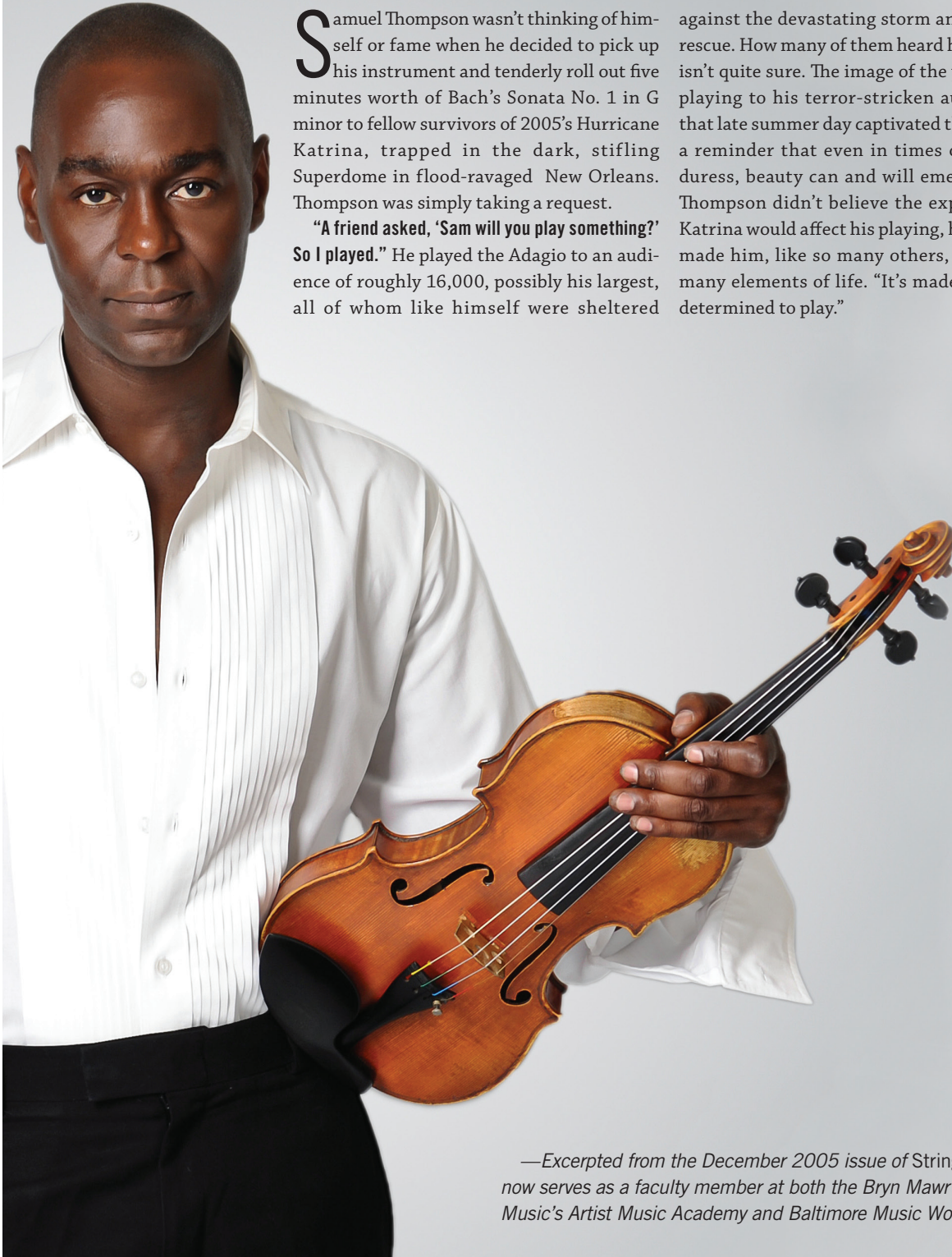


SAMUEL'S SONG

Samuel Thompson wasn't thinking of himself or fame when he decided to pick up his instrument and tenderly roll out five minutes worth of Bach's Sonata No. 1 in G minor to fellow survivors of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, trapped in the dark, stifling Superdome in flood-ravaged New Orleans. Thompson was simply taking a request.

"A friend asked, 'Sam will you play something?' So I played." He played the Adagio to an audience of roughly 16,000, possibly his largest, all of whom like himself were sheltered

against the devastating storm and awaiting rescue. How many of them heard him, he still isn't quite sure. The image of the young man playing to his terror-stricken audience on that late summer day captivated the country, a reminder that even in times of extreme duress, beauty can and will emerge. While Thompson didn't believe the experience of Katrina would affect his playing, he did say it made him, like so many others, rethink so many elements of life. "It's made me more determined to play."



—Excerpted from the December 2005 issue of Strings. Thompson now serves as a faculty member at both the Bryn Mawr School of Music's Artist Music Academy and Baltimore Music Works.

Strings (ISSN 0888-3106) is published monthly by String Letter Publishing, Inc., 501 Canal Blvd, Suite J, Richmond, CA 94840. Periodical postage paid at Richmond, CA 94804 and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send changes of address to Strings, String Letter Publishing, Inc., PO Box 3500, Big Sandy, TX 75755. Changes of address may also be made on line at AllThingsStrings.com. Printed in the USA.

Canada Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Canada Returns to be sent to Imex Global Solutions, PO Box 32229, Hartford, CT 06150-2229.