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BRIEF NZSO(W)

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German virtuoso city bound

By **BRENDA HARWOOD**

THE New Zealand Symphony Orchestra performs with German virtuoso cellist Daniel Müller-Schott on his first visit to New Zealand and in the orchestra's first national tour of the year.

When the Echoes of Home tour reaches Dunedin next Friday, the Regent Theatre will hush to hear Müller-Schott perform Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*.

The accomplished German has been described as "a fearless player with technique to burn".

His performances of Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* have established his reputation as one of the most exciting talents of his generation.

"What brings great joy for me in this concerto is when you can hear the orchestra in its full symphonic glory and force and the cello is still able to communicate and answer to what the orchestra is telling," Müller-Schott said.

"This is a great challenge but also a most satisfying and tremendous pleasure."

Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* was composed in New York, during a period when his sister-in-law Josefina Kaunitzov, whom he had long admired from afar, became seriously ill and then died.

It is a powerful study of longing and loss.

In 1896, the composer visited London for the last time to conduct the premiere of his *Cello Concerto*.

The raw emotions echoed in this great work are offset by the rhythmic vivaciousness of Russian composer Rachmaninov's final work, *Symphonic Dances*, also composed in New York.

Originally intended as a ballet, *Symphonic Dances* allowed Rachmaninov to indulge in nostalgia for the Russia he had known. It includes musical quotations from his other works, including the opening theme of his *First Symphony*.

New Zealand composer Larry Pruden opens the concert with his 1952 work, *Soliloquy for Strings*, which was composed when he was studying at the Guildhall School of Music in London.

All three of the works programmed in Echoes of Home were written when the composer was far from home, so it is only fitting that the NZSO's Finnish music director, Pietari Inkinen, conducts this Audi Concert series.

His return to New Zealand follows the premiere of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring Des Nibelungen* at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo, Italy.

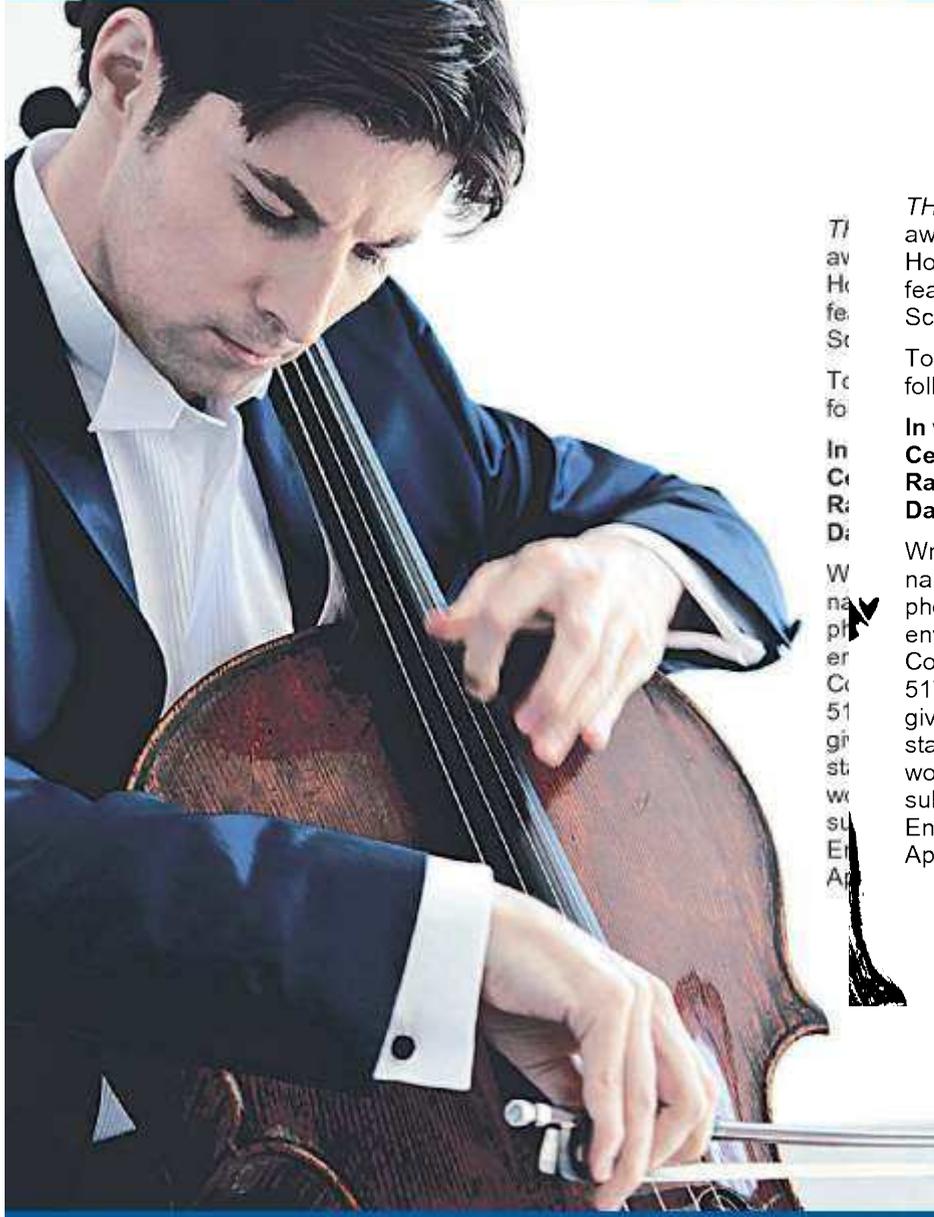
"I'm looking forward to being back in New Zealand to tour the country with this expressive programme," Maestro Inkinen said.

□ Echoes of Home featuring cellist Daniel Müller-Schott, 6.30pm Friday, April 5 at Dunedin's Regent Theatre.



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CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS TO 'ECHOES OF HOME'



THE Star has a double pass to give away to next Friday's Echoes of Home concert by the NZSO, featuring cellist Daniel Müller-Schott (**pictured**).

To enter the draw, answer the following question:

In which city were both Dvorak's Cello Concerto and Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances composed?

Write your answer, along with your name, address and a daytime phone number on the back of an envelope and post to: NZSO Competition, *The Star*, P.O. Box 517, Dunedin. Or answer by email, giving your contact details, to star@alliedpress.co.nz, with the words "NZSO Competition" in the subject line.

Entries close at 5pm on Tuesday, April 2.