

## **Reviews & News**

**recordonline.com**  
from the TIMES HERALD-RECORD

*Reprinted with permission*

**July 09, 2004**

### **Sullivan woods are alive with the sound of music**

Hortonville – World-class chamber music in a church in the trees near a creek in this western Sullivan hamlet?

"Absolutely, a natural," says the woman who brings the music to the Hortonville Presbyterian Church, flutist Judith Pearce of the Weekend of Chamber Music Series, which begins its 10th season this weekend.

Sure is a natural.

Pearce, who teaches flute at Princeton University, grew up on a fruit farm in a house made of timber, mud and straw in the fields of Suffolk, England. She saw one of the world's great classical musicians, Mstislav Rostropovich, play his cello in a stone church in the countryside. She sang in a choir in another church with stained-glass windows in rural East Anglia. Plus, Pearce says chamber music was meant to be played in intimate settings for groups of regular folks, or "amateurs," a word which, in Latin, originally referred to lovers of music.

So when Pearce came to America in 1986 and got a place in the Sullivan countryside, she looked for an intimate spot to perform classical music.

She found one in the old Lake Huntington meat market, where some 50 folks turned out to hear her and her renowned classical music friends perform.

Over the next few years, she found more intimate places to perform, like the Tusten Theatre, a few hundred feet from the Delaware in Narrowsburg, and the Nutshell Gallery, on the shore of Lake Huntington.

Four years ago, Pearce found the white-walled Hortonville Presbyterian Church, already renowned for its talent shows, the acoustics of its wood and plaster walls and its hospitality.

"We so love to have them," says church member Gloria Buddenhagen.

So tonight, as the sun begins to set in the Sullivan sky, Judith Pearce and the Weekend of Chamber Music musicians will play their exquisite classical music in the cozy, air-cooled church set in trees near a creek.

"It works very well," she says.

It sure does.

It's summer, and the Sullivan arts scene is sizzling.