto* – **Korngold** *Cello Concerto in C, from 'Deception'*

**Weinberg** *Concertino* **FIRST RECORDING** – *Concerto – Fantasy*

**25 September**  
Wigmore Hall

**17 October**  
Royal Festival Hall

**31 October**  
Cadogan Hall

Chamber works by  
**Bloch** and **Clarke**

**Bloch** *Schelomo*

**Dvořák** *Cello Concerto*  
**Shakhidi** *Autumn Strings*  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

This autumn, internationally-renowned cellist **Raphael Wallfisch** unearths works by three underestimated 20<sup>th</sup> century composers. In the first of several appearances at the Wigmore Hall this season, Raphael Wallfisch recreates a fierce composition competition between Ernest Bloch and Rebecca Clarke, one hundred years to the day since it took place. Marking **Ernest Bloch's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year** (1880-1959), Raphael Wallfisch also performs Bloch's mighty *Schelomo* at the Royal Festival Hall with the Philharmonia Orchestra, and champions Weinberg's *Cello Concerto* in Szczecin and Nancy.

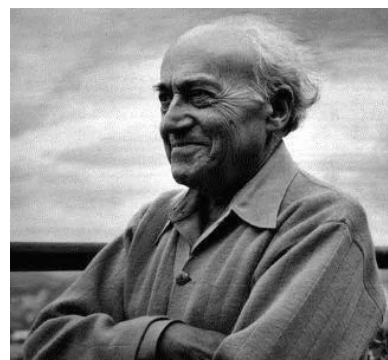
In two CDs to be released this autumn, Wallfisch commits to disc the first recordings of Ernest Bloch's unusual *Symphony for Trombone or Violincello* and Mieczysław Weinberg's *Cello Concertino* as part of his *Voices in the Wilderness* recording series. The busy autumn also brings performances of the Finzi *Cello Concerto* in Moscow and the world premiere of Tolibkhon Shakhidi's *Autumn Strings* at the Cadogan Hall alongside Dvořák's *Cello Concerto*.



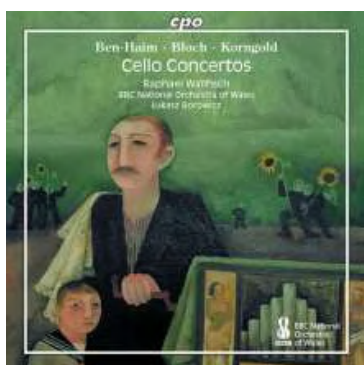
On **25 September**, a concert at the **Wigmore Hall** marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a dramatic rivalry between Bloch and fellow composer **Rebecca Clarke**. Both had written viola pieces for a 1919 composition prize organised by Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, and tied for joint first place in a field of over 70 entries. With the tie eventually broken by Coolidge herself, Bloch was awarded first place with reports speculating that "Rebecca Clarke" was in fact a pseudonym for Bloch himself, the idea that a woman could write such a work being socially inconceivable.

Wallfisch performs works by both composers, renewing the spirit of the competition a century later, with pianist John York. Alongside **Bloch's Suite for viola and piano**, performed in its cello arrangement by Gabor Rejto/Adolph Baller), Wallfisch performs **Clarke's Rhapsody for cello and piano** written only four years after the competition. The programme is completed with songs by Clarke, sung by Ailish Tynan, and works by two further female contemporaries of Clarke: **Lili Boulanger** and **Muriel Herbert**.

One of the most original composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Bloch's music, whilst intellectually challenging, remains accessible to a wide audience. His repertoire incorporated a variety of influences such as Renaissance, neo-Classical, neo-Romantic writing, though a substantial number of Bloch's works carry Jewish titles: on **17 October**, Wallfisch joins conductor **David Hill** and the **Philharmonia Orchestra** to perform **Ernest Bloch's** mighty **Schelomo** (*King Solomon*) at the **Royal Festival Hall**.

