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## REVIEW: Sebastian Bäverstam (cello), Pei-shan Lee (piano),

WEILL RECITAL HALL, NEW YORK  
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By Dennis Rooney

The 22-year-old Swedish-American cellist Sebastian Bäverstam is a student of Paul Katz at the New England Conservatory in Boston. He has been a frequent soloist in the greater Boston area and has garnered many prizes, including the 2009 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, which engendered this recital. He plays on an 1812 instrument by the Roman maker Fiori. His sound is good if a bit *secco*, especially in the lower register. It seemed, however, perfectly suited to the size of the venue, which seats fewer than 300.



Beethoven's Sonata op. 102 no. 1 was the opener and featured some excellent support from pianist Pei-shan Lee. Kodály's Solo Sonata op. 8 followed and was the high point of the programme. Bäverstam negotiated it with the consummate instrumental mastery while being completely responsive to its musical character (in particular the middle Adagio). Its craggy character successfully emerged but without any tonal roughness or sense of struggle in the process. His own Fantasy on *Frère Jacques*, composed this year, began the second half. It was skillfully made but fell short on the sheer display quotient required to animate a work of its sort. The concluding Franck Sonata had many virtues but both players seemed to have fallen a bit off the marks they had hit earlier. Nevertheless, the programme as a whole was impressive. Although Bäverstam played a debut recital in the same venue in 2002, this one marked the emergence of a mature artist.