



Star photo by Julie Lewis

Chamber musicians from the Magic Mountain Music Farm rehearse Wednesday in the First Presbyterian Church in Gilbertsville. From left are violinist Sarah Breckenridge of Pittsburgh; Burton Kaplan, director of Magic Mountain; cellist Adele O'Dwyer of Ireland; and pianist Cullan Bryant of Manhattan.

Concerts highlight Summermusic

Summermusic '05 is a free festival featuring two concerts that will be performed by the Millennium Strings with guest pianist Cullan Bryant on Labor Day Weekend.

The concerts will be at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Gilbertsville on Route 51.

Among the composers represented at the concerts is Ludwig Thuille, who wrote his Sonata for Cello and Piano at the turn of the 20th century. He was a contemporary of Richard Strauss. The Strauss Sonata for Violin and Piano and the Thuille Sonata for Cello and Piano will be presented at tonight's concert.

The other composers whose works will appear at both programs are Beethoven, Brahms, Copland, Stravinsky and Rachmaninoff. In addition to the usual chamber music repertoire, the Brahms Double Concerto for Cello and Violin will be presented.

This work can be characterized as a "giant chamber work," presenters said, adding that it is a chamber work in that

it is a collaboration of only two players. It becomes a giant chamber opera when it is accompanied by piano. It will be performed by Stacy Lesartre, concertmaster of the Fort Collins and Cheyenne symphonies, and Erica Pickhardt, assistant principal cellist of the Albany Symphony.

This is the festival's 13th year. It is a collaboration between Magic Mountain Music Farm of Morris and the First Presbyterian Church of Gilbertsville. The fruits of this collaboration include the rebuilding of the 1894, 7-foot Steinway "B" Grand Piano owned by the church and the establishment of the Friends of the Concerts Committee.

Summermusic '05 is the culmination of two weeks of preparation at Magic Mountain Music Farm in Morris.

The festival is a Decentralization Program, which is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. The event is also made possible with funds from voluntary offerings by the audience each night.