

## Violinist Mark Kaplan Performs Bach

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### **MUSIC REVIEW: Kaplan Recital**

**By Peter Jacobi**

H-T Reviewer

Sunday afternoon's recital by violinist Mark Kaplan served to remind this reviewer how painful choices can be when faced with conflicting events on Bloomington's bulging musical calendar.

In an overly packed Ford-Crawford Hall, he performed part two of Bach's daunting Sonatas and Partitas for Unaccompanied Violin. He was, to put it succinctly, magnificent. Unfortunately, the previous Sunday, when Kaplan took on part one of these remarkable pieces, I was in the auditorium of Bloomington North High School, listening — and, mind you, quite happily so — to the Camerata Orchestra concert, featuring two NPR stars, conductor William McGlaughlin and pianist Christopher O'Riley.

Well, this time around, I watched and heard the amazing Mark Kaplan toss off, so assured did he seem, the Sonatas No. 1 in G Minor and No. 3 in C Major and the Partita No. 1 in B Minor, approximately an hour-and-20-minutes of music from memory, as he had done the previous Sunday with the other three items in the set, these of equal length.

That alone was amazing. But it was how he played this incredibly complex music that added to the accomplishment and made the concert something to remember. The clarity in his tone production, the immaculate articulation, the deft handling of polyphony enabling a listener to discern the components in even the densest textures, the acutely distinct presentation of fugal developments, the precision achieved in breakneck Prestos: all these were part of Kaplan's extraordinary performance.