

## Cellist Raphael Wallfisch champions neglected composers on disc: Bloch and Weinberg



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

**Friday 1 November**

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

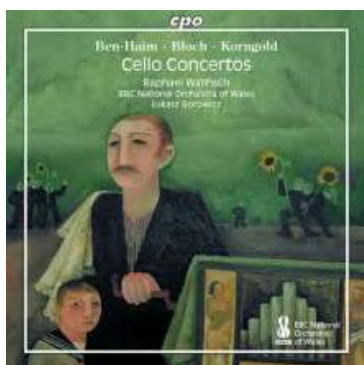
**Friday 6 December**

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

Internationally-renowned cellist **Raphael Wallfisch** releases two new albums in his *Voices in the Wilderness* series, unearthing works by the underestimated 20<sup>th</sup>-century composers **Ernest Bloch** and **Mieczysław Weinberg**. On 1 November, Wallfisch commits to disc the **first recording** of Ernest Bloch's unusual *Symphony for Trombone or Violincello*, followed on 6 December by the first recording of Mieczysław Weinberg's *Cello Concertino*, both released on the **CPO** label. The **Voices in the Wilderness series** has previously championed concertos by Gál, Reizenstein, Bloch, and Goldschmidt.

Wallfisch champions Weinberg's *Cello Concerto* in performances in Szczecin and Nancy, and 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*.

Marking his **140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year** (1880-1959), Wallfisch's pays tribute to Ernest 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.

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.

Recorded with the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** under conductor **Łukasz Borowicz**, the disc also 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.

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

### Monday 9 September

Nimbus Records

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

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

### Friday 1 November

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

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**Voices in the Wilderness: Cello**  
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**Weinberg** *Concertino*  
**Weinberg** *Cello Concerto*  
**Weinberg** *Fantasy for cello and*  
*orchestra*

**Kristiansand Symphony**  
**Orchestra**  
**Łukasz Borowicz** conductor

### 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 Poiriel, 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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