

Pieter Wispelwey

Cello



" Cello playing of incomparable technical and musical accomplishment."

**Hugh Canning,
The Sunday Times**

Pieter Wispelwey is equally at ease on the modern or period cello. His acute stylistic awareness, combined with a truly original interpretation and a phenomenal technical mastery, has won the hearts of critics and public alike in repertoire ranging from JS Bach to Schnittke, Elliott Carter and works composed for him.

Together with Paolo Giacometti, Wispelwey is the recipient of the 2019 Brahmspreis in recognition of the duo's groundbreaking interpretations of the composer's music, which culminated in an exciting recording venture committing the complete duo works by Schubert and Brahms to disc. The final instalment of the 6 CDs was released in May 2019 by Evil Penguin Records Classic.

Wispelwey's other chamber music collaborators include pianists Cédric Tiberghien and Alasdair Beatson, and he appears as a guest artist with a number of string quartets including the Australian String Quartet and the Doric String Quartet. A new collaboration with harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani sees him explore programmes centred around Bach's Gamba Sonatas across Europe.

Wispelwey's career spans five continents and he has appeared as soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras including the Boston Symphony, Dallas Symphony, St Paul's Chamber Orchestra, NHK Symphony, Yomiuri Nippon, Tokyo Philharmonic, Sapporo Symphony, Sydney Symphony, London Philharmonic, Hallé Orchestra, BBC Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Academy of Ancient Music, Gewandhaus Orchester Leipzig, Danish National Radio Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra and Camerata Salzburg.

Conductor collaborations include Ivan Fischer, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Herbert Blomstedt, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Jeffrey Tate, Kent Nagano, Otto Tausk, Sir Neville Marriner, Philippe Herreweghe, Vassily Sinaisky, Vladimir Jurowski, Louis Langrée, Marc Minkowski, Ton Koopman and Sir Roger Norrington.


With regular recital appearances in London (Wigmore Hall, Kings Place), Paris (Châtelet, Louvre), Amsterdam (Concertgebouw, Muziekgebouw), Brussels (Bozar), Berlin (Konzerthaus), Milan (Società del Quartetto), Buenos Aires (Teatro Colon), Sydney (The Utzon Room), Los Angeles (Walt Disney Hall) and New York (Lincoln Center), Wispelwey has established a reputation as one of the most charismatic recitalists on the circuit.

In 2012 Wispelwey celebrated his 50th birthday with a project showcasing the Bach Cello Suites, resulting in his third recording of the complete Suites, released on EPR Classic. The box set also includes a DVD featuring illustrated debates on the interpretation of the Bach Suites with eminent Bach scholars Laurence Dreyfus and John Butt. His performances of the complete suites during the course of one evening form a major strand of his recital appearances, an accomplishment that has attracted major critical acclaim throughout Europe and the US. "On paper it is a feat requiring brilliance, stamina and perhaps a bit of hubris. In practice Mr. Wispelwey proved himself impressively up to the challenge, offering performances as eloquent as they were provocative" (New York Times).

In 2017, he extended said feat into a venture of yet greater proportion, playing the complete Bach Suites, Beethoven's complete works for cello and piano, and the two cello sonatas by Brahms over the course of three consecutive evenings at Melbourne Recital Centre as part of their Great Performers Series.

Pieter Wispelwey's impressive discography of about 50 albums, available on Channel Classic, Onyx and EPR, has attracted major international awards. Recent releases include C.P.E. Bach's Cello Concerto in A major with the Musikkollegium Winterthur as well as Lalo's Cello Concerto, Saint-Saen's Concerto no.2 and the Britten Cello Symphony with Seikyo Kim and the Flanders Symphony Orchestra, Walton's Cello Concerto (Sydney Symphony/Jeffrey Tate), Prokofiev's Sinfonia Concertante (Rotterdam Philharmonic/Vassily Sinaisky).

Recent and upcoming highlights include Brahms' Double Concerto with Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen and the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, Elgar's Cello Concerto with the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra, Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 with the Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo and at Tokyo's Toppan Hall for the Suntory Award, the North American premiere of Michel van der Aa's new double concerto *Akin* with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and recitals across four continents.

Born in Haarlem, The Netherlands, Wispelwey studied with Dicky Boeke and Anner Bylisma in Amsterdam and later with Paul Katz in the USA and William Pleeth in the UK. Pieter is Professor of Cello at Robert Schumann Musikhochschule Düsseldorf and the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. He plays on a 1760 JB Guadagnini cello and a 1710 Barak Norman baroque cello. 

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