



## NEWS

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### **Santa Rosa Symphony presents its first commercial label recording featuring composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's Cello Concerto & Other Works**

**Ellen Taaffe Zwilich**, composer  
**Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor  
**Santa Rosa Symphony**, orchestra  
**Zuill Bailey**, cellist  
**Elizabeth Dorman**, pianist  
**Joseph Edelberg**, violinist

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) —The Santa Rosa Symphony orchestra in conjunction with Delos Productions located in Sonoma, CA, brings you *Cello Concerto & Other Works*, composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. Featuring world-renowned cellist Zuill Bailey, performing on *Cello Concerto*, pianist Elizabeth Dorman on *Peanuts® Gallery* and violinist Joseph Edelberg on *Romance for Violin*. It concludes with *Prologue and Variations*, with the Santa Rosa Symphony conducted by Francesco Lecce-Chong. Recorded at Weill Hall, Green Music Center, in Rohnert Park, CA, in the 2020-2021 virtual season. This album contains four compositions containing 12 original tracks with a running time of 53:28 minutes and will be released on September 16, 2022.

"This recording is a tribute to the incredible commitment and perseverance of the Santa Rosa Symphony to bringing music to our community during the darkest days of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a herculean effort by our musicians, staff, board, and donors to keep our orchestra not just surviving, but thriving and growing. This is also a celebration of one of the most important composers of our time, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, whose creativity, imagination, joy, and brilliance are showcased in every work - most notably in the premiere recording of her Cello Concerto featuring Grammy-winner Zuill Bailey." said SRS President & CEO Alan Silow.

**HOW TO PURCHASE:**

- By phone: Santa Rosa Symphony (707) 546-8742
- Online: [srsymphony.org](http://srsymphony.org)
- Live performances (while supplies last)
- Classical music outlets throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, UK, Japan and China
- Amazon, Spotify and other such music distributors

**ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH:**

Few composers have emerged with the unique personality of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. Her music is widely known because it is performed, recorded, broadcast, and – above all – listened to and liked by all kinds of audiences the world over. Zwilich combines craft and inspiration, reflecting an optimistic and humanistic spirit.

Zwilich is the recipient of numerous prizes and honors, including the 1983 Pulitzer Prize in Music (the first woman ever to receive this coveted award). She holds a doctorate from The Juilliard School and has received numerous honorary doctorates.

A prolific composer, Zwilich's works have been performed by leading American orchestras and by major ensembles abroad. Zwilich's orchestral essay *Symbolon* was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, and her chamber works by the Boston Musica Viva, the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and others. SRS was honored to have her as the Artistic Partner during the virtual 2020-2021 season.

**COMPOSER'S NOTES:**

Zwilich says "Performing for a live audience is at the heart of our musical world. The pandemic delivered a devastating blow by eliminating those audiences when so many major organizations simply shut down. Lecce-Chong and the Santa Rosa Symphony, rose to the occasion, presenting live concerts recorded for a virtual audience. Francesco decided to feature music by a living composer at this unsettled time. I had the honor and pleasure of being that composer and this recording is devoted to works performed by the Santa Rosa Symphony during the pandemic."

**FRANCESCO LECCE-CHONG:**

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong has been described by the press as a "fast-rising talent in the music world" with "the real gift" and recognized for his dynamic performances, fresh programming, deep commitment to commissioning and performing new music. Lecce-Chong has appeared with orchestras worldwide including the San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic and Seattle Symphony, and collaborated with top soloists such as Renée Fleming and Itzhak Perlman. Lecce-Chong is the Music Director of the Eugene Symphony in Oregon, and the Santa Rosa Symphony, performing at Weill Hall at the Green Music Center in Northern California.

Lecce-Chong's debuts in the 22-23 seasons include performances with the Kansas City Symphony, Detroit Symphony and Knoxville Symphony, as well as a European appearance at the renowned Enescu Festival. He continues a Rachmaninoff symphonic cycle in Santa Rosa and leads the world premieres of new major orchestral works by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Angélica Negrón.

**ZUILL BAILEY:**

The Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey begins this program with the world premiere recording of Zwilich's beautiful *Cello Concerto*, a new and important work traversing many elements of the cello's singing sound. This marks Bailey's 6<sup>th</sup> recording for Delos. The amusing *Peanuts® Gallery* follows with a quote from Beethoven, which anyone familiar with the famous Charles Schulz cartoon knows is Schroeder's toy piano passion.

Bailey's celebrated artistry, technical wizardry and engaging personality have secured his place as one of the most sought-after and active cellists today. Bailey won a best solo performance Grammy in 2017 for his live recording of *Tales of Hemingway* by composer Michael Daugherty. His celebrated Bach Cello Suites and Britten Cello Symphony/Sonata CD, with pianist Natasha Paremski, soared to number one on the Classical Billboard charts.

**JOSEPH EDELBERG:**

Santa Rosa Symphony concertmaster Joseph Edelberg has performed for many years with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and American Bach Soloists. Guest leader appearances include the Berkeley, Marin and California symphonies.

Edelberg played for years with the string quartet StringCircle and with Earplay. His solo appearances include the symphonies of Oakland, Berkeley and Santa Rosa. He has recorded with the aforementioned baroque orchestras, the Berkeley Symphony, Chanticleer and Earplay. A Massachusetts native, he graduated from Amherst College and studied with Phillip Naegele, Felix Galimir and Adolf Bruk.

**ELIZABETH DORMAN:**

Praised by Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for her "elegance and verve," pianist Elizabeth Dorman enjoys performing music both new and old as a soloist and chamber musician. A finalist of the 2018 Leipzig International Bach Competition, Dorman has been widely recognized as a leading performer for her inquisitive interpretations of Bach's music on the modern piano.

Dorman has appeared as a soloist with orchestras including the Louisville Orchestra, Leipzig Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony, Symphony Parnassus, and as a keyboardist with the San Francisco Symphony.