

NEW YORK

Kids

Russian Fish... Subway Series

Happening Perlmania

While most happy campers spend their summer learning the rules of newcomb, the watered-down version of volleyball; whispering late-night tales of Cropsy, the camper killer; and planning their next out-of-bunk raid, 38 kids on Shelter Island are happy to spend the off-season in school. Set up as a sleep-away camp, the Perlman Music Program is an invitation-only training ground where musically gifted youngsters ages 11 to 18 practice several hours a day. Now in its sixth year, the program has finally gotten a place of its own, a former hotel on Shore Road. The



faculty, which includes Juilliard-trained fiddler Toby Perlman, the camp's founder, and her virtuoso husband, Itzhak (pictured, conducting the group), goes to great pains to keep things upbeat and noncompetitive. The students get enough of that the rest of the school year, says Toby: "Here, there's no yelling, just positive reinforcement." And the effect such teaching methods have? When asked what popular music she's into, 13-year-old camper Athena Adamopoulos, a pianist,

was quick to dismiss 'N Sync, the Backstreet Boys, and Britney Spears. "I find the Perlmans to be the best role models around," says the midtown resident. "There's no reason for me to search for others." The public doesn't have to go too far, either, to search for a classical-music fix: The kids play free concerts on the campus nightly throughout the summer. Look for Itzhak conducting, singing in the chorus, or surveying from the audience. (See "Children's Events.")

SUSAN AVERY

Children's Events

Classically Kids—The musical prodigies of the PERLMAN MUSIC PROGRAM perform for the public, free of charge, at their Shelter Island campus on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7:30 P.M. through 8/11 (excluding 8/6). The chorus performs at 5 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The kids are also set to show their stuff at the Mostly Mozart Festival, 8/6 at 5 P.M., at Lincoln Center. Tickets are available through Centercharge at 212-721-6500. For more information on the nightly Long Island performances, call 631-749-0740. The campus is located at 73 Shore Rd., Shelter Island. ●