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## She's still in concert pitch

By Ruth Rovner

For the Times

As a musician and lifelong music lover, Bebe Miller leads a busy life filled with musical activity.

Every other Tuesday, she plays chamber music at the Jenkintown branch of the Settlement Music School.

She has a subscription each season for five Friday afternoon concerts by the Philadelphia Orchestra, and she eagerly attends the Metropolitan Opera simulcast series at the Riverview Plaza in South Philadelphia.

Beyond that, if there are other concerts that she'd really like to attend, she'll be there.

Bebe Miller does all this and more at age 96. Indeed, age hardly slows her down at all.

A resident of the Paul's Run retirement community in Bustleton, she uses its transport service to attend the Philadelphia Orchestra concerts at the Kimmel Center, and she takes SEPTA's Connect Service to get to the Settlement Music sessions in Jenkintown.

The program at Settlement, called Adult Chamber Players, is for senior players who get together to play chamber music.

"It's a wonderful program!" she'll tell you.

The program is open to adult musicians who have their own instruments and play at an intermediate or advanced level. Most

participants are seniors, and they play for the sheer joy of it.

When they arrive on Tuesday mornings, they're divided into small ensembles - trios, quartets, or other combinations. The ensemble members sit down in a music studio with their instruments and music scores provided by the school. Then they spend all morning playing the music of Brahms, Beethoven, Haydn and other classic composers.

## GOTTA KEEP PLAYIN'

Miller plays her violin despite having arthritis in two fingers of her left hand. During one session, one of her fingers was a bit balky, so the other musicians had to slow the tempo.

"Well, at your age, we'll forgive you!" Miller's colleagues told her.

Even macular degeneration in her left eye hasn't stopped her music-making.

"So far," she says cheerfully, "the right eye is good."

The busy violinist also is a member of Settlement's Adult Chamber Orchestra. The 15 senior musicians present three concerts a season, with rehearsals for each one. Not surprisingly, Miller is the oldest musician in the group.

She found out about Settlement's Adult Chamber Players when she moved to Paul's Run five years ago. One of the residents is a viola player who told her about the program, and she soon became a member.

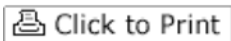
Page: 1 of 3 [View All](#)

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