

# Antonio Meneses

Cellist



" Aristocratic...close to perfection."

**The Daily Telegraph**

Born in Recife, Brazil, in 1957 into a family of musicians, **Antonio Meneses** began his cello studies at the age of ten. At 16, he met the famous Italian cellist Antonio Janigro and was asked to join Janigro's classes in Düsseldorf and later in Stuttgart. He won the first Prize at the 1977 ARD International Competition in Munich and was awarded First Prize and Gold Medal at the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

Appearing in the music capitals of Europe, the Americas and Asia, Antonio Meneses has performed with most of the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony, BBC Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Orchestre National de France, Czech Philharmonic, Moscow and Saint Petersburg Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Bayerische Rundfunk Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, The Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra (Washington D.C.) and the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo. Among the conductors with whom he has collaborated are Claudio Abbado, Gerd Albrecht, Herbert Blomstedt, Andrey Boreyko, Semyon Bychkov, Riccardo Chailly, Sir Andrew Davis, Charles Dutoit, Daniele Gatti, Neeme Järvi, Mariss Jansons, Herbert von Karajan, Riccardo Muti, Eiji Oue, André Previn, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Kurt Sanderling, Vladimir Spivakov, Yuri Temirkanov and Christian Thielemann.

Antonio Meneses is also a frequent guest at many of the most prestigious music festivals, including Salzburg, the Vienna Festwochen, Berlin Festwochen, Festival de Colmar, la Grange de Meslay, Lucerne Festival, the Prague Spring and Autumn festivals, the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, Mostly Mozart Festival in New York and the Festival Pablo Casals in Puerto Rico.

A devoted chamber musician, Antonio Meneses was a member of the legendary Beaux Arts Trio between October 1998 and September 2008. He has also collaborated with the Vermeer Quartet on tour, and gives chamber music concerts and duo recitals with pianists such as Gérard Wyss and Menahem Pressler (with whom he toured Japan in December 2010, and will tour Europe in November 2011 and January 2012). Antonio recently performed with Maria João Pires at the Festival de Campos do Jordão and Wigmore Hall, where they returned earlier this year for a duo recital, recorded live by Deutsche Grammophon.

As a recording artist, Antonio Meneses has made two recordings for Deutsche Grammophon with Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra: Brahms' Double Concerto with Anne-Sophie Mutter and Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote*. Other recordings include

the d'Albert Concerto and works of David Popper with the Basel Symphony Orchestra, C P E Bach's cello concertos with the Munich Chamber Orchestra for Pan Classics, the Six Bach Suites for Solo Cello (Nippon Phonogram), Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio (EMI/Angel), and the concertos and Fantasy for Cello and Orchestra by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Auvidis France).

December 2003 saw the release of Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras N° 1 and N° 5* with the Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo conducted by Roberto Minczuk (for BIS), and he has also recorded Dvorak's Cello Concerto with the same orchestra under John Neschling's direction (Avie, 2008). Antonio enjoyed highly-successful tours of the USA (in 2007) and Europe (2010) with the Sao Paulo Orchestra.

Recent recordings include the complete works for Cello and Piano by Villa-Lobos with Cristina Ortiz; an album of encore pieces with Gérard Wyss; and the Six Bach Suites for Solo Cello (AVIE, 2004). Further recordings for the AVIE label include works by Schubert and Schumann with Gérard Wyss and a Beethoven disc with Menahem Pressler. July 2010 saw the release of Haydn's Cello Concertos and the Concertino by Pereira with the Northern Sinfonia.

Upcoming highlights include performances and a recording with the Northern Sinfonia; appearances at some of the UK's most prestigious festivals this Summer; and ongoing touring projects with Maria João Pires.

In addition to his busy concert schedule, Antonio Meneses regularly gives masterclasses in Europe, the Americas and Japan, as well as teaching at the Bern Conservatory.

Antonio Meneses plays a Alessandro Gagliano cello made in Naples ca. 1730.

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Rayfield Allied  
Southbank House,  
Black Prince Road,  
London SE1 7SJ, UK  
**www.rayfieldallied.com**  
**E-mail** info@rayfieldallied.com  
**Telephone** +44 (0) 20 3176 5500  
**Facsimile** +44 (0) 700 602 4143

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