CAROLINA CELLOBRATION: NEW MUSIC FOR CELLO. Robert Jesselson, cello; Charles Fugo, piano. (music.sc.edu/)

Released in commemoration of the Jesselson/Fugo Duo’s 30th anniversary, Carolina Cellobration features recent works by nine contemporary composers. It runs the gamut from Ben Boone’s freewheeling, rock-influenced opening track, “Buffing the Gut” (commissioned in 1995 by then-University of South Carolina undergrad Buffi Jacobs, now of the chamber-rock group Polyphonic Spree), to Samuel O. Douglas’ 2011 abstract experiment in form “Two Movement Sonata,” to Gordon Goodwin’s elegant “Dessau Dances,” a 2011 ode to a legendary German dance hall in Pflugerville, Texas. Jesselson, a professor at University of South Carolina School of Music, wrings rich tonal colors from his instrument, exploring the sonic boundaries as well as the compositional and improvisational possibilities. This recording bristles with creativity and bold musical vision.

—G.C.