

## BachFest brings composer's music to Providence

**Thursday** Posted Oct 27, 2016 at 9:30 PM

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By Keith PowersSpecial to The Journal

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — It takes a long time to play all the music of Bach. Like all night? Or maybe two weeks?

Even then the musicians from Community MusicWorks won't get through all of Bach's canon, but they'll give it a try.

The organization's fourth annual BachFest takes place over the next two weeks at various venues around Providence, including almost a dozen more casual pop-up concerts and an all-nighter as well.

"J.S. Bach is always the center of gravity for these concerts," says Community MusicWorks associate director (and violinist) Jesse Holstein. "While we do play other composers, Bach and the Baroque era are two boxes we try to tick."

CMW fellows and staff divide up the labor that goes into the planning and execution of BachFest.

The Bach Around Town pop-up concerts, solo or duet programs, "usually have a spontaneous feel," explains violinist and CMW fellow Josie Davis. "The concert length varies, but they usually last about 30 minutes." The concerts are free, at various venues around downtown Providence, from Nov. 1-10.

The all-night marathon at Brown's Manning Chapel on Nov. 11 brings the BachFest to a conclusion. About 50 musicians participate, and the audience is encouraged to wander in at any time after the 7 p.m. start.

"Coffee is brewing all night," says pianist and longtime CMW accompanist Sakiko Mori, who takes charge of the marathon. "I'm not sure how many people attend — about 100. There's a snack table, and people have been spontaneously bringing things to share as well. It's become part of the marathon."

Mori says the performances include traditional and experimental approaches to Bach. "If you think of Bach's music as wood, there are infinite possibilities for what can be made out of it," she says.

### **Pop-up concerts**

10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Providence Public Library, 150 Empire St. Chloë Kline, viola

11 a.m. Tuesday, Amos House, 460 Pine St., Providence, Ashley Frith, viola

Noon Wednesday, RISD Museum Pearl Café, 224 Benefit St., Hannah Ross, viola

1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, Park View Nursing Home, 31 Parade St., Josie Davis, violin, and Adrienne Taylor, cello

10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 4, Rhode Island Foundation, 1 Union Station, Chase Spruill, violin

2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, Campus Fine Wines, 127 Brook St., Zan Berry, cello

Noon Thursday, Nov. 10, Café la France (Amtrak Station), 100 Gaspee St. Sebastian Ruth, violin

### **All-night Bach marathon**

Begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, and runs until the next morning. Manning Chapel, Brown University, 69 Brown St. Traditional Bach works and experimental interpretations will be performed by about 50 performers. People are invited to come at any time, and bring pillows and blankets.

*For complete information on the BachFest visit [communitymusicworks.org](http://communitymusicworks.org) or call (401) 861-5650.*

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*Keith Powers writes about the arts. Email [keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com](mailto:keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com); on Twitter at [@PowersKeith](https://twitter.com/PowersKeith).*

