

## STEVEN ISSERLIS

**GRAMOPHONE**  
**AWARDS 2010**

### 'reVisions'



**Bloch** From Jewish Life (arr C Palmer)  
**Debussy** Suite for Cello and Orchestra (arr  
 S Beamish) **Prokofiev** Cello Concertino,  
 Op 132 (arr V Blok) **Ravel** Deux Mélodies  
 hébraïques (arr R Tognetti)

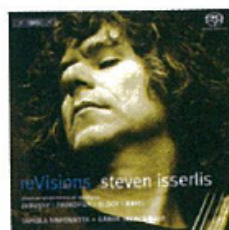
Steven Isserlis *vc*

Tapiola Sinfonietta /

Gábor Takács-Nagy

BIS BIS-SACD1782 (58' • DDD/DSD)

**Sally Beamish's Debussy arrangement is  
 the highlight on Isserlis's latest offering**



The cynic might surmise that this is the sort of disc that a cellist produces when he has exhausted important cello literature, but it is more

than that. Steven Isserlis expounds his reasoning in a booklet-note, and Sally Beamish's realisation – or re-imagining – of a putative Debussy suite is a delight. This is, in a sense, Debussy before he became Debussy, a sequence of salon pieces composed in advance of his maturity and his espousal of musical Impressionism. Beamish has taken an early Intermezzo and a Scherzo that are known to have been written for cello, and has supplemented them with arrangements for cello and orchestra of a *Rêverie* and *Danse bohémienne*, originally for piano solo, and with a transcription of a song that takes the place of a Nocturne that Debussy is presumed to have intended to or, maybe, did write. Beamish's orchestration, as reproduced by the Tapiola Sinfonietta under Gábor Takács-Nagy, is lucid and deft, and the piece has allure.

Ravel's *Deux Mélodies hébraïques*, conceived for soprano, are heard in arrangements for cello and orchestra by Richard Tognetti, and Bloch's *From Jewish Life* is given evocative orchestral guise by Christopher Palmer. Prokofiev's Concertino, Op 132, one of the late works that he left unfinished, is here a hybrid of Rostropovich's completion and a scoring by Vladimir Blok, with a further change to the end of the first movement. Far limper than the Symphony-Concerto, the Concertino nevertheless exudes, in parts, some of the piquancy of Prokofiev in his prime.

**Geoffrey Norris**