



Irish classical guitarist Redmond O'Toole will be joined by one of the most celebrated cellists performing on the international stage, Raphael Wallfisch, for a unique Church Classics concert in St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, tonight, Friday, September 10, at 8 p.m.

Redmond and Raphael met at the 2009 Derry Walled City Festival and decided to explore duo performances with Brahms guitar and cello. Redmond plays his eight-stringed 'Brahms' guitar in the cello position.

Having spent some time considering repertoire and rehearsing, they selected a programme of romantic works from the 19th century alongside Spanish folk-influenced works.

Fittingly, Wallfisch and O'Toole will perform an arrangement of Schubert's well-loved 'Arpegione Sonata' (the arpegione was a peculiar 19th century instrument, a hybrid between a cello and a guitar) followed by Mexican composer Manuel Maria Ponce's 'Sonata Romantica', which is dedicated 'to Franz Schubert, who loved the guitar'.

The duo also present their new arrangement of Beethoven's little known 'Andante Con Variazioni', originally written for mandolin and piano.

'Siete Canciones Espagnola' by the great Spanish nationalist composer Manuel De Falla as well as a new arrangement of Martin Y Coll's renaissance variations on 'La Folias Espagnola' will delight lovers of all things Spanish.

London-born Raphael Wallfisch is one of a family of distinguished musicians, his mother the cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch and his father the pianist Peter Wallfisch; his wife is the violinist Elizabeth Wallfisch.

He plays a 1760 Gennaro Gagliano cello. While studying with the great Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky in California, he was chosen to perform chamber music with Jascha Heifetz in the informal recitals that Piatigorsky held at his home. Since then he has a worldwide performing career with top orchestras and in major festivals. He is in demand as a teacher all over the world and is professor of cello in the Zürich Winterthur Konservatorium and at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The 2009 National Concert Hall 'rising star', Redmond O'Toole, has performed in the United States, South America as well as in Europe with programmes ranging from renaissance to contemporary works. As guest guitarist with The Chieftans he has toured in Ireland and internationally.

His most recent CD of new arrangements of Irish traditional music alongside classical works from the 19th century by Mauro Giuliani includes guest traditional musicians from Achill Island. Returning to his main area of repertoire, Redmond is eagerly looking forward to this new duo programme.

Tickets for the Tuam concert cost €15 (€12 concession) and are available from Quinn's,

Bishops Street, Tuam, and by telephoning (091) 799258.