



## community musicworks

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### providence string quartet

#### advisory council

Jonathan Biss  
Pianist

Borromeo String Quartet  
New England Conservatory

Maxine Greene  
Founder  
Center for the Arts, Social  
Imagination, and Education

Matt Haimovitz  
Cellist

Bob Jaffe  
President & Founder  
R.I. Citizens for the Arts

Kim Kashkashian  
Violist

Miró String Quartet  
University of Texas at Austin

Diane Monroe  
Violinist

Muir String Quartet  
Boston University

Orion String Quartet  
Mannes College of Music

Larry Rachleff  
Music Director  
Rhode Island Philharmonic

Eric Rosenblith  
Violinist

Barry Shiffman  
Violinist

Theodore Sizer  
Visiting Professor of Education  
Harvard University

Jesse Holstein, violin  
Minna Choi, violin

Sebastian Ruth, viola  
Sara Stalnaker, cello



Based on the permanent residency of the Providence String Quartet, Community MusicWorks is a “revolutionary organization” (*The New Yorker*) that builds long-term learning and mentoring relationships between children and professional musicians in the West End and South Side neighborhoods of Providence, Rhode Island.

As the quartet-in-residence for Community MusicWorks, the Providence String Quartet provides free after-school programming to youth in Providence’s most underserved neighborhoods. In tandem with their music education and mentoring activities, the Providence String Quartet fills the role of the City’s resident professional string quartet, performing throughout Providence and across the state.

In addition to being presented by Community MusicWorks, the Providence String Quartet has been presented in recent seasons by Rhode Island Chamber Music Concerts, the University of Rhode Island’s “Great Performances” series, the Jamestown Chamber Music Series, and the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. They performed with the Borromeo String Quartet at The RISD Museum of Art in 2003, returning to the Museum for performances with pianist Jonathan Biss in 2004 and cellist Michael Reynolds (of the Muir String Quartet) in 2006.

Other highlights include a benefit concert for Amnesty International in Cambridge, MA, a collaboration with cellist Matt Haimovitz, and “Consent to Gravity,” a collaboration with the Island Moving Company that traveled to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Along with regular performances at the West End Community Center, other local venues include performances at the Providence Athenaeum, Providence City Hall, Rhode Island State House, Carriage House Stage, Bell Street Chapel, the Washington Park Branch Library, Community Preparatory School, Paul Cuffee School, the Vartan Gregorian School, CVS Highlander Charter School, San Miguel School, and Hasbro Childrens Hospital.



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**Jesse Holstein**, violinist and violist, is a founding member of the Providence String Quartet. He attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music before moving to Boston to complete his graduate studies with James Buswell at the New England Conservatory. He is an active recitalist, orchestral, and chamber musician, and serves as concertmaster of the New Bedford Symphony. In 2003, Jesse gave the Northeast premier of the John Cooper violin concerto and was invited to join the faculty of the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music. In 2005, he traveled to London to premier a new work for violin and piano composed for him by Rick Beaudoin. He has performed as a guest artist at the Montana Chamber Music Festival and Bay Chamber Concerts. In 2009, he performed the Brahms Double Concerto (with PSQ cellist Sara Stalnaker) with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Community Orchestra.

**Minna Choi**, violinist, has been involved with Community MusicWorks since 1998 and was a founding member of the Providence String Quartet from 2001 to 2004. She graduated from Brown University in 1996 with a BA in Philosophy and received a Masters in Violin Performance from the Hartt School of Music in 2006. Her influential teachers have included Eric Rosenblith, Katie Lansdale, and Lois Finkel. She has performed with the Boston Philharmonic, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and the Ocean State Chamber Orchestra. Each summer, she performs at the International Musical Arts Institute in Fryeburg, ME. She rejoined the Providence String Quartet in August 2009.

**Sebastian Ruth**, violist, is the Founder and Executive-Artistic Director of Community MusicWorks. A graduate of Brown University, he has been a member of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Ocean State Chamber Orchestra, and the Wild Ginger Philharmonic. Sebastian has participated in the Audubon String Quartet Seminar, the Yellow Barn and Apple Hill Chamber Music Festivals, and the International Musical Arts Institute. In 2003, Sebastian studied, under the auspices of a fellowship from The Rhode Island Foundation, in a two-week violin master class at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. Influential teachers have included Eric Rosenblith, Rolfe Sokol and Pamela Gearhart.

**Sara Stalnaker**, cellist, is a founding member of the Providence String Quartet. She is also a founding member of the New Providence Trio with violinist Jessie Montgomery and pianist Eliko Akahori. Sara also performs regularly as a member of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. Previous orchestras and ensembles include the Corbett Duo, Gallatin Duo, Kalistos Chamber Orchestra, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and Portland Symphony Orchestra. Summer festivals include Aspen, Montana Chamber Music Festival, Sarasota, and Music Academy of the West. Recent solo work includes a recording on the MMC label and a performance of the Brahms Double Concerto (with PSQ violinist Jesse Holstein) with the R.I. Philharmonic Community Orchestra. She is a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and Rice University.

For booking information, call the Community MusicWorks office at (401) 861-5650.  
To learn more about Community MusicWorks, please visit [www.communitymusicworks.org](http://www.communitymusicworks.org).

*Current as of October 2009.*