

ZUILL BAILEY

CELLO

From:

El Nuevo Dia

UNFORGETTABLE SEASON ENDS

May 26, 2008

Luis Hernandez Mergal Special to El Nuevo Dia

Puerto Rico - The second half of the program featured the Concerto No. 1 for cello and orchestra by Camille Saint-Saens, interpreted by American cellist Zuill Bailey. His impeccable execution distinguished his performance with incomparable technique and a profound and natural sentiment towards the music.

Unlike other modern interpretations, Bailey opted for a more sober and modest tone, but his performance remained exciting with resplendent virtuosity and never detracted from his grand elegance and good taste. The most impressive aspect of his performance was his continuous control of sound with his exceptional instrument (a 1693 Matteo Gofriller Cello), which through his hands produced the beautiful tones.

Maestro Biava held an excellent balance between the orchestra and the cellist, creating the delicate pianissimos in the second movement. The third movement was a marvel of virtuosity, with the exciting finale bringing the audience to its feet. Bailey's encore of the Meditation from Thais by Jules Massenet, accompanied by the orchestra, demonstrated great musical maturity.

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