

## Dr. George Zacharias

Vln Dip, BMus (HONS), PG Dip & Adv. Dip, MMus, PhD

### Concert Violinist

#### Biography

Since his debut at the age of thirteen, George maintains a busy international performance career and has appeared as a soloist extensively throughout Greece and the UK (including a special guest performance in the House of Lords, Westminster), the US, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Spain and Switzerland, receiving the highest accolades from critics and audience. In the 2010-11 season, amongst other venues, he has appeared as soloist in Tokyo's Seyio Ginza Hall, Bloomington Indiana's Auer Hall and in London's Purcell Room.

His discography for radio includes Paganini's Concerto in D major and Britten's Violin Concerto, as well as Ysaÿe's complete set of Violin Sonatas. His latest recording project of repertoire exclusively for unaccompanied violin ('Unaccompanied'; Divine Art, dda 25074) received a Gold Star recommendation by The Strad (August 2009) and was named as 'Recording of the Month' by Musicweb. George has also been the dedicatee, premiere performer and recording artist of numerous contemporary compositions for violin.

Born in Athens, Greece, George studied violin at the Athens Conservatory of Music as a full scholar, up to his graduation (First Prize and Special Prize for Exceptional Virtuosity) in 1997. In the same year he was accepted at an advanced year of study at the Royal College of Music, London where he was admitted to a Bachelor's Degree in Music and two Postgraduate Degrees in Advanced Solo and Ensemble Performance. His studies abroad were supported by a full Greek State Scholarship for Music. In 2004 he was awarded a Master's of Music Degree in Performance with Distinction at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Australia, where he studied as an Australian Government Scholar.

In 2009, George was admitted to a PhD in Music Performance at the Royal Academy of Music, University of London supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation. His thesis under the title Nikos Skalkottas, Violinist-Composer: His compositional ideology, techniques and innovations revealed through the concertos for violin (1938-45) includes the first – and only to date – critical editions of Skalkottas' Concerto for Violin and Viola and the Concerto for Two Violins, as well as George's full wind-orchestra orchestration of the latter work that survives only in its double-piano accompaniment version. Future projects under way include the first publication of Skalkottas' biography in English and the premiere recording of his Concerto for Violin and Viola.

In June 2009 George was presented with the Gold Medal of the Municipality of Western Attica, Athens, 'in recognition of his cultural achievements and contribution'.

In September 2009, George was appointed as an Academic Tutor at the Royal Academy of Music, London.

George performs on the *Georgina Joshi* Sanctus Seraphin violin (Venice 1719).

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## Reviews (extracts)

'This is a formidable solo recital from a highly accomplished musician... a small master class in accentuation, dynamic shading and myriad suggestive colouristic devices - all sounding perfectly natural and unforced... Zacharias's tone here is rightly broader, wider and more romanticised in orientation... Here we find nearly eight minutes' worth of wrist numbing drama, projected with unstinting panache... When one encounters excellence of this kind it's right to acknowledge the fact.' ([Musicweb, Recording of the Month, October 2009, Jonathan Woolf](#))

'By any standards this is an outstanding disc debut... fellow fiddlers will blanch to hear him... Bartók's Sonata, with the microtones in the finale that Zacharias has researched in the RAM Menuhin collection, is notable for excellent tempos. The first movement is played with precision and a lovely soft ending; the Fuga is incisive; Zacharias finds a beautiful mezza voce quality for the Melodia, sometimes unearthly quiet; and he swings nicely through the Presto.... Ysaÿe's Sonata, written for Quiroga with Spanish elements, rightly draws a more Romantic tone and style from Zacharias.' ([The Strad, Gold Star Recommendation, August 2009, Tully Potter](#))

'Greek virtuoso George Zacharias is no less fleet-fingered and stylistically assured than his Italian colleague [Salvatore Accardo]; indeed, some may prefer his more luxuriously rounded sound, smoother legato and almost superhuman taming of 'noises off'... Zacharias is temperamentally far closer to Menuhin in his apparent desire to absorb this intractable score into the Western performing tradition... Zacharias proves especially persuasive in these enormously demanding opuses, tracing their expressive logic with a probing assuredness that is enormously compelling. I look forward to his next release with eager anticipation.' ([International Record Review, July 2009, Julian Haylock](#))

'Bookending the evening was Greek violinist George Zacharias, nimbler fingered than a pickpocket. He opened with vintage Paganini, creating enough pizzicatos and staccatos to test anyone, even Paganini himself...always with his charming and haunting sound...'  
([Observer, UK 10/7/2007](#))

'Mr Zacharias' performance had the audience nailed to their seats... utterly captivating and impeccable musical performance that proved yet again his quality as a great virtuoso... His three bedazzling encores commanded one more ecstatic standing ovation...'  
([Herald, Australia 20/11/2003](#))

'Violinist George Zacharias... bedazzled his audience and performed with unique virtuosity and sensibility... certainly a name to watch out for...'  
([Belgian State Radio broadcast, 17/7/2001](#))