

seize today



Listen to Rhode Island

raise its voice today, as choruses from several communities join together in a single, singing body. **The Rhode Island Festival Chorus** features the Jamestown Community Chorus, All in a Chord, Carillon Women's Chorus, the Cumberland-Lincoln Community Chorus and the West Bay Chorale. Their concert, **RISings II**, is at 3 p.m. at East Providence High School, 2000 Pawtucket Ave., East Providence. Guest singers include the East Providence High School Chamber Chorus and the Rhode Island Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$15 at the door. For more information, call (401) 334-9310 or visit www.rifestivalchorus.org.



Violinist Itzhak Perlman will play the Beethoven Violin Concerto on Wednesday night with the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

For Perlman, a time to put it all together

BY CHANNING GRAY
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

Itzhak Perlman has reached that point in life where, he said, he's "doing little celebrations of oldness."

The famed violinist turned 60 almost two years ago, and next season he'll be marking a half-century since his move from his native Israel to the United States. Special concerts are being considered for the occasion.

"People either start talking about the amount of years, or saying farewell," said Perlman from his home in New York. "There's the first farewell tour, then the second farewell tour, and eventually the twelfth farewell tour."

But Perlman, who has eight grandchildren, is showing no signs of hanging it up. He's was preparing to fly the next day to Houston to conduct Brahms and Tchaikovsky, something he's doing a lot of these days. And he's enjoying teaching at the Juilliard School, his alma mater.

Then there are lots of concerts,

SEE SUPER-FAMOUS, 15



Sebastian Ruth, founder of the Community MusicWorks program for children in Providence, leads an orchestral workshop earlier this month.

MOZART FOR MANY

Community MusicWorks is going strong at 10

BY CHANNING GRAY
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

Next to a grungy gas station and a sidewalk fruit stand run out of the back of pickup, strains of a Bartok string quartet waft from a Westminster Street storefront. Two neighborhood teens stop to listen, signal approval, then scamper off.

Welcome to the home of Community MusicWorks, which for the past decade has been a lone outpost in Providence's economically mixed West End, a project set up to bring a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through classical music to kids who otherwise don't have a lot of

advantages.

While most programs of this ilk take place in tony suburbs like Barrington and East Greenwich, the youngsters in Community MusicWorks come from trash-strewn neighborhoods, often from homes in which single parents work two jobs and speak little English.

But instead of rap, these teenagers play Mozart. The lessons they take are free, along with borrowed instruments that the program owns.

Community MusicWorks, which has 100 students and a long waiting list, is the brainchild of Brown University graduate Sebastian Ruth, a charismatic violinist who felt that classical music should belong to everyone, not just an elite few. And that children from all backgrounds might take to it.

SEE MUSICWORKS, 16



Cello student Tadeisha Osumba, 12, gets hands-on help from instructor Sara Stalnaker.



Work on the violin in the initial stages of creation.

PHOTOS BY KRZYSZYNA HARBER

Violin by three makers is going to fly
Teen program will share instrument based on classic del Gesu design

BY CHANNING GRAY
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

After attending several events by Community MusicWorks, Karl Dennis wondered what he could do for the group's 10th anniversary. But that was a kind of no-brainer, considering he's a premier violin maker in the area.

"I couldn't give them meaningful amounts of money," said the Warren

instrument builder. "But I could make them a violin." Community MusicWorks



The violin progresses along in production.

being such a communal effort, Dennis decided to go the same route and ask a couple of his friends if they would join him in the project. Andrew Ryan and Tucker Densely both happily said "yes."

So for 2½ months the threesome took turns completing some phase of the project — each getting



Violin maker Andrew Ryan makes final adjustments.

SANDOR BODO

SEE VIOLIN, 16

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