

ZUILL BAILEY

CELLO

DESERET NEWS

By **Edward Reichel**

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Zuill Bailey is well on his way to becoming a cello superstar. He certainly has what it takes: amazing technique, impressive musicality and stunning artistry. And his latest CD, which happens to be an all-Russian affair and his first for Telarc, is the perfect showcase for his talents.

Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme, op. 33 (as well as his "Pezzo capriccioso" in B minor, op. 62, and the Nocturne in D minor, op. 19, No. 4), allow Bailey to highlight his expressive side. And he does so stunningly. These are wonderfully rich and lush readings that are never overplayed or excessively sentimental. Everything is nicely balanced, including the intelligent and perceptive support he receives from the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra under conductor Martin West.

Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 in E flat major, op. 107, is the other large-scale work on this CD. Here, Bailey needs to draw on his technical acumen as well as his fine sense of expression to craft an interpretation that does justice to this rather seldom played work. And he triumphs. This is a glorious account of the concerto that brings out its vibrancy and vitality. And his playing of the Moderato is as eloquent, if not more so, than any other recorded performance of this movement now available.

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