



The April 29 all-Beethoven performance by Biss and Fried will begin at 4:00 pm. A vegetarian dinner buffet will follow the performance at 5:30 pm. The action all happens at the Regent Avenue School Building, 101 Regent Avenue in Providence. Admission to the concert and buffet dinner is \$100 per person or \$75 per person for only the concert. Advance reservations are required. Call Community MusicWorks at 861-5650. For more about Community MusicWorks, check out the website at

www.communitymusicworks.org

Above:
The Providence String Quartet

Previous Page and Right:
The Community MusicWorks 10th anniversary violin under construction



Salons and more, music has become a constant on the West Side. Given all these initiatives, it's not surprising that Community MusicWorks and founder Ruth have received so much acclaim. The organization was recognized as one of 50 premier after-school programs in the United States in 2005 by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. In 2006, Citizens Bank and NBC 10 awarded Community MusicWorks the prestigious Champion in Action award, for the organization's commitment to community arts. It also received a three year grant from Chamber Music America's Residency Endowment Fund to continue to develop the String Quartet's urban residency model. In the September 4, 2006 issue of *The New Yorker*, music critic Alex Ross praised Community MusicWorks as a "revolutionary organization in which the distinction between performing and teaching disappears." Most recently, Sebastian Ruth was included in *Providence Monthly's* 2007 list of the "Ten People You Don't Know Now... But Soon Will and May Change the Face of Providence."

On Sunday, April 29, at 4:00 pm, Beethoven will reign supreme. Jonathan Biss, a classical pianist who performs internationally, and Miriam Fried, Biss' mother and an esteemed violinist, will perform several Beethoven sonatas. At the tender age of 26, Biss has already developed an international reputation as an accomplished artist. He made his New York Philharmonic debut six years ago and performs regularly with leading orchestras and at international music festivals.

As part of the tenth anniversary celebration, three Rhode Island violin makers have formed a first-ever collaboration to create a fine violin. It will be used first by Fried on April 29, and then by a Community MusicWorks student who chooses to pursue a career in classical music. The violin is valued at \$25,000, although the three violin makers, long-time Community MusicWorks' supporters, have donated their combined expertise as a "labor of love." East Side resident and one of the three violin makers, Andrew Ryan, explains, "Community MusicWorks reminds us that music is not simply a pleasant diversion from our every day lives, but an integral part of our lives and the

health of our communities." Ryan, who has played the violin for more than 30 years, spends about 80% of his time restoring antique violins and 20% making new ones. It takes about 150 hours to create a high quality violin like the one being donated to Community MusicWorks.

"Music is an essential part of any person's growth and education," said Biss, who first met Community MusicWorks administrator Heath Marlow at music camp some 12 years ago. "A child without exposure to music is missing out on the possibility of growing in so many different directions." According to Biss, the organization communitates (communiting: the art of delivering value to a community) with music in the broadest and most meaningful ways possible. As a result, he says, he has met Community MusicWorks students who had a relationship to music that he'd rarely seen elsewhere. "Community MusicWorks is based in a real idealism and it interacts with the community in a way that is open, flexible and practical."

"It is a real honor to have three local violin makers, Karl Dennis, Tucker Densley and Andrew Ryan," said Ruth, "and international performers Jonathan Biss and Miriam Fried, all so inspired that they are generously donating their time and talents to supporting our work."

An Advisory Council, formed in 2003, helps Community MusicWorks develop its model of a group of professional musicians working for social change in their respective communities. Council members also promote the organization's goals, mentor the Providence String Quartet and present performances in Providence for Community MusicWorks students and their families. Members include East Sider Bob Jaffe, the Rhode Island Philharmonic's Larry Rachleff, Ted Sizer (formerly with Brown University), Jonathan Biss and several prestigious string quartets.