

Cellist Wesley Baldwin performs throughout the United States and Europe as cello soloist and chamber musician. As a soloist with orchestra he has appeared with conductors Kirk Trevor, Serge Fournier, Jorge Richter, Francis Graffeo, Cyrus Ginwala, Richard Rosenberg, David Wiley, and Daniel Meyer. Upcoming performances include the Schumann Concerto in Knoxville, the Alan Shulman Concerto with the Hot Springs Festival Orchestra, the Dvorak Concerto with the Laredo Philharmonic, and solo recitals in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

The Washington Post called his playing "...almost orchestrally rich in sound; bold but well controlled in phrasing and dynamics." The Miami Herald wrote of his "passionate conviction" in performance. And the Knoxville News Sentinel observed that "Baldwin played with the consummate skill of a gifted musician who never upstages the communication of the music."

As a chamber musician he has collaborated with principal string players from the Utah, Philadelphia, Saint Paul Chamber, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras; he has also enjoyed collaborations with the Miami String Quartet, and with many prominent solo artists, recently including Norman Krieger, Michael Gurt, Julie Albers, Janet Sung, and Jasper Wood. He has performed chamber music at the Aspen, Cazenovia, Ojai, Sandpoint, Mainly Mozart, May in Miami, Skaneateles, and Subtropics Music Festivals. Internationally he has performed in chamber concerts in Italy, France, Monte Carlo, Spain, Austria, Brazil, Argentina, the United Kingdom, and Costa Rica.

He was the founder of the Plymouth String Quartet, with whom he was a top prizewinner in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and a finalist in the Paolo Borciani International String Quartet Competition. Other honors Dr. Baldwin has received include the Prix Mercure at the Mercure Wettbewerb in Vienna and the first prize in the Homer Ulrich Performance Award Competition.

As a member and principal cellist of the New World Symphony, Baldwin performed with many of the world's great conductors, and toured Japan, Scotland, England, Argentina, and Brazil. His orchestral colleagues there selected him as the recipient of the New World Symphony's Community Board Award for artistic integrity and leadership. He now serves on the audition committee for New World Symphony auditions in regional auditions throughout the U.S. and Canada each spring.

Wesley has recorded for the Naxos and Zyode labels, as well as for Centaur records, which released his solo recording of Belgian cello music in 2004, and his recording of duos with violist Sheila Browne in the summer of 2006. His recording of music for cello by William Bolcom is due for release early next year.

Dr. Baldwin currently serves as associate professor of cello at the University of Tennessee, where he received the Provost's Award for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Activity. In the summers he performs and teaches at the Hot Springs Music Festival, the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, and at the Wintergreen Festival, where he serves as principal cellist and faculty member of the Wintergreen Academy.

Dr. Baldwin has led workshops and master classes throughout the US, and is the founder and director of the Tennessee Cello Workshop, an annual three-day seminar for young cellists. His former cello students play and teach throughout the U.S.

Wesley performs on a 19th century cello made by J. B. Vuillaume. He resides in Knoxville with his wonderful family: soprano Melisa Barrick, six year-old Jack, and almost-two-year-old Ella. They have three dogs.