



61. Lofty Ideas

When Deborah Bradley and Peter Becke bought their Luskville farm, they had a vision. As they peered into the working horse barn, they saw the future in a dusty old hayloft. The acoustically engineered 100-seat studio was completed in 2008. A Steinway grand and a concert Yamaha piano now occupy the former hayloft, where the couple's eldest son, Carson, a student at the Royal Academy of Music in London, practises when he's back in Canada, accompanying his brother Tait on the violin. The idea for a classical-music festival to showcase the talents of young performers on the cusp of their professional careers was born one day when pianist Jean Desmarais came to rehearse with Carson. "The space was calling for a festival," says Desmarais. (He is now the festival's artistic director.) The Festival Pontiac Enchanté boasts 13 events, including a concert for children and a gala opening night. "To perform in the countryside is amazing," says Desmarais. "I feel like we're really bringing music to where it belongs."

July 9 to 26 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Tickets: From \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Festival passes also available. www.venturinghills.ca.