

Elizabeth Wallfisch

Director & Violin

“One of the great period violin players, with an expressive tone and an awe-inspiring technique” All Music Guide

A leading interpreter of music on the baroque and classical violins, **Elizabeth Wallfisch**, is a favourite with both audiences and orchestras because of her virtuosity, her generous, sparkling personality and her impeccable musicianship. Her appearances are marked by a daring and spontaneous approach to performance that results in electrifying music making.

Renowned not only as a prominent interpreter of 17th and 18th century violin music, she is also an inspiring leader and director. She has guest-directed many of the world's finest period orchestras, including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Netherlands Bach Society, Tafelmusik, Apollo's Fire, the Hanover Band, L'Orfeo Barockorchester, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and the Philharmonia Baroque. Increasingly popular with modern-instrument orchestras, she has also directed the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the Vancouver Symphony.

Her playing has taken her from the Lincoln Center in New York, where she led the Orchestra of the Enlightenment in the opening concert of the 2003 Handel Festival, to Zimbabwe, where she appeared as soloist with the Harare Symphony Orchestra (and brass band from the local police department!) in a rendition of Brahms' Violin Concerto. For 18 years she has been the concert master of the prestigious Carmel Bach Festival in California. In January 2007 she was the Music Director of National Music Camp Australia, and now works every year with the Australian Youth Orchestra.

Elizabeth Wallfisch's long and impressive discography offers a window onto her expansive musical world. From the High Baroque Italian violinist-composers such as Vivaldi, Corelli, Veracini, Tartini, Geminiani and the Classical and Romantic greats from Mozart to Mendelssohn, she also embraces the music of their lesser-known contemporaries such as Myslivecek and Abel. She has explored the music of Paganini, Spohr, Kreutzer, Rode, and Viotti and has recorded much of the music of the great Baroque tradition, from the earliest Italian violin music of Cima, to Biber, Telemann, Bach, Locatelli, Corelli, Veracini and the rich, sensual music of the French Baroque.

Forthcoming and recent directing engagements include the European Union Chamber Orchestra, the Music of the Baroque Orchestra in Chicago, Les Violons du Roy, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Pacific Baroque Orchestra in Vancouver and the Stuttgarter Kammerorchester. Always keen to nurture young talent, Elizabeth has recently formed the **Wallfisch Band**, a unique international period-instrument orchestra in which hand-picked younger players, either still studying or on the threshold of their careers, play alongside Elizabeth and her seasoned colleagues, all players at the very top of the profession. The experience is a living masterclass within an intensive rehearsal and concert environment. The combination of youthful energy and musical experience results in performances of the greatest vigour, intensity and passion. The ensemble made its debut in the 2008 Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music and has recently performed in the UK, New Zealand, France. Next seasons engagements will include residencies and performances in Germany and Holland.

Elizabeth Wallfisch's has published a treatise, specifically on fundamental aspects of baroque violin playing: 'The Art of Playing Chin-Off for the Brave and the Curious'.