



An Authentic Musical Experience



AT BEACON HILL

By Ali Schratt
Photos by Stephen Lippay

Dan Crawford is the man behind one of the Poconos' most authentic musical experiences; the Beacon Hill Concert Series. His passion for music began early on when he started singing in his father's ministry at the age of three, and has continued throughout his life. While he never lost his appreciation for gospel and spiritual music, he truly fell in love when he discovered classical music.

Dan always knew that he wanted to bring a series of serious classical music to Monroe County as he saw a distinct void in the area. "It's something I always wanted to do, but it was just kind of a dream," says Crawford. When he and his wife inherited a property in East Stroudsburg, they decided to build a new structure on the land. In the process of building, Crawford realized the structure would make the perfect concert hall, and he decided to name the building the Ruth Porter Music Room after his mother. "It was only when I had created the space that I began to think my dream could be a reality."

"I'm trying to create the authentic experience here."



*Above, the concert hall inside and out
Below, Dan Crawford, founder of
Beacon Hill Concerts*

Now in its fifth season, the Beacon Hill Concert Series has become more than just a reality, it has become a real success. Each summer, Dan finds musical acts from major cities such as New York and Chicago to perform for our community. His goal is to give the music community of Monroe County a chance to experience top quality music up close and personal. In the intimate concert hall holding a maximum of seventy-five people, "there are no bad seats", not to mention the acoustics are fantastic. In an effort to preserve the quality and experience of live music, no amplifiers are used during the concerts, and they are never recorded. Crawford says, "we don't record them because I don't want anything to be a substitute for the live music," he goes on to explain that; "nowadays our whole music experience is transmitted to us, it has all been mastered and digitized so it has become harder and harder to hear the voices and instruments that actually produce it. I'm trying to create the authentic experience here."

This summer, the Beacon Hill Concert Series feature six unique acts. The line-up included Vocal Spectrum and New York Polyphony in June, Tapestry and the Chiara String Quartet in July, with Elise Quagliata and Tenet coming in August. The event has grown and evolved over the seasons, and Dan hopes this will continue. In the third season, he branched out from classical to semi-classical music, and this year he will be including a cabaret act, Elise Quagliata. In the future he intends to move further into semi-classical music, and perhaps even introduce Celtic music, but promises to not lose touch with classical, both early and renaissance. The Beacon Hill Concert series is surely an experience you don't want to miss.

For more information, visit www.beaconhillconcerts.com. To reserve your seat, call 570.476.1308 or email Dan Crawford at dcrawford1@unl.edu.