Arts & Humanities

Flash-Bach

By
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Matt Haimovitz (Michael George)

Israeli cellist and musical innovator Matt Haimovitz is on a mission to bring classical music to unexpected places. This fall, as part of a four-day residency at Miller Theatre, he animated the Columbia campus with a series of six pop-up performances in which he combined the music of J. S. Bach with new overtures by living composers. At Brad's Cafe he serenaded faculty and students with Du Yun's *The Veil of Veronica* and Bach's Suite No. 2 in D Minor. At the college bookstore a small audience listened with rapt attention to Luna Pearl Woolf's *Lili'uokalani* and Bach's Suite No. 6 in D Major. Later that day, Haimovitz changed into workout clothes and

headed for Dodge Fitness Center. In the relative safety of a corner by the stairwell — right next to a water fountain and just off the indoor running track — he set up his priceless 1710 Goffriller cello and played a surprisingly romantic Philip Glass prelude and the Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major. The latter's dance movements had a vitality that almost certainly quickened the step of the few surprised joggers who ran by.

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