

ZUILL BAILEY

CELLO

*Performing the Dvorak Cello Concerto
with Andrew Litton and the Minnesota Orchestra*

**FROM:
THE PIONEER PRESS**

Famous cellist makes local debut with heartfelt rendition

By David Hawley

March 27, 2008

"Dvřrřk's Cello Concerto stands at the top of the solo cello repertoire, both in performance and recordings — and it is arguably the most beautiful one there is.

So what better way to introduce yourself to local audiences? Virginia cellist Zuill Bailey makes his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra this week, stepping in for the ailing Norwegian Truls Mørk, who withdrew last week. Bailey is hardly an unknown, however. His discography is respectable; he regularly appears in major venues and also teaches. Moreover, the hunky cellist had a recurring role on the HBO drama, "Oz," where he portrayed a cello-playing prison inmate.

His playing is characterized by a big, throaty sound with a luscious buzzing undercurrent and his upper register is sweet. On Thursday, in the first of three performances, he gave a heartfelt reading of the Dvřrřk, best remembered for moments of great tenderness.

I've heard other performances of this concerto with the cellist farther in front. Indeed, there were times — particularly in the agitated sections of the first movement — when you watched Bailey's nimble fingering and lost the sound he was producing. On the whole, however, there was a rugged passion to his performance that was very compelling, and in the end, exquisitely felt."

FROM:

StarTribune.com | MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA Orchestra review: Replacement definitely first rate

By LARRY FUCHSBERG, Special to the Star Tribune

March 28, 2008

"Disappointment quickly gave way to delight at Thursday's Minnesota Orchestra concert, led by Sommerfest artistic director Andrew Litton. Disappointment because the scheduled soloist, Truls Mørk -- one of the world's consummate cellists -- had canceled last week because of an unspecified illness. Delight because the American Zuill Bailey, who replaced Mørk in Dvorak's evergreen concerto, gave a wise, sometimes rapturous account of the score, especially memorable in moments of tenderness and repose.

Bailey, whose romance-novel looks should not be held against him, grew up in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., frequenting the concerts of the late Mstislav Rostropovich, who was then conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. Litton, early in his career, served as assistant conductor of the same orchestra under the larger-than-life Russian (who made a specialty of the Dvorak concerto).

Whether this bit of shared history accounts for the rapport between soloist and conductor on Thursday, I do not know. But that rapport was almost tangible. Bailey -- whose given name, pronounced "zool," is Scotch-Irish -- coaxed from his instrument a complex, multi-hued voice, particularly warm in its upper register."

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