



IT'S A CELLO INVASION!

When Juilliard cello student **Keiran Campbell**, 19 (above left), finished playing for a classroom of students at P.S. 321 in Brooklyn, the fifth graders whistled, hooted, and hollered. Their teacher gently corrected them, reminding her students about the difference between applause and cheering. But Campbell disagreed. "I don't mean to undermine, but I think classical music is getting too stiff," Campbell said. "I like all the cheering."

The students had plenty of questions: What's your favorite song? Does your cello have a name? Can you play "Star Wars"? And why do you shake your hand in that funny way?

Campbell played at the school as part of Bach Invasion!, an event arranged by Neighborhood Classics series artistic director and noted pianist Simone Dinnerstein to bring Bach-playing cellists into the school. During a school day in late October, 1,400 students at P.S. 321 had up-close-and-personal encounters with 18 cellists, both students and New York City freelancers, performing Bach.

"It takes a lot of imagination to play Bach, and even people who don't listen to classical music have an emotional response," Dinnerstein says.

"There's so much a child can learn by being up so close to a musician."

—Corinne Ramey