

ZUILL BAILEY

CELLIST

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Listening Post

by Jeff Simon, February 07, 2010

Bach, Cello Suites performed by Zuill Bailey (Telarc, two disc). When Pablo Casals virtually rediscovered this music for the modern world, did he have any idea that some of it—especially the opening of the Suite No. 1 in G-major— would turn into some of the world’s most distinctive and emblematic background music? Among other places you can hear the Bach Unaccompanied Cello Suites now are the wonderful TV commercials for American Express in which we see inanimate objects arrayed as if they’re frowning and then smiling— everything from pocketbooks to small airplane propellers. What it’s symptomatic of in the past decade are frequent complete recordings of the Bach Unaccompanied Cello Suites by cellists young and old paying homage to some of the greatest Western music. **Thirty-seven-year-old American cellist Zuill Bailey has made brilliant use of his current contract with Telarc Records to make one of the more impressive collections of the Bach Cello Suites to come along in quite a while. And considering the quantity of them in any year, that’s saying something.** ★★★½ (J. S.)

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