

## SCHINDLER'S LIST

### > Alexandre da Costa: Schindler's List

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One of my most important early classical memories is from a rehearsal I was privileged to attend at Hart House back in my high school years. Walter Babiak was conducting a string orchestra in Ernest Bloch's Concerto Grosso No.1. I'm afraid I can't remember who the pianist was on that occasion (it's an obligato role rather than a virtuosic one) but the work was imprinted on my brain and left a lasting impression. Once again I cannot understand why this piece is not more frequently performed and so it was a great pleasure to find it included on the new CD Schindler's List (ATMA ACD2-2579) featuring the Swiss Orchestre Symphonique Bienne. The title work is John Williams' suite for violin and orchestra extrapolated from the soundtrack to "Schindler's List". Both that and Bloch's "Suite Hébraïque" feature the outstanding young Canadian violinist Alexandre da Costa who is in fine form here. But the highlight for me is the performance of Bloch's Concerto Grosso under the direction Thomas Rösner who captures the rustic energy of the dance movements and brings a driving force to the fugal finale without sacrificing any of the inherent stateliness of the work. And in this instance I can tell you the name of the pianist, Marc Pantillon.

David Olds - *The Wholenote*