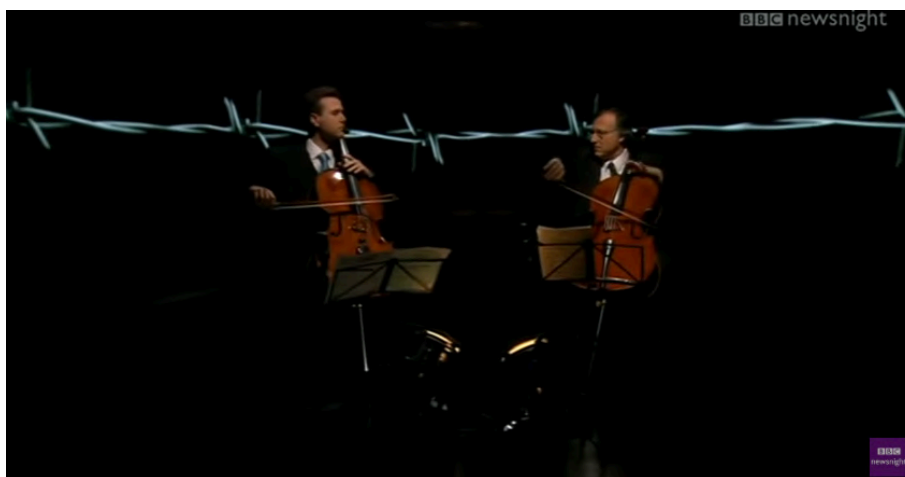


*Schelomo*, Bloch's 1917 "Hebraic Rhapsody" for cello and orchestra, represents King Solomon through its cello line, and marks the closing of the composer's "Jewish cycle". One of Bloch's best-known compositions, the work was the composer's final piece before emigrating to America, where he eventually settled by the sea in Agate Beach, Oregon. *Schelomo* is performed at the Royal Festival Hall as part of a sea-inspired programme also featuring Delius's *Sea Drift*, Debussy's *La mer*, and the world premiere of Roxanna Panufnik's *Four Choral Seasons*.



Wallfisch's pays tribute to Bloch with the debut recording of the Swiss-American composer's **Symphony for Trombone or Cello** in its cello version. The unusual 1954 work was written for eminent trombonist Davis Shuman, with the solo instrument rising out of the orchestral texture in three movements, the first and last serving as an introduction and conclusion to the expanded middle movement full of skilful counterpoint.

The *Symphony* was recorded with the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** under conductor **Łukasz Borowicz** and is released on **CPO** on **17 September** as part of Wallfisch's ***Voices in the Wilderness: Cello Concertos by Exiled Jewish Composers*** series. The *Voices in the Wilderness* series has previously championed concertos by Gál, Reizenstein, Bloch, and Goldschmidt. Alongside Bloch's *Symphony*, the disc includes **Korngold's** unusual ***Cello Concerto in C***, after the fictional 'Hollenius' *Concerto* he wrote for the film *Deception*, and the ***Cello Concerto*** by **Paul Ben-Haim**, considered the father of Israeli classical music.



[Watch Wallfisch perform Bloch's \*Jewish Song\* with his son Simon \(Newsnight\)](#)

A second new disc in the *Voices in the Wilderness* series released this autumn includes the first recording of **Mieczysław Weinberg's *Concertino***, a revised version of the composer's *Cello Concerto* for cello and strings, written for Rostropovich but seemingly never performed. Wallfisch performs with **Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra** on the disc, to be released on CPO.



The all-Weinberg disc also includes the original ***Cello Concerto*** and ***Fantasy for cello and orchestra***, released to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Weinberg's birth. Elsewhere this season, Wallfisch performs the concerto in **Szczecin** (with the Szczecin Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and Borowicz on **25 October**) and **Nancy** (**28-29 November**).



On **31 October**, Wallfisch performs the world premiere of **Tolib Shakhidi's *Autumn Strings*** at the Cadogan Hall. A work for cello and orchestra, the premiere is the latest product of the long-standing relationship between the Tajik composer and the Mozart Symphony Orchestra. Under conductor **Philip Mackenzie**, Wallfisch also performs **Dvořák's *Cello Concerto***.



Over 2019-20, Raphael Wallfisch joins his **Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch** to present Beethoven's complete piano trios at the **Wigmore Hall**. In a series of concerts from September to June, Wallfisch, Hagai Shaham, and Arnon Erez perform the composer's seven piano trios, the bedrock of piano trio repertoire, as part of the anniversary celebrations in Beethoven's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday year. Their latest Beethoven disc, released on **Nimbus** on **9 September**, features **Beethoven's Triple Concerto** recorded with the Orchestra of the Swan, paired with the composer's '**Archduke**' *Piano Trio*.

## Listings

### CD release: Monday 9 September

Nimbus Records

**Beethoven** *Triple Concerto*  
**Beethoven** '*Archduke*' *Piano Trio*

**Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch**  
**Orchestra of the Swan**

### CD release: Tuesday 17 September

CPO

**Voices in the Wilderness: Cello Concertos by Exiled Jewish Composers**

**Bloch** *Symphony for Trombone or Cello* **FIRST CELLO RECORDING**

**Korngold** *Cello Concerto in C*  
**Ben Haim** *Cello Concerto*

**BBC National Orchestra of Wales**  
**Łukasz Borowicz** conductor

### CD release: winter 2019

CPO

**Voices in the Wilderness: Cello Concertos by Exiled Jewish Composers**

**Weinberg** *Concertino*  
**Weinberg** *Cello Concerto*  
**Weinberg** *Fantasy for cello and orchestra*

**Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra**

**Łukasz Borowicz** conductor

**Wednesday 25 September, 7:30pm**

Wigmore Hall

Includes:

**Rebecca Clarke** *Rhapsody for cello and piano*

**Ernest Bloch** *Suite for viola and piano*

With:

**Ailish Tynan** soprano

**John York** piano

**Sunday 29 September, 11:30am**

Wigmore Hall

**Beethoven** *Piano Trio in Eb*

**Beethoven** *Piano Trio in D*

**Trio Shaham Erez Wallfisch**

**Thursday 17 October, 7:30pm**

Royal Festival Hall

Includes:

**Bloch** *Schelomo*

**David Hill** conductor

**Philharmonia Orchestra**



**Friday 25 October, 7:00pm**

Filharmonia, Szczecin

**Weinberg** *Cello Concerto*

**Szczecin Philharmonic Symphony  
Orchestra**

**Łukasz Borowicz** conductor

**Thursday 31 October 2019,  
7:30pm**

Cadogan Hall

**Dvořák** *Cello Concerto*

**Elgar** *Enigma Variations*

**Tolibkhon Shakhidi** *Death of  
Usurer*

**Tolibkhon Shakhidi** *Autumn  
Strings* **WORLD PREMIERE**

**Mozart Symphony Orchestra**

**Philip Mackenzie** conductor

**Wednesday 20 November,  
7:00pm**

Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Moscow

**Finzi** *Cello Concerto*

**Moscow Radio Symphony  
Orchestra**

**Justin Brown** conductor

**Thursday 28 November, 8:30pm**

**Friday 29 November, 8:30pm**

Salle Poirel, Nancy

**Weinberg** *Cello Concerto*

**Orchestre de l'Opéra national de  
Lorraine**

**Marko Letonja** conductor

## **Raphael Wallfisch**

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 an early age, Raphael was greatly inspired by hearing Zara Nelsova play, and, guided by a succession of fine teachers including Amaryllis Fleming, Amadeo Baldovino and Derek Simpson, it became apparent that the cello was to be his life's work. While studying with the great Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky in California, he was chosen to perform chamber music with Jascha Heifetz in the informal recitals that Piatigorsky held at his home.

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. 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 Zurich Hochschule der Kunst.

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 by Dohnanyi, Respighi, Barber, Hindemith and Martinu, as well as Richard Strauss, Dvorak, Kabalevsky and Khachaturian. He has recorded a wide range of British cello concertos, including works by MacMillan, Finzi, Delius, Bax, Bliss, Britten, Moeran and Kenneth Leighton. For the Chandos Walton Edition he was privileged to record the composer's Cello Concerto, originally written for his master, Piatigorsky.

Britain's leading composers have worked closely with Raphael, many having written works especially for him. These include Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Kenneth Leighton, James MacMillan, John Metcalf, Paul Patterson, Robert Simpson, Robert Saxton, Roger Smalley, Giles Swayne, John Tavener and Adrian Williams. Raphael plays a 1760 Gennaro Gagliano, the 1733 Montagnana "Ex-Romberg" and an exquisite modern cello built for Raphael by Patrick Robin.

[www.raphaelwallfisch.com](http://www.raphaelwallfisch.com)

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